Soroptimist 101 Script

**01/** Hello, my name is Governor-Elect Laurie Moses and I am a 23-year member of SI Parker, Arizona. I’m so glad you decided to join this workshop today… it is a testament to your commitment to our mission and your dedication to the Soropt*imist* organization to educate yourselves and become the best Soroptimist you can be.

**02 /** There is so much to learn about the Soroptimist Organization, which I’m sure some of you find daunting. But hopefully by the end of this workshop, you will feel a little bit more confident in your knowledge of how things work and be able to participate more in the Soroptimist conversation without feeling overwhelmed.

So how many of you are brand new members…just this year? What are some of the challenges that are frustrating you so far in your Soroptimist Adventure? How smart you are to be attending a Spring conference right off the git-go.

How many of you are members of 2 years or more? What kind of challenges did you face in the beginning that seemed to dissipate rather quickly? What challenges do you continue to face?

So, let’s get started and see what we can accomplish together today.

**03 /** As a part of the worldwide organization…Soroptimist International…we belong to the federation of “Soroptimist International of the Americas”. Which includes, North America, South America (the continents) Japan, South Korea and Guam. There are currently 4 federations, however there will soon be 5 Federations with the addition of Soroptimist INTERNATIONAL OF AFRICA!

Soroptimist International of the Americas or SIA…is made up of many regions (I believe 26) We, of course are the Golden West Region or GWR.

**04/** Our Regions/Districts:

Many Regions have Districts and we have 4. Districts are headed up by District Directors. Do you see your club up there and which district you are in.

**05 /** While you are here at conference, seek out your district director - walk up and introduce yourself. They offer a wealth of information and encouragement. Write down their emails in case you ever have questions or issues you want to discuss outside the club.

**06 /** Our Clubs/Our purpose:

It is important to stress the need for our clubs to act as affiliates under the Soroptimist umbrella, NOT stand alone clubs… this is in order to be of ONE mission…and the following MUST be the purpose of each and every club:

* to pursue the vision that women and girls have the resources to reach their full potential and live their dreams;
* to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to educational, social and economic empowerment;
* to serve as a voice on issues of importance to women and girls; AND
* to engage in any other lawful activities that further the exempt purpose of the club.

Without purpose, our organization is floundering in too many different directions to be effective or even understood. Again, ONE mission.

**07 /** AND, as administrators of this incredible region…we, the board of Golden West Region (Governor, Governor-elect, Treasurer, Secretary & Dist Directors) must ALSO move forward with a purpose:

* to ensure that clubs follow the rules associated with non-profit status that Soroptimist membership affords us;
* to assist and motivate clubs in their efforts toward “service” to women and girls;
* to be an administrative support system of Soroptimist clubs; AND
* to encourage those clubs in building a solid base of continuous and expanding membership.

**08**/ And then there is our BIG GOAL.

Does anyone know what that goal was? **“to invest in the dreams of HALF A MILLION women and girls through access to education by 2031”**

This is a goal that your governor and OUR board have truly taken to heart. It has even inspired some clubs to increase the number awards given for the Live Your Dream Awardees and to finally take on the Dream IT BE IT program for girls in order to increase the number of women and girls impacted by their club.

**And, most importantly, our Soroptimist of the Americas brand - what will get us known, recognized and create the greatest impact for improving lives - IS our Dream Programs. It is everyone’s responsibility to move your club toward participating in LYDA (we already have 100%!) and our Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls is at about 55 percent participation. Let me know if you have any questions about this when we get to the q&a at the end.**

So how do we get from “ONE mission” to this worthy and wholly doable goal? Well just like our little pink caddy, we keep going with…and expanding on …the life changing programs that we have on our Soroptimist “road to success”: The “Live YOUR Dream” education and training awards, the Dream It, Be It career support for girls, and the LiveYourDream.org website. AND we support these programs by sustaining “ONE Mission” and funding Club Giving **– supporting our own organizational efforts -** with 10% of our fundraising proceeds. **Again, as president, moving your club toward Dream Programs and Club Giving is your responsibility as club that is not stand alone but is part of an international – international! – organization.**

**09**/And how do we measure our success rate at achieving these goals as a region? By updating our “GWR Healthy Club” reports twice a year, of course! (Don’t worry, your president does this online) AND the Soroptimist Celebrating Success Award Applications which your club committee chairs fill out and returns to the region no later than September 30th. This not only allows your club to reap great accolades and bragging rights, but for our organization to measure the number of women and girls we have impacted and how we raised the funds and public awareness to do it.

**These reports were created to help us all measure if our club is doing what we should be doing. It literally contains all the information SIA asks our Governor to report annually and your work gives our region our “Outstanding Region” status – the highest-level SIA created, so…Thank you for that!**

If you’d like to see a copy of how your club is doing, ask you club president for a copy of your Healthy Club Report.

**10 /** Being a knowledgeable Soroptimist is every President’s dream and makes her job so much easier. BUT…NEVER Be afraid to ask questions…maybe not during a business meeting or when there is a time crunch…but possibly after a meeting or schedule a phone call at your president’s convenience.

I also can’t stress enough the importance of the next 3…

* ALWAYS do what you say you are going to do.
* DON’T let things fester – communicate…ask them to lunch.
* EVERONE in the club MUST be treated with courtesy and respect.

