

# SOROPTIMISTS IN ACTION

## Western Canada Region – Winter 2022

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(SI Victoria Westshore)

**Governor-Elect:**

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(SI Tri Cities)

**Treasurer:**

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**Fundraising:**

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**Program:**

Colleen Schmidt (Abbotsford-Mission)  
Melanie Kenny (Saskatoon)

**Celebrating Success:**

Megan Eastwood (Tri Cities)

**Advocacy:**

Janneke Lewis (N&W Vancouver)  
Carrell Wingrave (Canada West Online)

**Friendship:**

Darlene Jameison (Surrey Delta)

**Conference 2023:**

Dana Martin (Chilliwack)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Colleen Penrowley (Tri Cities)

### Governor's Message

"The smallest drop of information can have ripples."

- Berthe De Vos, SI United Nations Representative, Geneva.
- WCR Webinar, "Violence Against Women in Conflict Zones", Dec 10, 2022



Western Canada Region, along with SI Toronto, hosted a webinar on December 10, World Human Rights Day, about human rights violations against women in conflict zones - Iran, Afghanistan, Ukraine - and what Soroptimists can do, and are doing, to take action.

Yes, we heard about the horrors of systematic rape, human trafficking by organized crime, brutal repression. We also heard how we, as Soroptimists, can help these women and the bigger, global push for human rights.

Cross-county projects that reach refugees have immediate effect. Medical supplies for Iran, where injured activists fear going to a hospital. Welcome packs for Ukrainian refugees. Remember the \$13,000+ that we as a Region raised through Perogies for Ukraine? That bought a lot of welcome.

Aside from funds or supplies, we can send support. "Speak up to your local communities," said Berthe. "It creates awareness." For example, copy the blog post on our website about Iran. Send it to all levels of politicians in your club's name. Voice your support on social media.

And even more important in the long game is information. Berthe said, "Discover the problems in your area, and build projects on those problems that link to the pillars of Soroptimist. Network with local authorities. Collect data on the problems and the impact."

Our Federation says the same thing. All levels of fundraisers will tell you that sponsors love data that shows impact, whether it is on one woman's or family's life, a cohort of girls, a community. So do our advocates at the UN love information. They collate what is happening in our clubs - in 122 countries - and use it to advocate for women's rights. Because women's rights are human rights. And because Soroptimist is the largest global network of volunteer women empowering women, we are in the best position to use our small drops of information to create ripples that change the world.

# Did You Know?

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed January 24th as **International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind.

Today, according to UNESCO's statistical data, 258 million children and youth still do not attend school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable.

The bitter reality is that there are countless societies around the world today where education is dismissed as unnecessary.

International Day of Education is a call for action — bringing individuals, civil society, and policy-makers to take solid steps towards ensuring that primary and secondary education is given to children, as well as improving youth engagement in education. Learning programs should be designed for the needs of different demographics, converging to one main goal; equipping children with the education needed for employment and better futures.

## Education Word Search by Cathy Waters

Awards	Guidance
Challenge	Hard Work
College	Intelligence
Credibility	Leadership
Dreams	Opportunities
Employment	Scholarship
Expenses	School
Experience	Study
Friendship	Tuition

T	H	R	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	I	F
T	Y	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	S	F	O	X
O	O	L	S	T	U	D	Y	D	D	C	U	T	E	C
C	P	H	C	Q	U	R	S	E	S	N	E	P	X	E
R	I	P	H	E	T	E	T	I	M	E	G	I	P	J
E	A	P	O	H	N	A	R	E	G	G	E	H	E	Z
D	E	W	L	R	Z	M	O	T	O	I	L	S	R	M
I	C	R	A	N	T	S	A	U	X	L	L	D	I	K
B	N	Q	R	R	R	U	E	I	G	L	O	N	E	R
I	A	U	S	I	D	S	N	T	T	E	C	E	N	O
L	D	A	H	E	R	S	C	I	N	T	N	I	C	W
I	I	N	I	F	R	E	N	O	T	N	C	R	E	D
T	U	R	P	E	M	I	C	N	R	I	O	F	W	R
Y	G	T	N	E	M	Y	O	L	P	M	E	A	V	A
E	G	C	I	T	R	O	L	O	O	H	C	S	Z	H



Submitted by Sharon Fisher

The United Nations Commission on the Status Women (CSW67) takes place March 6-17, 2023, and there are opportunities for all Soroptimists to participate. There is no charge for any CSW events.

