



4-8 July, 1999 XVI Soroptimist International Convention,
Helsinki, Finland

Introduction to Programmes of Service

by Mary Cassell, Cook Inlet Club, North Western Region, SIA

International Past President Patsy Daniels introduced Marie-Jeanne Bosia-Berberat, the International Representatives Liaison, and Lois Sagel, Programme Liaison as members who have unique talents and so willingly share them with us. Both gave us a brief overview of their activities during the Quadrennium.

Marie-Jeanne spoke of the opportunity to be involved in the coordination of our activities (at the five UN Centres at which we are accredited) by a wonderful group of volunteer Soroptimists. Because we are so well represented and respected at the UN, we also gain automatic involvement at many conferences around the world. She emphasized the importance of the SI publication "Where We Stand" and that all Soroptimists should be familiar with the statements concerning our stand on issues important to us.

Lois, by telling us a story about the building of homes in a poorer area of the world, illustrated the importance of the Program Focus Reports. Her question to us is: "Have you told your story?" It has been emphasized to us many times that our representatives at the UN and many others at Regional, Federation and International level use these reports to prepare and back their reports. It is really the only way that they can show the accomplishments of the cumulative effect of many clubs working in specific programs of service areas, and the diversity of projects in which clubs around the world are involved.