Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay

Mission: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.".

Vision: "Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".

***Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting* Wednesday,**

February 8 at 7pm

This will be a Zoom mtg. Judy will send out the information

Items of interest:

- **Luncheon**
- **Membership**
- **Public Awareness**
- **Girls Transitioning to Adulthood**
- **DIBI**
- **Fundraising**
- **SIA Web Series**
- **Did you know**
- **Agenda**

Inside this Issue:

- **Connecting with Cindy**
- **Minutes January 11**

Connecting with Cindy

February is here! We have Valentine's Day and Family Day to celebrate. **Linda Adams** birthday falls on Valentine's Day so it is extra special for her. **Shirley Smith** celebrates her birthday February 19th the day before Family Day. We are all part of a Soroptimist family so treasure those relations and friendships!!!!

Cheryl Ball and I attended a ZOOM meeting organized by Governor Suzanne Heron of the Western Canada Region with SIA Presidents from Past (Sharon Fisher), Present (Stephanie Smith) and Future (Bobbi Enderlin). Sue Riney also spoke but I am unsure of her position at SIA. Michelle Burnett SIA ED/CEO was also present. There were 54 attendees with representations from India, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom. The Presidents spoke of why they joined Soroptimist and furthermore, their move up to the federation level. They each created a partnership with each other which lead to friendships. Soroptimists are known to reach out and ask for help and support is always there!

So locally, Fund Raising co-chairs **Kathleen Rismondo** and **Shirley Smith** has been busy organizing an Appreciation Luncheon and internal fund raising event Saturday February 4th. As I am writing this before the event, I cannot comment further except knowing Kathleen, it will be awesome! Hope to see you all there with your $20 and wear **RED**!

Judy Perrier and her committee of **Linda Adams, Lorrie Haslam** and **Devona Crowe** have selected 2 winners for the Live Your Dream Award. More details to follow! Well done ladies!!!!

Devona Crowe and her committee for DIBI (Dream It Be It) are on track for their event Tuesday March 14th from 9 – 4:30 at Carlito's Café. The girls are with the Children's Aid Society (high school and girls transitioning into adulthood). Kudos to committee members **Faith Crichton, Kathleen Rismondo, Cheryl Ball and Marlene Crago**)!

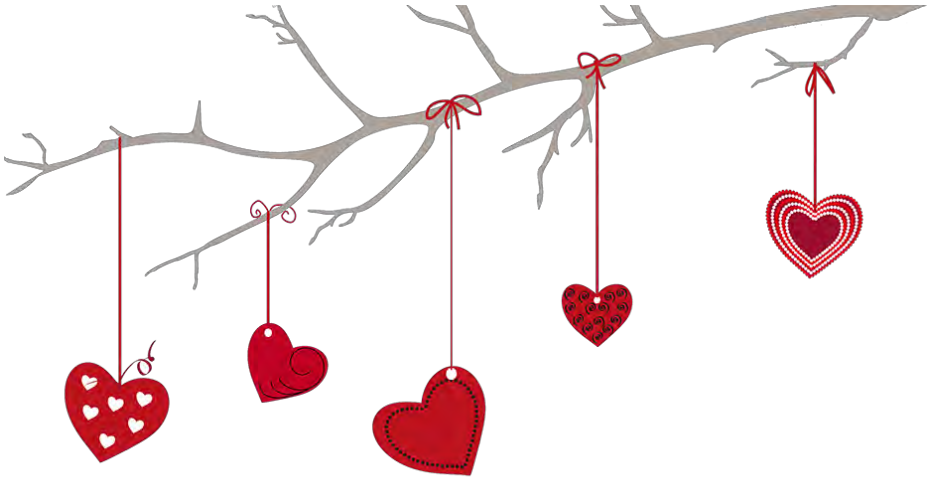
Fund Raising has the **April Gift Card raffle** and **Two Bit Auction** (April 27) to look forward to so planning should be commencing by Fund Raising. Donee for the raffle is to be determined at the club meeting so a license can be obtained in order to print tickets. The charities selected for the Two Bit Auction license portion were Soroptimist Foundation of Canada and Children's Aid Society Girls Transitioning into Adulthood (50/50).

