



Soroptimist

NEWS

Issue 5 • December 2005

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2004-2005

Carmel Schmidt, past President of S.I. Drogheda, was inaugurated as National President of Soroptimist International, Republic of Ireland at Federation Conference in Bournemouth on Saturday, 30th. October, 2004. Also inaugurated at that Conference were Janet Garnons-Williams as Federation President and Willa Robinson as Regional President Northern Ireland. Included in the Inauguration were many other national and regional presidents from the S.I.G.B.I. Federation. Members from clubs in Ireland and especially from S.I. Drogheda were there to support Carmel and witness the very impressive Change of Insignia ceremony when immediate past National President, Catherine O'Sullivan handed over the Chain of Office to new National President Carmel Schmidt.

Carmel's theme for the year is 'Caring for those who Cared for us.' She feels passionately that the elderly, who helped build the Celtic Tiger economy which we are enjoying today, are being swept aside in their old age. She has given her wholehearted support to this year's National Project, 'Alzheimer's Respite' sponsored by S.I. Limerick. She would like to thank all the clubs who have sold 'Buy a Brick' cards and run fundraising events for the project.

National President Carmel has endeavoured to visit as many clubs in her year in office as possible as she feels that the hands on approach is very important. She has witnessed the wonderful work being done in clubs – the projects – the identifying of needs within the community not covered by the state, the areas where Soroptimists can make a difference, especially in the lives of the less fortunate or those in need, for whatever reason. Carmel attended the Carers Respite weekend in Bundoran in March and witnessed the wonderful success of a former Soroptimist National Project 'Caring for the Carers'. As National President, she attended in May, the Joint North-South Conference in the Everglades Hotel in Derry where the conference theme echoed her own 'Beyond the Horizon' and 'Caring for those who Cared for us'. From discussions at the Derry Conference, she gained new insight into how we should go about this.



Carmel Schmidt National President Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland 2004-2005.



At the Federation Conference, Bournemouth, October 2004, Willa Robinson Regional President S.I. Northern Ireland, with Carmel Schmidt National President S.I. Republic of Ireland at a party following the Change of Insignia.

The Soroptimist Magazines and Newsletters, both International and National, give clubs an idea of how they can serve the community. She feels that, like the Soroptimist motto 'Friendship and Service' that our mission is to serve our community whether that is local, national or international.

Carmel feels that it is important to remind clubs that we are an International Organisation. We have sister clubs all over the world and we ought to make and keep up Friendship Links with them. These Links are very important and should be a part of each club. She visited both Newry and Belfast on Friendship visits and was the first National President to e-mail the President of S.I. Colombo, Sri Lanka at the end of December 2004 following the Tsunami, offering help. Carmel set up her own National Presidents Tsunami Appeal which to date has raised €20,000.