Registration is now open. The following information will help you navigate events and learn about CSW.

First the events and how to attend:



**UN Events** - You can view UN events in person, online or on UN WebTV. To access the UN Buildings, you must be registered and have a temporary pass that is only granted through an ECOSOC accredited organization such as Soroptimist International. There is a very limited number of these passes, and they are mostly granted to those who are following the negotiations, however official meetings are mostly available for viewing on UN Web TV at <https://media.un.org/en/webtv/>.



**NGO CSW Events** - Parallel Events are hosted by NGO CSW and are mostly online. You can register here at no charge <https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw67/>. Registration is open until March 17, 2023. Once registered you will have access to lots of information and a calendar of events. The events are just now being uploaded and will continue until CSW begins in March. The platform is excellent and you will be able to track the events you choose to attend with a calendar option.

Registration is open now for parallel events. There will be some parallel events in person. Without a pass this is all that will be available in New York in person, however, we expect there could be as many as 800 events to choose from virtually. Therefore, it is expected that unless you are part of a country delegation there would be no further advantage in attending in person as so much will be available through virtual events only. Note that on Sunday, March 5, the NGO Forum will be a full day of events to launch CSW67.

Each CSW has a theme and a review theme. The CSW67 Priority Theme is Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Review Theme is Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

# COMMISSION *on the* STATUS OF WOMEN



## WHAT IS CSW?

Submitted by Sharon Fisher

UN Women as the Secretariat supports the work of the Commission, the biggest global policy-making body dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, 2 issues at the heart of being a Soroptimist!

CSW will lead discussions on inequalities and the discrimination women and girls face. They will generate public attention on social taboos and broken stereotypes. They will drive action to advance the rights of women and girls everywhere.

Official meetings of member states discuss progress, identify challenges, set policies, and set global standards on gender equality and the rights of women and girls. All discussions follow agreed methods of work. The starting point is a draft document that attempts to capture the spirit of what is needed. At the end of the 2 weeks, we hope the result will be Agreed Conclusions. Frequently it all comes down to the last night with negotiations going into the wee hours of the morning!

For each Commission, discussions center around a priority theme determined in advance by the Member States. The discussions result in an outcome document called Agreed Conclusions for action by Governments and other stakeholders.

Besides official meetings there are Side Events where Member States and UN agencies in collaboration with civil society organizations hold hundreds of side events on the United Nations premises. Some of these are virtual.

NGO CSW hosts Parallel Events to create space for the public to engage. Civil Society organizations like Soroptimist hold parallel events outside UN premises across New York City to discuss a range of women's rights topics and how to best advance them. This is where you will want to be. They are hosting up to 800 different events this year. Several will be hosted by Soroptimists and links will be available at [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org) or on the CSW platform provided with your registration confirmation. Many events require advance registration so review what you are interested in and book them.

For those of you attending events/workshops you will learn so much. Some of our members follow the agreed conclusions that result from negotiations where it typically comes down to a single word and this is where we try to not lose any of our hard-fought wins and in fact hope to strengthen wording for the rights of the women and girls we serve.

ENJOY and if you have any questions just ask as you can see there are many ways to engage at CSW!





**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023**  
 Dublin, Ireland • 27-29 July 2023

**All I want for this Festive Season is..**  
 to join my Soroptimist friends in Dublin for  
 the Soroptimist International Convention  
 in July 2023.

**Make it the trip of a lifetime, register soon!**

*Challenge the Future*



**A convention like no other!** After two years of isolation, of computer screens and separation, feel the joy of physically coming together with your international Soroptimist community at the 2023 Soroptimist International Convention in Dublin, Ireland July 27 – 29 2023. With a dedicated website – visit [www.sidublin2023.com](http://www.sidublin2023.com) for news and updates.

**A programme like no other!** A panel of global speakers are waiting to inform and inspire you. Our theme is “Challenge the Future” and we hope to include speakers from each federation exploring the topics and challenges affecting the lives of women and girls today. A new initiative for this year’s convention will be our poster sessions, soroptimist groups from around the world will be invited to submit posters showcasing their ongoing initiatives, sharing their experiences with the entire community.