The **ECR Spring Conference is held May 5-7, 2023 in Brantford**. So far **Cindy Figus, Judy Perrier, Devona Crowe, Cheryl Ball and Karen Bortolin** are attending and possibly **Faith Crichton and Linda Adams**. Call to Conference should be released this month. .

This is a reminder that the **SIA Convention** is being held in **Dublin Ireland July 27-29, 2023. Kim** and **Lee Ann** are thinking of attending.

Your proud President, Cindy

"When it looks like rain, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars." Anonymous



SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

January 11th, 2023

Via zoom 7 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Judy Perrier, Marlene Crago, Cindy Figus, Karen Bortolin, Marilyn Fenwick, Cheryl Ball, Kim Koivukoski, Judy Anderson, Shirley Smith, Devona Crowe, Linda Adams, Lee Ann Nalezyty, Faith Crichton, Sharon Godwin, Kathleen Rismondo, Karen Lynn Evans, Maxine Tenander, Lorrie Haslam

Regrets: Rosa Martin, Joan Taddo

Recording Secretary: Melanie Cates

Call to order @ 7:08 PM

Minutes of the Nov. 9, 2022 (no business in December 2022). Melanie moved to approve minutes as circulated electronically. Motion approved by Karen Lynn Evans and seconded by Shirley Smith. Carried.

Treasurer's Report (Nov. & Dec. 2022)

November report – **revenue** $34 bottle drive to club funds.

-**expenses** for membership drive expenses $102.56 and $123.50 (food and refreshments)

50/50 from September and October moved to conference fund. LRCA advertising in calendar $79.10

December report – **revenue** $100 from ECR reimbursement for membership event received, Christmas auction netted $180, bottle drive $30.10, room rental overage $40 (collected $90, room rental $50). Garden fund received a $1000 donation from Rose Frim's niece Donna Frim

-**expenses** $100 going beyond for LYD, $53 moved to conference fund from 50/50,

Correspondence – no correspondence received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ECR Spring Conference May 5-7th 2023 Brantford, ON Cheryl Ball and Karen Bortolin will be attending as part of ECR Board. Cindy Figus, Judy Perrier, Devona Crowe and possibly Faith Crichton will attend on behalf of SI Thunder Bay.
Our country to highlight at the conference has been confirmed as Finland.

Conference in Dublin Ireland – deadline for early bird registration (reduced rate) is January 21, 2023.

FUNDRAISING

Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2023 – need to start preparing for this event. Kathleen and Shirley will be connecting with members about items that need action (license, tickets, basket themes, letters for businesses). Our beneficiaries are Soroptimist Foundation and CAS Girls Transitioning to Adulthood. Each will get 50% of the proceeds.

$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (deferred until Spring 2023) – March 31 – April 2 at CLE. Judy Anderson has secured us our usual spot for selling tickets. Karen Bortolin can purchase gift cards from St. Paul's church (except LCBO cards). Just need to get her the business names we want to have gift cards from. We need to determine who the beneficiary will be. Life Waters has reached out for funding for reusable menstrual products and could be considered.

Internal club fundraiser – details coming soon

PROGRAM

Live Your Dream – 6 applications have been received. The LYD committee is meeting on January 19 to judge the applicants. Devona Crowe, Linda Adams, Judy Perrier, and Lorrie Haslam are on the committee.

Lee Ann Nalezyty asked if any outside judges were being considered. Judy Perrier will review the toolkit from SIA and clarify if we need to use a judge outside of club members. She has a contact that she can call to see if she is available to assist if required.

Discussion on "Going Beyond" process occurred. Currently there is a $400 budget for this program. It can be reviewed in May for next year's budget.

Dream It, Be It - Faith Crichton and Devona Crowe had a productive meeting with Danny Michaud on January 11, 2023. CAS is truly committed to helping us make DIBI a reality for their girls.

Danny has:

- defined our **audience: h/s girls & girls transitioning to adulthood** (approximately 24)
- committed to **providing transportation for girls** to attend
- committed to **contact the girls** to explain the event & encourage them to attend
- committed to **collecting consent forms** for participation in the event
- **found a venue for us:** Carlito's Cafe
- committed to **setting up a date f**or DIBI team and Danny to **visit the venue to assess its viability**
- committed to **providing an honorarium for the owner** of Carlito's Cafe

confirmed a **date for DIBI: Tuesday, March 14 (9am-4:30)**

- committed to **providing 4 CAS staffers** to be at the event, thus no criminal record checks required from Soroptimist's
- committed to **providing 2 students as greeters** at the door (so that these students can get Volunteer hours)

committed to **providing gift cards for prizes** at the event
We are on our way! Much work lies ahead, but we can do it.

