



## **Soroptimist History and Growth**

---

### ***Soroptimist International of the Americas***

SIA membership consists of all clubs established within the territory assigned to the federation.

Each club is assigned to a region in the federation. Regions may be divided into districts. The region officers are: governor, secretary, treasurer and such additional officers and/or board members as the region procedures stipulate. Officers and Board members are elected by the voting delegates, who are elected from each of the clubs in the region and who attend the region conference. The region conference may be held semi-annually or annually. The term of office for all region officers and board members is two years.

The federation Board of Directors is the administrative body of the federation. It makes plans for administering and carrying out adopted policies and programs of the federation. The Board has 13 or 14 members—one elected from each electoral area of the federation—and includes the president, president-elect and secretary/treasurer, each of whom serves for one year. Any member of the Board may submit her name as a candidate for president-elect, who will then be elected via mail ballots to the clubs. The Board of Directors elects the secretary/treasurer.

Each club has the privilege of sending one elected delegate to the federation convention. The federation Board members, region governors and past federation presidents also may vote at the convention.

The SIA *Federation Bylaws* may be amended by a two-thirds vote of clubs that return mail ballots.

### ***Soroptimist International of Europe***

Unions of Soroptimist clubs are members of the federation. The union holds at least one meeting a year. The clubs send two voting delegates to the union to which the club belongs.

The union is composed of the council of delegates and the Board. The council of delegates administers the union; elects the president of the union and other members of the Board; and elects two active members, either present delegates or past delegates of their council of delegates, to represent their union at meetings of the Committee of Governors of the federation.

### ***Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland***

Every member of a Soroptimist club is a member of the federation. Clubs belong to regions.

National councils are established within countries to provide a link with governmental and other national provincial bodies. Area councils comprising any group of countries within the territorial limits of the federation may also be established.

### *Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific*

All clubs established within the territory assigned to the federation are members of the federation.

Clubs in the federation are assigned to regions. Two members from each club, elected by the club, serve on the region council of their area. The region council holds an annual general meeting that all members of clubs within the region may attend. The voting delegates of the club in attendance at the region council meeting elect the officers of the region to the federation council. The region secretary is appointed on the recommendation of the region president, with the approval of the council. Only club delegates are entitled to vote at meetings of the region council.