## Tours with Rita

Submitted by Rita Mackenzie

The holidays are approaching fast, and so is the Soroptimist International Convention in Dublin Ireland!

I don't know where the time goes, do you?

It seems you have some choices when choosing tours while visiting Ireland. And while you are planning, why not add on a trip to Scotland. After all, you spent time and money getting there, you might want to make the most of it.

I have included links to both Ireland and Scotland here. You are welcome to book one or both. Everyone is welcome so if you want to bring your family or friends please share this.

This tour starts at the convention center as a pick-up point. If you or someone you know would like a pick-up at the Dublin airport that can be arranged too.

The Ireland tour will skip touring Dublin as you will already have had some time there. Now we're off to see the rest of Ireland.

These tours are custom. What does that mean to you? That means if there is something you desperately want to do that is not listed on the itinerary then we can make that happen (there might be a slight upcharge like entry fees etc.)

If you would like to add Scotland all you have to do is book that tour as well and stay on the bus! This group will depart at the Edinburgh airport at the end of both tours. If just Ireland is your plan, then we can get you back to the Dublin airport. If just Scotland is your jam, we can pick you up there too. Remember to discuss these details when calling the number listed. We chose to book by calling as most people want to speak to someone about the details of their trip and it's the safest way to take payment. **1-800-346-2830**

Prices are listed in Canadian Dollars. Prices listed are valid until December 26, 2022. Prices will be reviewed every 30 days. It is possible there may be increases as we get closer to July 2023.

I know you will have questions so please reach out by email or phone. Follow me on Facebook at Diamond Vacations here: <https://www.facebook.com/diamondvacations100>

I will be posting about Ireland and Scotland for the next few months. Be sure to follow me to learn a bit before you go. (PS You will want to take photos while on the tour. There will be a photo contest once we return!)

### Scotland Tour

<https://weblink.ttc.com/landingpage/a6950582-5ade-11ed-b6d1-02cfac3f5530>


### Ireland Tour

<https://weblink.ttc.com/landingpage/76021442-5ad3-11ed-b6d1-02cfac3f5530>

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## **Anney's Closet ~ From Then to Now ~ Submitted by Claudette Fitzsimmons**



Anney's Closet is an international award-winning program under Soroptimist International of Victoria Westshore (SIVW) that offers a free store to women in need in the Greater Victoria Area. In its infancy, one of the first agencies we worked with was the Boys and Girls Club and, more specifically, their Care Home Parenting Program, which functioned as a group home for young pregnant women. The Program involved lessons in budgeting, home management, infant care and other topics aimed at making them successful in their new roles as single moms. One of the Executive Director's goals was for each new mom to have a rocking chair to take with her when she left the group home. Our Club set out to find rocking chairs and we were able to provide approximately 50 rockers in total.

At about the same time, Anney Ardiel, a member of our SIVW Club, worked with seniors as a professional downsizer. She was sending truckloads of beautiful household items to charity every month. This stemmed the idea to expand our efforts and redirect these items to women and girls in the community who were starting out on their own.

After much discussion with many social service agencies, our Club confirmed there was indeed such a need in the community, whether for youth aging out of the Foster Care system or women who had escaped violent relationships, to access household items that would help them start a new life and make a new home for themselves. We approached Westshore ULock Mini Storage to see if they would donate a locker on an ongoing basis for us to house Anney's Closet. They offered us their largest locker and some of their staff even donated items to the locker. After many months of planning, recruiting volunteers and sponsors and talking with social service agencies, Anney's Closet officially launched on June 8, 2013.

Anney's Closet won an award for Best Program at the SI Western Canada Region level and, in 2014, was awarded the Best Program Award across all the Programs represented in the (then) twenty countries of Soroptimist International of the Americas across four pillars: Program, Membership, Public Recognition and Fundraising.

Now, almost a decade later, we have five lockers at Westshore ULock Mini Storage, filled with beautiful household items ranging from dishes, pots and pans, cutlery, small appliances such as toasters, coffee makers, bread makers, steamers, bakeware, etc., to bedding, pillows, towels and, more recently, furniture, grocery gift cards, personal hygiene products and laundry baskets filled with cleaning and other household products. Our clients can stock up on whatever they need to help turn their space into a comfortable home.