**11 / Communication…I’ll give you guys a second here…**

**12 / T**he Golden West Region will continue communicating with all clubs through Their @soroptimist.net email account. We still strongly encouraging clubs to access and use these emails accounts as very soon SIA will be using these emails for voting, PLUS there are a number of benefits to using your @soroptimist.net email as your permanent club email:

**Benefits:**

* Eliminates need to change club email contact every year
* Legitimizes your club status – An email address @soroptimist.net tells those that receive your communications that you are indeed an affiliate of the Soroptimist organization.
* Eliminates the need for presidents or committee chairs to use their personal email for club business
* Both SIA and GWR websites use the @soroptimist.net address to direct interested parties to your club, you could be missing out on prospective members.
* SO, if your club is not using these emails…please encourage them to do so.
* As far as your personal email, the best thing to do is to login in to the SIA Website and verify if that your email and information is correct…and make any changes if necessary. However, you WILL need your member ID in order to set up your login. Your president or treasurer should be able to provide you with that.

**13 / F**all meetings:

Of Course, we are absolutely thrilled that you were able to join us here at Spring Conference. It is the “mother” of all celebrations and information-sharing in our region.

However, if your time commitment only allows for 1 region meeting in a year…you must attend your District Fall Meetings.

Fall meeting is designed to provide clubs with the most current information to assure that we are working in a coordinated manner to carry out the Soroptimist mission? It’s true! And, fall meetings are an excellent opportunity for new members to learn more about how the organization operates. In a perfect world, every member of every club would attend every Fall Meeting.

**Here are 5 really great reasons your club members should attend your 2016 Fall Meeting**

1. Bond with your club members,
2. Receive the latest information on how to effectively implement important Soroptimist programs
3. Gain a better understanding of ways your club can carry out the Soroptimist mission
4. Inspire and be inspired by connecting with other Soroptimist members – and sharing or “borrowing” ideas!
5. Increase your Soroptimist IQ

**14/ Fall** Meetings are so important to a club’s involvement. It is really hard for club leaders to guide members who don’t have a clue as to what is going on in our organization. It's such a short weekend and SOOOO doable. You will go home energized and with a plethora of new ideas.

And of course, our beloved Spring Conference will be held at the brand-new resort – Twin Arrows, just east of Flagstaff. The resort, amenities and food are absolutely first rate…and we are all so looking forward to it.

**15 / I’d** now like to go over some of the Premier Programs in Soroptimist that defines who we are as an organization. First and foremost being:

**The “**Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education and Training for Women Award”. The deadline suggested for application be turned into clubs is November 15th and the deadline for submission to the Region to send on to SIA is February 1st.

To find out more, there is a Frequently Asked Questions section on the SIA website. All of the applications and transmittal information is in the Live Your Dream Awards Club Participation Toolkit and are also on the SIA website. This is a such an inspiring program to be a part of so if you’re looking for a great committee to be on in your club, there is no better place to start than” Live Your Dream”.

The Dream It, Be It program has been a great success for many clubs in our region. It has huge impact opportunities for teens and young adult. It also adds that youthful “spark” that some clubs are missing. Another great committee to be on! The program toolkit is available on both the SIA & GWR website.

And finally, the region “Soroptimist Celebrating Success” awards. Clubs submit their forms to Soroptimist Celebrating Success Coordinator –

Pam Field. Winners are selected at the region level and forwarded on to SIA for their club awards

Right now, you have the opportunity to brag on your clubs 2018-2019 club year. The deadline for submission is September 30th. As part of the brainstorming sessions for you club, you have an opportunity to tell us what wonderful things you are doing in Membership, Fundraising, Program and Public Awareness. There will be a display put together by all of last year’s winners…which is a great place to get ideas from. Pam has also posted all of the criteria on the GWR website.

**16/** And finally, everybody’s favorite topic…Parliamentary procedure. How is everyone doing with that?

Fortunately, or Unfortunately, it is crucial. Not necessarily the finer points but the basic premise. It is what keeps most club business from going off the rails. I am one of those deranged people that thinks it is really interesting to see in action…especially when things get complicated.

1. A member should rise and address the chair (“President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”)
2. The member should then wait for recognition from the chair.
3. The member then makes the motion (“I MOVE THAT”, not “I motion that”)
4. Another member “seconds” the motion.
5. The chair states the motion (“It is moved by\_\_\_\_ and seconded by\_\_\_\_ that….”)
6. If the motion is debatable, the chair asks for debate (“Is there any discussion?”)
7. The chair takes the vote (“All those in favor of the motion say ‘aye’… all those opposed say ‘no’.”) if there is any question as to the majority’s ruling, the voting should be repeated with the members raising their hand to favor or oppose the motion.
8. The chair announces the result (“The motion is adopted.” OR “The motion is defeated.”)

Just remember it goes:

I MOVE

SECOND

DISCUSSION

CALL FOR THE VOTE

ALWAYS be respectful of when a motion is on the floor to NOT launch into another topic or question.

Any questions?

**17/**  Please remember that we are all here to help you succeed, your club, your district directors and your region board…not only because you are the future of our organization…but also because it is one of the greatest gifts to be able to help a member find their passion through Soroptimist.

We want you armed for bear…like this!

**18/ NOT THIS! NEVER THIS!**

**19/** So…any burning questions. Anything I can help you with?

I may not know everything, but what I DON’T know, I will try to find out or at least head you in the right direction.

(End discussions @ 3:25 pm)