The next meeting of the committee (Devona Crowe, Faith Crichton, Marlen Crago, and Kathleen Rismondo) is on January 20th at 1:30 pm to start our working on speaker details. Karen Lynn Evans can speak at the event re: entrepreneurship

MEMBERSHIP

SI Policies & Procedures – the draft was sent to the reviewers before Christmas. Reviews have been returned. Melanie Cates and Lee Ann Nalyzety will meet soon to review the suggestions and finalize the document. A pdf version will be sent to all club members. A word document will be maintained for updating.

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin) – making progress on amalgamating the Bylaws and Constitution but not finalized. The finalized document will be used if we apply for charitable club status. Sharon Godwin will speak with Cindy Figus about the particulars of the document. Sharon has requested a copy of the club policy and procedure manual. Lee Ann Nalyzety and Melanie Cates will send her a final copy.

The Membership Event did not recruit any new members. A few inquiries have come through the website/social media. Members are asked to contact the membership committee with the names of these individuals so they can follow up.

SIA is running a membership event – "Member get a Member Event" – ends Feb 28, 2023. Names of members who recruit a new club member will be put in a draw for $100 US.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Replacement for Faith Crichton as she stepped down on December 31, 2022, to focus on membership. Faith did a report for work done up to December 31, 2022. If anyone is interested in taking this on, let Cindy Figus know. Melanie Cates will continue to help support public relations temporarily.

OTHER BUSINESS

Feb. 8, 2023, meeting will be by ZOOM.

NEW BUSINESS

ECR Bylaw changes as circulated for Section 8, Number 8.1 – Region Conferences and Meetings may be convened in person or by electronic means, as decided by the ECR Board in consultation with the Region membership; the requirement being that all participants have access to participate fully in discussions and decision-making.

Judy Anderson moved that we accept proposed changes to ECR Bylaws. Seconded by Faith Crichton and carried.

Request for Bylaws - Dundas/Ancaster/Flamborough club has asked for a copy of our Bylaws. Cindy Figus will send them a copy.

President Elect Position – Judy Perrier is stepping down and a new President Elect will be required. Cindy Figus has asked club members to consider this position. Cindy is willing to stay on as club president for one more year. Cindy had originally planned to take over Public Awareness but can't do both positions. Judy Perrier will continue to maintain the website and chair LYD.

Books – Faith wonders if anyone is interested in doing a book exchange just for club members at in-person meetings. This is not a fundraising event.

Christmas Auction monies to club or conference? Lorrie Haslam moved that the Christmas auction money be transferred to conference funds. Seconded by Judy Anderson. Not carried. Funds will stay in club funds.

Archives – An Ad Hoc Committee (Judy Anderson, Devona Crowe, Cindy Figus, and Lee Ann Nalezyty) will meet to review the archive process and determine how we will maintain archive material. This meeting will be held later in March.

Zoom meetings – Judy Perrier can set up meetings for committees. She does not need to be present for the meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM

A Heartfelt Appreciation Luncheon

4th February 2023

Maxine's Condo Hospitality Room

1:00 to 4:00

FUN! FROLIC! FELLOWSHIP!

AND.....FUNDRAISING!

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!!

WEAR RED

Shirley and I are so pleased with the favourable R.S.V.P.'s we have received for our February 4th Appreciation Luncheon and internal fundraiser. We are looking forward to a room full of smiling faces, warm hearts, laughter and last but not least, a good ole gab session among friends. If there is anyone who hasn't quite made up their mind or has changed their mind, have no fear, there is still time to join in on the fun.

A FEW REMINDERS:

1) Come with an empty tummy, cause lunch is sure to be quite yummy.

2) For a chance to win the 50/50 jackpot don't forget to check your piggy bank for loonies and twoonies...FYI dollar bills also accepted.... just saying.

3) Be sure to bring your, "Game Face," so you are prepared to participate in a few fun activities.

