



Yvonne Simpson
SI President
2015-2017





“From the word go, President Yvonne ensured to integrate me into her officers team. She guided, supported and taught me. This is real leadership! Thanks so much Yvonne, for me, you are the personification of our SI theme ‘Educate to Lead’.”
Mariet Verhoef-Cohen
 SI President 2017-2019

“What I really appreciate is President Yvonne’s steady presence to the UN Vienna, during the Commission of UNODC, which gave SI greater visibility and supported strongly our work amongst the UN officers and the representatives of other NGOs. Her passionate discussion on the evolution of Soroptimist in the world, and its role in the empowerment of women, reinforced my commitment. In our long talks into the evenings, a friendship was born. Dear Yvonne thank you!”

Dora Vrdlovec
 SI UN Rep, Vienna



“Though we live oceans apart, I feel close to Yvonne and will miss her dedicated leadership and delightful spirit. I was lucky to meet Yvonne for the first time at UN CSW60 in 2016, after I had been nominated to be a SI UN Representative in New York, but not yet approved. She was so warm and welcoming that I felt immediately at home with SI. She is a generous leader and a pleasure to work with. I’ve been impressed by another side of Yvonne, her talent and creativity in making her charming and colourful knitted decorations and pins, that are fun to wear and support SI’s work”.

Barbara T Rochman
 SI UN Rep, New York



“Yvonne is humble, eager to learn and takes her job as SI President seriously. She is diligent, a great networker and is always well prepared. A good listener, she is happy to praise others and is kind to everyone. Yvonne loves to travel and spend time with other Soroptimists and can give a quick remark, and is happy to receive one too”.

Ulla Madsen
 SIE Past President



“It has been my privilege to work alongside Yvonne at many events at the United Nations, promoting the profile of SI and making strong representations’ on behalf of women and girls. SI could not have had a better advocate. Yvonne has pressed the case for gender equality with government representatives, with senior officials of UN agencies and with other NGOs. She has developed a strong network with other leading women’s organisations and was able at CSW this year to bring a group of like-minded organisations to plan cooperative activity for the future. Her work on behalf of the International President’s Appeal has been unstinting, raising thousands of pounds to support projects in Nepal, which will make such a difference to the lives of women and girls in the aftermath of the disastrous earthquake.

I would like to thank her personally for the unfailing support she has given to me and the UN representatives especially to the development of SI Advocacy over the last two years”.

Pat Black
 SI Director of Advocacy 2015-2017



“A heartfelt thank you to Yvonne for her dedication, vision and leadership. I’m especially thankful that Yvonne truly believes and supports the work of the SI UN Representatives around the world. She has graciously listened, heard our concerns and been extremely supportive; she has become our champion. Yvonne made sure we (SI UN Reps) had a direct voice whether on the advocacy committee, or at the annual board meeting. I personally will miss working with her”.

**In sisterhood,
Bette Levy
SI UN Rep, New York**



“It has been a real honour for me to serve as Director with Yvonne this past year. Her inclusive nature encouraged all of us to contribute during the board meetings. Thank you for all that you have done for Soroptimist and will continue to do in the future”.

**RoseMary Reid
SIA Immediate Past
President**



“It has been a steep learning curve, but I have really enjoyed my two years working as Yvonne’s Procedural Consultant. Yvonne committed to having a Strategic Plan and Manuals completed during her biennium and can be congratulated for achieving this. She has also ensured that resolutions for face to face and electronic Executive, Board and Authorised Representatives’ Meetings have been clearly set out on screen and this has enabled a clearer process for discussion and approval of resolutions at these meetings”.

**Anne Gover
SI Procedural Consultant
2015-2017**



“Yvonne was dedicated to the role of SI President, for the 75,000 members of Soroptimist International. The theme of the President’s Appeal reached the heart of many Soroptimists world-wide and motivated them to give grants for the benefit of people suffering from the effects of the earthquake. What a success”.

**Verena Von Tresckow-Bronke
SI Chair of Finance Committee
2015-2017**



“Yvonne Simpson, is all-embracing, a pragmatic consensus builder and wonderful peacemaker. She is sensitive, caring, joyful and appreciates everyone in the team”.

**Anusha Santhirasthipam
SWP President-Elect**



“I so appreciate the time, talent, treasure and just plain love that our President and my friend Yvonne has given to Soroptimist International at this pivotal time in SI’s history. She inspired a great President’s Appeal that we could all understand and explain, and set us on the course to support future projects. Yvonne lead with heart and head and kindly inspired us to use civility as we helped chart the course for our new SI!”

**Love and thanks for your MANA
Dawn Marie Lemonds
SIA President 2017-2018**



“Dear Yvonne, It has been a delight to work with you over the last two years. There have most definitely been challenges but you have always risen above them and found a way forward. Helen Keller said that “Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light”. I hope that you have enjoyed the experience and made many new friends. I am sure you will welcome the time at home getting back to some sense of normality. Keep in touch and I hope to see you again in the not too distant future”.

**In friendship,
Ann Hodgson
SIGBI President 2016 -2017**



“Thank you for leading us both literally and figuratively! You are an example to us all Yvonne, of the dedication and commitment of Soroptimists throughout the world. You are both fearless and loving. Thank you for sharing your many talents with Soroptimist International!”

**Sam Buchanau SIA
Past President**



“Thank you Yvonne, for your enthusiasm and commitment to the ideals of Soroptimism, the way you have included and embraced everyone, valued their contribution (and thanked them for it) and made them feel proud to be a member of Soroptimist International”.

**Margaret Emsley
SIGBI Immediate Past President**



“Yvonne is a Soroptimist and also a teacher, so her Presidents Appeal had education as a feature. Yvonne saw a need in rural Nepal; her heart reached out to educate them all. The President’s Appeal projects now stretch across the land; with women and girls getting a helping hand. It all came together with a little pink flower; her own creation that held such power. I was happy to serve as Chair, for the last two years, many stories filled my eyes with tears. Thank you Yvonne, it has been a pleasure, I hope your memories will forever be treasured”.

**Sharon Fisher
SI Assistant Director of Advocacy 2015-2017**



“There is a saying about when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The going has been tough at times for Yvonne as she has steered Soroptimist International along the path defined by the Strategic Plan. However, Yvonne has always worn a smile and her calm exterior has been instrumental in moving us forward as an international women’s organisation”.

**Susan Biggs
SIGBI President-Elect**

