

Membership & Organisational Development Report September 2022

I hope all Soroptimists had a good summer and that you are all ready for the 2022/23 Soroptimist year! SIGBI has reported that as of the 19th August 2022 there are 271 club members in 15 clubs in Republic of Ireland and 3 associate members. This is a decrease in 13 members compared to last year. In the table below the current SIGBI membership numbers for each club are listed. I am aware that some of the club details that SIGBI has are incorrect, so I'm asking for you and your club to confirm your membership numbers and some club details with me.

Club	Member #
Athlone and District	20
Ballina and District	20
Ballinasloe and District	20
Bandon and District	19
Bray and District	12
Castlebar	17
Cork	12
Drogheda	22
Dublin	16
Dungarvan and District	18
Ennis and District	19
Killarney and District	16
Mullingar and District	16
North Kildare	14
Wexford	30
Total membership	271

The club details that I need are your President, Secretary and Membership officer details. On the 1st September I sent an email to all the current Club Presidents, Secretaries and Membership Officers that I have. If you received the email please reply. If you haven't received an email then it means the SIGBI details that I have are incorrect, please contact me using the contact details at the end of this report to advise me that you haven't received the email.

The RoI National Association website is wonderful and will be of great use to current members and prospective members. We need to stop the common practice of club officers using personal email addresses. It's also extremely important that if your club does not have a generic club email address such as a club google email address to set up one. This will be used on the National Association website and it will also make the change over of club secretaries/presidents easier for the National Association and SIGBI. If help is needed to set up generic club emails please tell me and I will be happy to assist.

On the 25th November, one of the two key events for Soroptimists, the 16 Days of Action will start. If your club hasn't already started to plan please start as soon as possible. It's an important time for your club for programme action and it's also important to get as much publicity as possible through local media as this will help educate and empower and it might also encourage new membership interest in your club. So please remember to publicise your actions online, in local papers and on local radio, whenever possible. This publicity will also be assisted by the new National Association website.

According to SIGBI data only 9 out of 15 clubs has a membership officer in the Republic of Ireland. If your club does not have a membership officer please consider appointing one as soon as possible. We need to work together helping our current members and trying to recruit new members. Please remember to have an 'invite a friend policy' to your events and have information available for potential new members.

I will be hosting several Zoom meetings over the coming months.

1. Club Membership Officers meeting – 7pm on the 15th September 2022
2. Club Plan Meeting – 6th October 2022
3. Club Plan Meeting – 17th October 2022
4. Club Membership Officer update meeting – 17th November

In friendship,

Siobhán Matthews

Membership & Organisation Development Officer Soroptimist International, Republic of Ireland

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