4) Unfortunately, due to inflation, we can no longer stick to the motto," Five Bucks, Five Bucks, Five Bucks....soooo we encourage you to dig deep into your pockets and, "Try your luck for Twenty Bucks OR Forty Bucks Or...." whatever works best for you is good with us!! We thank you in advance for your generosity.

5) Please note: Bitcoin will not be accepted

Fundraising Co-Chairs
Shirley and Kathleen

Dear Soroptimist, Join us for the

Wrap Yourself in Love, Soroptimists

https://events.zoom.us/ev/AvWpMJSYugbRQSZHDP4qTvqqOssxrhqZNWYzDf0M8XlxTvM1W7vR~AggLXsr32QYFjq8BlYLZ5I06Dg

International Women's Day Virtual Tea Party.

https://events.zoom.us/ev/Ag6Tw0EiZuneE0wUoy0ljNh6QEiCmvarOdUSUMtG0R1-7ITAf-r_~AggLXsr32QYFjq8BlYLZ5I06Dg

Join these events via the Zoom client or web browser.

Consider inviting a friend who is not a Soroptimist to attend the event so they can learn more about who we are and what we do. Engaging in global virtual events like these are a great opportunity to introduce prospective members to Soroptimist as part of the recruitment process!

This year, SIA is encouraging members worldwide to invite nonmember friends to attend these events. In fact, we have an incentive for you!

Five individual members who invite a friend to attend these events will be randomly selected to win a cash prize of $100!

For individual members to be included in the drawing for a cash prize for inviting a guest, the following criteria must be met.

- The guest that they invite must not be an existing Soroptimist member.
- The guest that they invite must register for one of the events and submit the name of the person who invited them on the registration form.

The guest that they invite must attend one of the events on February 15 or March 8 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

There will also be a reward for the region that converts the greatest number of non member guests to active club membership by May 31!

Attire

Comfortable or yoga attire is recommended for the Wrap Yourself in Love event, as this event will feature a yoga demonstration you can follow along with. Tea party dress attire is requested for the tea. This can be country-specific traditional attire for teas or your best hat/fascinator, pearls, and gloves. We are excited to see you in your attire for both events, and we will be in ours!

Please spread the word and invite your friends! **Sincerely,**

The Stakeholder Engagement Team

Membership Committee

Thank you to Judy P., Melanie and Devona for sharing contact information of interested prospective members. Unfortunately, I was not able to contact two of them who had inquired through the website, and the emails were "undeliverable". It was still encouraging to have interest. Gave a membership package to Devona who will give to her friend who has shown some interest in our club too. Ironically, I had gone to university with this friend…it's a small world for sure. Kim and I have gone through the Membership materials and will hopefully be updating it upon her return. In the meantime, I have learned how to make labels of the website address to attach to the pamphlets we already have. We are still very keen on purchasing updated generic business cards to attach to packages. It is looking like a promising year!

Respectfully submitted, Faith & Kim

FUNDRAISING! .....FUNDRAISING! .....READ ALL ABOUT IT.....

Our **GIFT CARD RAFFLE** takes place March 31st-April 2nd at the Home and Garden Show. It may seem like it's the distant future, but we all know how time flies. With that in mind, the committee is in the process of finalizing all the necessary details involved in assuring it's success. Acquiring the proper licensing, printing the tickets, purchasing the cards etc. is a team effort. Thanks to Karen B., Cindy, and Lorrie for pitching in with these various tasks. Next step is to decide on a beneficiary, this will be discussed at our membership meeting on Wednesday February 8th. As in past years, once the tickets are printed, members are encouraged to sell them to their family, friends, neighbours and basically whoever has some spare change in their pocket prior, to the Home and Garden Show. Although we are required to give all the monies collected away, it's a wonderful platform to get our brand out there. Hopefully this exposure is one STEP closer for people to understand that we CAN'T fix your feet (podiatrist), but we CAN make a difference in a women's life (Soroptimist)!

Next up...**TWO BIT AUCTION**
Yet another fundraising activity in the month of April. The TWO BIT AUCTION on Thursday April 27 will be action packed. It's been awhile, three years to be exact, let's refresh your memories. The Heritage Building will be buzzing with people bidding for their favourite baskets, some members selling 50/50 and wine raffle tickets, some members working the door, our resident accountants will be stationed in the back room madly counting the money, and the remaining members will be running around with their heads cut off trying to satisfy all the patrons who desperately want a chance to win the basket they just can't live without. It's a busy, fun filled night where all hands on deck make everything run smoothly and efficiently. I bet you can't wait to join in. The most rewarding part of the evening is realizing the positive impact we will make in someone's world. This year our beneficiary is CAS and SI Foundation.