Still run by volunteers, we have two donation days per month where we can see as many as 20 or more vehicles pull up and donate their clean and gently used household items to Anney's Closet. Social/case workers from many social service agencies in the Greater Victoria Area, such as Cridge Transition House, book appointments with us and bring their clients through to "shop" for free for whatever they need. To date in 2022, we have welcomed over 75 shoppers at Anney's



Closet. We keep a book of testimonials, some of which we have posted on our website: [sivw.ca/anneys-closet](http://sivw.ca/anneys-closet) and have uploaded many pictures on our Anney's Closet Facebook page.

We are grateful to our many partners and sponsors who have supported Anney's Closet to make it the success that it is: Westshore ULock Mini Storage for ten years of donated lockers; Foster's Moving & Storage, who volunteer their time to make deliveries to our clients; United Way Southern Victoria Island for a grant that has allowed us to expand Anney's Closet and our reach; Soap for Hope for "Fresh Start" bags of hygiene products and the Westshore Quilters' Guild for donations of beautiful quilts which our clients love. Last, but not least, we are grateful to members of our community who donate their items so that we, in turn, can add them to our free store and, of course, our many volunteers without whom none of this would be possible.

In June 2023, we will celebrate our 10th Anniversary of operating Anney's Closet. We look forward to celebrating our success with our partners, sponsors and clients and we wish for many more years of providing this wonderful service to women and girls in our community.

We are also very proud that other Soroptimist Clubs in Western Canada Region have followed our Anney's Closet model and established their own "closets", such as Bea's Kloset of SI of Tri Cities.

## **Bea's Kloset**

**Submitted by Darlene McCann & Julie Knisley**



First off, we would like to take this opportunity to thank SI Victoria Westshore's Anney's Closet for inspiring and giving us encouragement to start Bea's Kloset 8 years ago.

Since opening we have had the honour of assisting over 2300 women and children. At times we find our shelves a little bare, however when we put the word out on our Facebook page the Tri Cities community always comes through, supporting us with the household items we need and monetary donations that allow us to be able to provide our shoppers with a new pillow, and other much needed newer items. Local quilting guilds provide lap-top quilts, place mats and coasters.

Our club is blessed with an amazing Sponsorship Committee that every year has come through with Corporate donations that assist us with our very expensive storage locker expense. In-kind donations are all received from the Corporate World. Our main source for towels and sometimes duvets from K-Bro linens. A Soroptimister takes his cargo trailer down to the laundry and fills it with discarded terry. Fun sorting parties happen in members drive-ways. The ones that are too damaged are given to animal shelters, mechanics and high-school trade programs.

When COVID hit we could no longer have the shoppers come up







to choose their own items so we devised a shopping list that they could fill out for their referral sources to pick up curbside. While we missed the hugs and in person thank yous we were thrilled to still be able to help them with their new start.

We started a Thank you journal that the shoppers could write in at the end of their shopping experience and we are happy to share a few with you.

"My name is A and I am so truly blessed and thankful that you've helped me from having nothing and now feels like a new beginning. This means the world to have a fresh start. This means a lot that there are people that care! My heart is so thankful. The stress is gone!"

"Dear Bea's Closet, your items that you have allowed me to take will provide my children/myself with some comforts of home that I wasn't able to provide. The warm sheets will keep us warm. The plates will have many loved home cooked meals eaten off them. The curtains will provide shelter from the outside when we need alone time. I know in my heart that everything provided will be loved and very appreciated."

"To all who made time, contributions and thought into making possible a life for my 2 kids and myself. We came here with nothing and left with hope. I have met women with such warm loving spirits and are generous beyond expression. You have changed my kids lives and my own. I haven't had such kindness shown to me in so long. Your generosity is so admirable and important for women leaving abusive situations then who face unexpected adversity. I promise to pay it all forward. I just want you to know the gratitude in my heart for you. Thank you thank you thank you."



## SIAM's Closet



SI Abbotsford-Mission opened the third "closet" in our Region, SIAM's Closet in April 2019. As with the other closets, women in transition and girls leaving foster care are given what they need to set up their homes.

