



The New and Improved **Soroptimists Celebrating Success! 2009**

The Soroptimists Celebrating Success! awards program recognizes outstanding club projects that improve the lives of women and girls in local communities or throughout the world, or promotes Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls. These awards recognize the best practices of Soroptimist clubs in each of the four areas of the Soroptimist Strategic Plan: public awareness, membership, program and fundraising. Entries are due to Soroptimist headquarters on or before **January 22, 2009**.

The award has been updated to recognize best practices at the region-level as well as overall best practices for the organization. Each region is eligible to receive one award in each of the four areas of the strategic plan. Four federation finalists will be selected from the region recipients to be celebrated as the best projects in the organization—projects that all clubs can celebrate and learn from.

Submission Information

- Entries must arrive at Soroptimist headquarters on or before January 22, 2009. Due to the volume of entries received, headquarters cannot acknowledge receipt of submissions.
- Entries can be mailed or emailed. Faxes are not recommended because of the poor quality of some fax transmissions. If entries are emailed, all supporting materials will be printed in black and white. (you mean printed out from here?)
- The project described on the entry form must be ongoing or completed **after** February 2008. New entries are encouraged. Clubs may submit an entry for a project entered last year if it is ongoing and has **not** previously received recognition as a finalist or semi-finalist.
- Club presidents must authorize submission of entries.
- Shared projects among clubs are welcome. Please submit only one joint entry per project.
- Be certain to describe only one project per entry.
- Clubs may submit supporting materials such as photos or news clippings. Please mark them with the name of the club and the project name. These items will not be returned. Do not staple photos.
- If clubs wish to submit the same project in more than one category, a separate entry needs to be submitted that addresses the specific information needed for that category.
- Clubs can submit only one entry in each of the following categories:

Public Awareness: This category recognizes clubs for carefully orchestrated public awareness efforts that support the Soroptimist mission to improve the lives of women and girls. Examples of such efforts include participating in the Soroptimist Live Your Dream campaign; using federation-produced tools and resources to increase awareness of Soroptimist programs, or other programs that benefit women and girls; and maintaining an engaging and professional website that promotes the mission. Entries must include the following:

- Steps taken to promote the club and its projects.
- Ways these actions helped raise the club's public profile.

Membership: The success of all club initiatives, including recruiting new members, helping build new clubs, administering programs, raising public awareness and fundraising, depends on having engaged and fulfilled members. Therefore, this category recognizes clubs for activities that enhance the club membership experience to heighten participation and satisfaction. Examples of such efforts include establishing member recognition

programs, holding innovative meetings, offering leadership development and mentorship opportunities, and conducting regular club assessments. Entries must include the following:

- How the activity specifically enhances the membership experience of current club members.
- Testimonials about the activity from at least two current members who are not officers.
- Number of new members in most recent club year.
- Retention rate for most recent club year (year-end membership number less the number of new members divided by the number of members at the beginning of the club year).

Program: This category recognizes club projects that improve the lives of women and girls in local communities or throughout the world. Projects should improve life for women and/or girls by addressing poverty, violence against women or other issues affecting their economic, social or political standing. Entries must include the following:

- Information about the need being addressed.
- Methods used to address the need.
- Impact of the project including the number of women or girls helped.
- Description of club member participation.

Fundraising: This category recognizes club fundraising projects that are creative, successful and support women- and girl- focused programs, including federation programs. The fundraising project should also raise awareness about the Soroptimist mission, involve the community and promote a positive image of the organization. Entries must include the following:

- Expenses of the project/event.
- Gross revenue (ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, proceeds from concurrent fundraisers such as a raffle or auction held during the event).
- Net revenue (gross proceeds minus expenses).
- A list of projects supported by net revenue.

In addition to the criteria listed above, fundraising entries will also be evaluated based on the level of the club's support of Soroptimist programs through the Annual Club Campaign.

Judging and Awards

Entries must address the information requested for each category. In addition, projects will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Did the project benefit women and/or girls or promote Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world?
- Is the project helping Soroptimist achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan?
- Was the project innovative?
- Did the project have a measurable outcome or impact?

Each region is eligible for one award in each of the four areas. Region finalists will each receive a certificate. The Soroptimist Board of Directors will select the top entry in each category from the region finalists. The four federation finalists will be announced at the 2009 summer meeting in Chicago in July 2009. In addition, finalists will receive recognition on the Soroptimist website and in *Best for Women* magazine.

Only those projects that are truly best practices will receive awards at the region or federation level. Awards are given at the judges' discretion.

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Entry Form

Deadline: January 22, 2009

Completed entries must be received at Soroptimist headquarters by January 22, 2009. Entries received after that date will not be included in the awards judging. Supplemental information such as news clippings or photographs may be submitted; however they will not be returned. **DO NOT** send materials in binders or folders. **Please type or print clearly.**

Club: SI of _____ Club Number _____

Region _____

Submitted by _____

Daytime Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Club presidents must authorize submission of a project.

Club President _____

Signature _____

Daytime Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Project Title _____

Date Established _____

Total club funds spent on this project in 2008-2009 _____

Total member hours spent on this project in 2008-2009 _____

Check the category being entered. Select only one category.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |

Project Description

Describe the project, how it benefits women/girls or promotes Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls, and the impact/outcome of the project. Include all the information requested for the category. The requirements for entry were updated and revised for 2009. Please make sure to review the guidelines for 2009. **Response may not exceed two (2) typewritten pages.**

Mail or email entries to:

Soroptimist International of the Americas
1709 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
USA
program@soroptimist.org