Donations are already starting to filter in:

1) Air Fryer
2) Pasta Maker
3) Two $250.00 Home Depot Gift Cards
4) Silicone Frywall (splatter protectors)
5) Jumbo Wok
6) Rice Cooker
7) Two large framed prints

WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START!
With Gratitude Co-Chairs Fundraising Shirley and Kathleen

DIBI Newsletter Item

The DIBI Team is excited to share the developments for the Dream It Be It one-day workshop. As you know this event is open for high school girls in care with CAS or Transitioning to Adulthood.

The confirmed date is Tuesday, March 14 from 10am to 5 pm.

The venue is Carlito's Cafe at 301 Simpson Street. Chris Talarico, the owner of the cafe is providing for our food needs and has given us a great room to spread out in

Four guest speakers from our community have agreed to participate in the day. Each will give a brief presentation and a hands-on activity for the participants. It will be a full day.

Usually for SI events it is ,"all hands on deck". Our club members always come through to help out in every event. Due to the life circumstances of those participating in the event we are limiting the SI members attending to the DIBI committee. I trust that everyone will understand the rationale behind this. We will take pictures and perhaps videos to share with you, so that you can celebrate the success of the event.

DIBI Team: Faith, Marlene, Devona, Kathleen (Cheryl as ex-officio)

Devona

Public Awareness Update

Thank you to the Public Awareness Committee of Melanie, Lee Ann and Judy P. for your support during my time as chair for this committee. We have accomplished a lot over the last three years. I have given President Cindy the Public Awareness binder as well as a list of P.R. contacts for future reference. I wish to encourage one of our members to take on this responsibility and have the opportunity to partner with the Public Awareness team.

Respectfully, Faith

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood

Next quarter coming up. The theme for the Girls transitioning to adulthood is pamper yourself,

Donation of food products is welcomed.

DID YOU KNOW

While looking to see what other Soroptimist Clubs were doing, I came across two articles on the SI Belgium website. One project addresses the unreliable electricity in Haiti and the other project created a "home" for HIV orphans in Namibia.

Electricity in Haiti

A major obstacle to investment, growth and poverty-reduction in Haiti is the unreliable, insufficient and overly expensive supply of electricity.

Only about 30% of the population is connected to the national grid, and blackouts are frequent and long.

When it gets dark at around 6pm, reading or studying can be difficult if not impossible for the island's children without access to quality lighting.

Utility start-up company RE-VOLT is on a mission to bring electricity to families in rural Haiti. Using an ingenious system consisting of a solar panel, a power storage unit, several lights and a phone charger, it currently serves over 2300 households in La Gonave, one of the most isolated and impoverished communities in Haiti.

Soroptimist Club Val Brabant-Waterloo heard of this very promising system through a member whose nephew is one of the company's co-founders and decided to support the project. Fund-raising activities included a second-hand jewellery sale and a 'Soroptimist Cup' golf tournament with 122 participants, organised with a sister club SI Vannes of France.

Through Greater Good Haiti (*Pi Gwo Byen* in Creole), an organisation committed to primary school education in La Gonave, five more families have been equipped with Re-volt, and their children will now be able to continue studying after the sun has gone down.

A Village Offers Hope to HIV Orphans

On returning to her native Windhoek after working with Mother Theresa in Calcutta, Namibian pastor Marietjie de Klerk saw the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS in her country.

Recognising the need to provide accommodation, medical services and education for child victims of the epidemic, she decided to build a 'village' where HIV orphans could grow up in a loving environment. Here, they receive not only the medical treatment they need, but also the guidance from a caring adult.

Hope Village was opened in 2005 and now has 12 full-time 'parents' looking after 85 children. There is also a school and an HIV clinic that supplies powdered milk-formula to infected local mothers in an effort to stop mother/baby transmission of the virus.