Everyday women prepare for living alone or just with their children. Everyday women set up their household with the much needed items to make it a functioning home. SIAM's Closet helps women in need with those much needed items: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom. Those items are donated to SIAM's



Closet and given FREE to women in need.

## Heather's Hope Chest Submitted by Dana Martin

Heather's  
HOPE CHEST



In November 2019, SI Chilliwack opened Heather's Hope Chest in a storage locker in Chilliwack. Since then the club members have worked hard to get donors and sponsors. This was posted on the HHC Facebook page on their third anniversary: "We had dream... to help women

and girls starting out on their own. A dream to help them make their house a home, a dream to make a difference. On November 9, 2019 we opened Heather's Hope Chest. It was an incredible day for us. Shortly after this though, Covid 19 hit and we were all in lockdown. No clients could come and shop at the Hope Chest. But, we found a way, and during that time we helped over 20 women and girls. Since that first day we have been supported by this community who generously donates gently used supplies for the kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom. We are so very grateful for all your help. We couldn't do this without you. Thank you for the support.



This is Cheryl! She is all smiles because that day was her first time helping a client shop at the Hope Chest. We know that Heather's Hope Chest changes our clients lives, and that it makes a difference. And, our clients tell us this too! But, there's one other thing ....what also happens is that it changes our lives too! This is what happened to Cheryl today. And that's why she is smiling. It's magic!

It's the beginning of a beautiful friendship. We are so pleased to announce our new PLATINUM Sponsor, Century 21 Creekside Realty Ltd. Thank you so much. Welcome to the Heather's Hope Chest Family.





## Member Profile Marilyn Vik—Director of Sunshine

Submitted by Lori Jackson



Marilyn has been an integral part of SI Chilliwack since she joined 8 years ago. She is always the first to volunteer on committees like Heather's Hope Chest, Member Engagement and DIBI. Marilyn is known for putting together the "swag bags" for our DIBI sessions that are always a hit with the girls! She also makes her own cards and sends to club members for birthdays, the passing of a loved one or just to brighten their day if its been a tough time. Also, in her spare time she is planning our Christmas social event and mentoring one of our new members!

I couldn't think of anyone more worthy to recognize and shine the spotlight on.

From Marilyn:

I was invited to a Meet and Greet in 2014 by a friend of mine who is a Soroptimist member. I am very community minded and have been given an award through the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce in memory of a long time volunteer advocate --The Stan Rogers Legacy Award. I was very interested in Soroptimist and the idea of helping woman and girls in various stages of their lives greatly appealed to me and as they say the rest is history—so here I am 8 years later. I am a committee member of Heathers Hope Chest and the DIBI program and recently became a Director at Large! I have been given the lovely designation of Sunshine Girl -which is truly the greatest position!! I make sure all members are sent a handmade card to celebrate their birthdays and ensure that we recognize other events that impact their lives. I make sure that all our events have the necessary food etc to make for a lovely time.

I love being involved with an organization that has such passion and willingness to help women in time of need. I have had many great "wow" moments with our club but I have to say that the first time I was involved with a client at Heather's Hope Chest was truly the most memorable. The look of surprise and then the moment of gratitude once she realized she would be getting some necessities to set herself up in a new life was so impactful that it literally brought tears to my eyes. Still gives me goosebumps!!



*Here's Marilyn as Mrs. Claus. Photos submitted by Dana Martin.*



## Member Profile Angela Getchius

Submitted by Colleen Murphy-Beresh



SI Saskatoon is pleased to introduce you to our intern Angela Getchius.

Angela brings her intelligence, ideas, and life experience to our club. We had a conversation about the Live Your Dream award she received from our club in 2022. We look forward to working with her this year!

Here is her story:

Where did you see the ad for applying for LYD award?

I was thinking of this the other day; I just happened by it late at night. I had just been in the shelter with my baby for the month prior. I was very fortunate to have finally found an apartment I could afford. I was dealing with a significant amount of stress at the time. I desperately needed to be 'seen'.

What is your current career goal? Dream career goal?


My passion is working alongside families. When I was in Nursing college I wanted to work in labor and delivery in the northern communities as a nurse practitioner. I had a lot of bumpy experiences since that time in my life. I started working as a personal nanny. Helping mothers and families keep their lives running smoothly is something I developed as a young girl. Women have always had to juggle family and household expectations. Now I'm studying Science, Psychology, and Politics. I imagine I'll be an advisor of some kind in the future.