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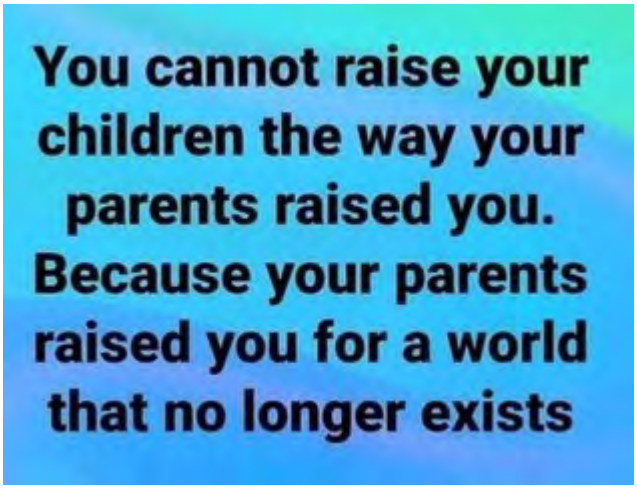
Soroptimist Club Sint-Truiden teamed up with local prize-winning artist and illustrator Raf Roefflaer and executive search company HR One to raise funds for Hope Village. Roefflaer, who has exhibited extensively in Belgium and abroad, sent his blueprints and instructions to Hope Village residents for production. The finished artworks were then shipped to Sint-Truiden, shown at a gallery and sold to fund the purchase of books, school uniforms and classroom materials for Namibia.

I hope you found these two articles interesting and informative. It is truly amazing to see the wonderful work that is being done by Soroptimists in other countries to make a difference in the lives of women and girls around the world.

Cheryl



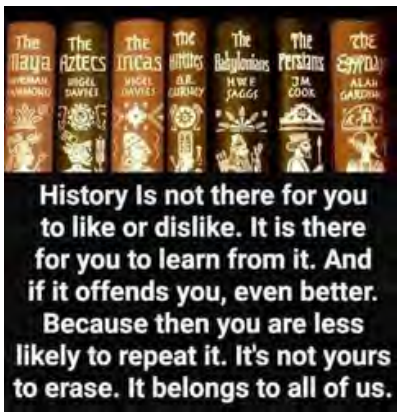
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

"Kindness is an *antidote against several pathologies of our societies*: an antidote against cruelty, which can unfortunately creep in like poison seeps into the heart, intoxicating relationships; an antidote against anxiety and distracted frenzy that makes us focus on ourselves, closing others off. These "illnesses" of our everyday lives make us aggressive, make us incapable of asking "may I", or even saying "sorry", or of simply saying "thank you". These three extremely human words for living together: may I, sorry, thank you. With these three words, we move forward in peace, in human friendship. They are the words of kindness: may I, sorry, thank you.

It will do us good to think about whether we use them often in our lives: may I, sorry, thank you. And so, when we meet a kind person on the street, or in a store, or in the office, we are amazed, it seems to be a small miracle because, unfortunately, kindness is no longer common. But thanks be to God, there are still kind people who know how to put their own concerns aside to pay attention to others, to offer the gift of a smile, to give an encouraging word, to listen to someone who needs to confide something, and to vent."

Pope Francis ~ Homily of Pope Francis, December 30, 2022

Submitted by Marilyn



SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

February 8th, 2023

Via zoom

7 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to order	Cindy
Minutes of the January 11, 2023	Melanie
Treasurer's Report (Jan. 2023)	Lorrie
Correspondence	Cindy

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ECR Spring Conference May 5-7th 2023 Brantford	Cindy
Dublin Convention (Kim and Lee Ann?)	Cindy

FUNDRAISING	**Kathleen & Shirley**
Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2023	Kathleen
$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (Spring 2023) done?	Kathleen
PROGRAM	**Judy P**
Live Your Dream	Judy P.
Dream It, Be It	Devona
MEMBERSHIP	**Kim and Faith**
SI Policies & Procedures	Melanie
Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin)	Cindy
Archives adhoc mtg deferred	Devona
PUBLIC RELATIONS	**Faith**
Replacement for Faith?	Cindy

OTHER BUSINESS

March 8th club meeting (dinner and LYD presentation)?	Cindy

.**NEW BUSINESS**

Birthdays:

Linda Adams – February 14th

Shirley Smith – February 19th

Pledge for Eastern Canada Region

We are Soroptimists committed to: the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country. We will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.