What was one obstacle to getting your education? How did you overcome it?

One very important lesson I've learned over the years is that life is a series of obstacles. Some are real doozies and others are petty annoyances, but the magic is in how you react to the challenges. I look at my life like boot camp- an obstacle course for mental and physical training. It's not meant to ruin me but meant to build strength. Currently, I'm an older mom who is a single parent. I became pregnant in an abusive situation. I had to think quickly on my feet to make it all work out the way it did. Currently, childcare and exhaustion are my biggest challenges, but I make sure our needs are met. Help is out there but it isn't served on a silver platter. We must seek it out and ask for it. Sometimes it's God, the government, your doctor, a friend, an angel disguised as a stranger who appears out of nowhere who helps me. You must ask for help and work some of it out for yourself and be thankful for it. Being grateful and staying humble is very important for your spirit. I think most obstacles are in our mind as negative self-talk, however, that is imaginary and therefore, controllable. All of this is much easier said than done- mindfulness takes practice.

How did SI Saskatoon's LYD award help you?

I'm not sure I would've been able to get through my first term back in university if I had not been selected as SI Saskatoon's recipient for the Live Your Dream award. I left school because of



financial difficulties 12 years ago. My life held many painful sacrifices. I often dropped out of school because of financial stress and a lack of positive support systems. Last year would have been no different. Not only did the money help me but being recognized as worthy was uplifting. This was the kind of emotional boost I needed for my confidence and self-esteem.

Why did you wish to participate in the Intern Program? What do you hope to get out of this program?

Being an Intern member is a way I can give back to a group that helped me. I've been interested in causes of this nature for a long time. This is the first time I have been able to 'live my dreams', which is to participate in university groups and to be a recognized leader in my community, while working on charitable events.

What is your favorite part of the Soroptimist program so far?

I enjoy the other women. It is important to surround yourself with others who reflect the qualities you see as strengths and who are doing the types of things you would like to be doing. The women in this group are go getters, self starters, team players, and have built success in their children, homes, relationships, and charitable causes.

What would you like to say to other young women and girls about living their dream?

There is a cartoon about never giving up. Two individuals are digging for treasure. One gives up just before the last little bit and he's bummed out thinking he'll never get to it; however, he was insanely close to all the riches anyone could wish for. The other person is enthusiastic and determined to keep going. As observers, we don't know that he gets the treasure but assume he does because of his energy. I've been knocked down dozens of times, by everyone and thing imaginable; it hurts for a little while, but the secret is not to stay in that pain too long. We must feel it, let it go, then 'straighten your crown' and carry on.

### **SI Saskatoon Helps Moontime Sisters Product Drive**

Oct 1st to 31<sup>st</sup>, Moontime Sisters of Saskatchewan hosted a period product drive for Indigenous communities located in northern Saskatchewan. All items were free of charge to the community as products can cost up to five times more there. They provided pads, tampons, menstrual cups and period underwear. All monetary donations were spent on product or shipping. Their goal this year was 200,000 products. The Saskatchewan chapter of Moon time Sisters was begun in 2017 by Nicole White after learning that girls were missing school due to lack of access to affordable period products. 'Moon time' is a coming-of-age ceremony in Indigenous communities where they recognize a youth's changing status in the community and their changing role which comes with expectations.

SI Saskatoon member, Linda Braun, gathered products and donations on behalf of the club to contribute to the drive. Linda attended the packing party in early November along with many other volunteers. It was a great way for SI Saskatoon to join the Saskatchewan community and advocate for menstrual equity in our province. SI Saskatoon collected approximately \$450 in cash donations and a great deal of product.

# Membership

## Submitted by Donna Duvall



**So excited to welcome over 12 new members to our region looking forward to getting to know everyone!** Some very important reminders for members and Clubs as a whole and I would like to issue a Region Wide challenge to follow the RFN mindset as outlined below. Just another step towards a healthy region giving us the bonds and strengths to be able to execute our purpose stronger!

**"What do members need from their membership?"**

### 1. A sense of belonging.

This means being a) included, b) informed, c) having a voice and d) to be acknowledged.

**ACTION:** Each club designates a *door greeter*. This person meets each person at the door and welcomes them to a meeting. This position works great for new members as they get to meet each club member. As a start to our RFN mindset, (Retention = FUN = New Members) it's great to thank long standing members for coming and also new members and guests. Even if we have been a member for a long time, it's nice to be acknowledged and thanked for coming.

\*As a potential guest they see the warm welcome and may see themselves being part of a club that shows this small token of appreciation.

**PLAN:** Let's do a region wide campaign. Each club designates a greeter. We (Membership Team) get their name and guide them with things to say and do as guests come through the door. Some clubs may already be doing this and that's great as we will have a zoom call with the greeters of each club and get ideas from those that already do this.

### 2. No guilt membership.

This means no bullying, no sarcasm. Be complimentary, build up, watch your tone. Accept the shortcomings of other members.

\*More about this in the 10 Principles of Excellence below.

### 3. Friendship

This happens over time but with club buddies and phone trees this gives members an opportunity to connect with others and helps with #1 above to feel like they belong.

### 4. To be Respected.

More on this to come. How to give it and how to get it.

### 5. Club business is done in a democratic way - not a dictatorship.

More on this on the SIA website. Check out [Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.](http://www.soroptimist.org)

### 6. Know your WHY so you can invite others to join Soroptimist.

This is our statement of purpose to know why we are a Soroptimist member. There is a list of specific questions you can ask yourself if you do not know your WHY. Once you know, your elevator speech will be so easy!

### 7. The 10 Principles of Excellence (taught by Rita Mackenzie. VIA zoom for all clubs to attend).

These principles are a mindset. If you act as if they ARE true, magic happens.





# Club Events

## SI Central Alberta Beer Survivor

Submitted by Sylvia Bouteiller

**Soroptimist International  
of Central Alberta**

Teams of 5 members  
must be legal drinking  
age

**e-mail registrations  
by noon Dec. 4 to  
[sialtafundraiser@gmail  
com](mailto:sialtafundraiser@gmail.com)**

Limit of 40 teams



## Fundraiser

**Raffle Licence # 617699**

Thank you to all the breweries for your help



Eliminations will be on  
Dec. 6, 2022

**\$40 per team mem**

(\$20 for entry &  
\$20 for beer)

1st - 60% of the beer  
2nd - 25% of the beer  
3rd - 15% of the beer  
The more teams the bigger the pay out

How to play:  
The team captain will email the team name and names of the 5 members to [siaftafundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:siaftafundraiser@gmail.com). A confirmation email will be sent with information for an e-transfer.  
The cut-off date for entries is noon Dec. 4.  
On Dec 6, on Soroptimist International of Central Alberta Fundraiser page there will be a Facebook vote, starting at 7:00, where we will start kicking people off the island by drawing their name. But don't panic, you can still win as long as one person on your team is still in the running.  
There will be other prizes for each team as they are eliminated.

Follow Soroptimist International of Central Alberta on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see what this much needed money is used for.

and tasting worth \$100. The Brewery tour went to the first team eliminated and the gift certificate to the oh-so-close 4th place team. All the eliminated teams received something.

To start the participants needed to have a team of 5 members then after emailing the request to join Craft Beer Survivor, which included a catchy team name and names of their members, the captain of the team collected all the fees and e-transfer it to our club account. We had them include their team name in the message so we knew which team was registered and we set a password for them to use. Once the money was received they were sent an email with further information and a raffle ticket. The ticket included all the team members and was used to verify the top winners when collecting their beer.

We were able to get 20 teams to enter, making \$2000.00 profit for the club and \$2000.00 to pay for the beer. We divided the beer money collected and asked the 7 breweries to get as close to \$285 in a variety of flavors of beer. The amounts of beer from each brewery varied, as some breweries gave discounts, so when we divided it all into 60% for 1st, 25% for 2nd and 15% for 3rd place we divided each brewery individually to get the best variety for each winner.

The night of the elimination each team was listed with a number between 1-20, their team name and the 5 members' first names and placed on a board and then each individual member name, their team name and number were placed in a raffle drum. One by one names were drawn and then were marked off the board. When all 5 members' names were drawn that team was out. The last 3 names left won for their team. 3rd last name won 101 cans of beer, 2nd last won 170 cans of beer and the last name won 404 cans of beer for their team. We did the draw live and also sent emails of the results to the captains.

It wasn't without its flaws but it was the first time. Most responses have been very positive with requests to be told if we do it again.



## Club Events SI Tri Cities Warm Place for Women Christmas

Submitted by Julie Knisley for the SITC newsletter

Editor's note: this project has been running monthly for the past 15 years, providing a hot meal and a social evening for women in need and their children. During the pandemic shutdown our team helped many of our regular guests by delivering weekly food hampers. The December Warm Place evening has always been special with gifts for the families. Each child can select a gift for mom.



We kicked off Christmas in style at Warm Place on December 1st! We opened our doors not knowing how many to expect and were thrilled to welcome around 90 guests to our special event.

It takes a village and we are so fortunate to have our core team of Soroptimists on the committee who each put their hearts and souls into making it such a fabulous evening

every single month. Thanks to them our guests don't notice the "little glitches". No room to wrap? No problem, they made that work. Not enough chairs for guests? Our President showed up at the last minute with chairs. No Santa a week before? Not a chance — a fabulous "Soroptimister" Santa was there with Christmas bells on! Thanks to all of you for your constant support.



We are so grateful to our community for their support too and huge thanks go to Phoenix Truck and Crane who gave us a sizeable donation and requested no public acknowledgment of the amount. This provided a bumper Christmas for our guests with plenty left in the bank for the coming year at Warm Place.



Pacific Coast Terminals provided 50 Children's gifts and acted as servers and elves for the evening, such a lovely group of women. They are already planning Christmas 2023 with us! The extra gifts go to our families for Christmas much to Joanne's delight.

The other Will and Kate provided beautiful musical accompaniment for the evening and jollied the crowd along to welcome Santa. Big thanks to them for the donation of their time and talent. Chef Lewis of Astoria Retirement Living and his assistant cooked and dished up a fabulous Christmas Feast. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better Chef Lewis committed to Thanksgiving AND Christmas 2023!



Note from Paula and Nicole, Warm Place Co-Chairs:

It was bittersweet knowing it was Julie's last Christmas Warm Place. Her huge heart and talent at bringing people together over the last 10 years is legendary, we hope our team can continue to do her proud.

## Upcoming Events— Mark your Calendar!

**Soroptimist Leadership Institute:**

### **Terrific Teams - Creating the Dynamics**

**With Gov. Suzanne Heron, M.Ed.**

**January 31, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 Pacific**

**Hosted by SI Victoria Westshore**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYpd-6urDkqHtfhwG8L16AVESZSgz17-S3U>

Every team can have dynamics that make it super productive, and FUN to be part of.

Governor Suzanne will channel her 30 years of community and organization development, helping groups to set and achieve their goals, stay together and thrive.

If you chair a committee, or sit on a Board, or are a member of a committee, and want to do your bit to help the team, then join this fun and experiential session to learn and practise the ingredients of a

**GREAT GROUP!**



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**Give Her  
Wings**

*Awards Event April 12, 2023  
Port Coquitlam C.C.*

**6th Annual**  
*Pajamas & Pearls*



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

*Presented by Soroptimist International of Chilliwack  
April 15, 2023*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**WCR CONFERENCE  
KELOWNA**

**APRIL 27-30, 2023**





## Coming Next Edition



Do you know what this sparkly pin is?  
Do you know how to get one for yourself?

Are you curious to know the story  
behind this building? Stay tuned!

Look for these and many other stories in our next newsletter. The submission deadline is February 15, 2023. I know there are many more awesome club projects in our Region—I see them on Facebook. So please let everyone else know about them by writing something for me to include. Brag about your club! I'm happy to grab your photos from FB to go with what you write.

And heads up, I'm going to be asking for sponsor logos and stories.

Colleen Penrowley  
[cpen@telus.net](mailto:cpen@telus.net)



Women's  
Real Estate  
Network

The **Women's Real Estate Network** (WREN) is a social enterprise that supports women with education and mentorship to take control of their financial futures through **collaborative investing**. With members across Canada, we share the risk and reward of investing and celebrate each other's successes, personally and professionally.

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