

SOROPTIMIST CLUB  
*of*  
HEALDSBURG



CHARTERED APRIL 7, 1956

SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism and to the ideals for which it stands:

THE SINCERITY OF FRIENDSHIP

THE JOY OF ACHIEVEMENT

THE DIGNITY OF SERVICE

THE INTEGRITY OF PROFESSION

THE LOVE OF COUNTRY

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold, and defend these  
ideals, for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business  
---for Country and for God.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Dorothy Weston, 1956-57

Helen Latimer, 1957-58

Berkie Jackson, 1958-59

Hazel Young, 1959-60

Elna Maloney, 1960-61

Rose Demostene, 1961-62

Eva Behney, 1962-63

Dorothy Barbieri, 1963-64

Dorothy Silveira, 1964-65

Fran Carson, 1965-66

Helendale Barrett, 1966-67

Alice Rosasco, 1967-68

Ruby Mathiasen, 1968-69

Genevieve Wilder, 1969-70

Patsy Stratton, 1970-71

Beverly Midson, 1971-72

Zelma Ratchford, 1972-73

Ruby Mathiasen, 1973-74

S. J. [unclear], 1974-75

W. [unclear], 1975-76

E. Frances Zak, 1976-77

E. Frances Zak, 1977-78

Beverly Midson, 1978-79

Judy Deas, 1979-80

Judy Deas, 1980-81

[unclear], 1981-82

## HISTORY OF THE SOROPTIMIST CLUB OF HEALDSBURG

The Soroptimist Club of Healdsburg was chartered April 7, 1956 at the beautiful Villa Chantecler on Fitch Mountain, Healdsburg. This charter dinner was one of the first events held at the Villa since it was purchased by the City. Over one hundred and sixty attended. The presiding officer was Lily Greer, president of the Santa Rosa Club. The installation of officers was conducted by Bessie Combs, director of District 1, preceded by a candlelight ceremony with charter presidents of other Clubs participating: Leya Slater, Antioch, Anna Keegan, Petaluma, Dorothy Schmidt, Sebastopol, Ruby Paulinelli, Rio Vista, and Cynthia Schwenson, Arcata.

Charter officers of the Soroptimist Club of Healdsburg were: Dorothy Weston, president; Mary Frances Mendenhall, vice president; Bernice Jackson, recording secretary; Barbara Rosasco, corresponding secretary; Rose Demostene, treasurer; Elsie Karr, two year director; Eva Behney, one year director; Bernice Jackson, two year delegate; Mary Frances Mendenhall, one year delegate; and Marian Van Cleave, parliamentarian. The presentation of the charter was made by May Overhouse, Governor of the Southwestern Region, Salinas, and the presentation of the flag by Sylvia Spencer, Vallejo.

Mrs. Violet Richardson Ward, Berkeley, charter president of the first Soroptimist Club in the world, made the presentation of the president's pin.

Following are the names of the Charter Members of the Healdsburg Club:

Eva Behney, resigned	Helen Latimer, Life Member <i>deceased</i>
Rose Demostene, <i>active deceased</i>	Zelma Ratchford, <i>active deceased</i>
Elsie Karr, resigned	Gretchen Rosenberg, sustaining
Mary Frances Mendenhall, resigned	Barbara Rosasco, resigned
Dorothy Mounts, <i>active deceased</i>	Vida Santucci, resigned
Bernice Jackson, resigned	Dorothy Silveira, Life Member
Louise Johnson, resigned	Marian Van Cleave, deceased
Margaret Kosta, deceased	Dorothy Weston, resigned
Elizabeth McCutchan, sustaining	Hazel Young, sustaining

With true pioneer spirit, members started out with a bang to be of real service. In the first five years, we participated in many community projects but the most important accomplishments were getting an American Student Exchange program started in Healdsburg, to which we donated the first \$100. The biggest and most acclaimed project was the organization and sponsorship of a local Senior Citizens Club. From a membership of 25 at the start, the Seniors now average 120 at their monthly potluck dinner meetings. In 1961 our Club was awarded the Sarah Hammond Award for outstanding work in gerontology. We always had a Soroptimist representative at Senior Citizens board meetings, and several Soroptimist members attended the monthly meetings and were generally helpful, pouring coffee, assisting with games, etc. We still act in an advisory capacity and have several permanent commitments, giving them a bit Christmas party, furnishing prizes and judging their contests, chauffeuring them when called upon, etc., but in this past year, we feel they have "graduated" and do not attend their board meetings and all of their potlucks. Our president always installs their officers. They know if they need us, they can call on us.

In the second five years, we enjoyed widespread publicity and a very favorable influence in our entire community through a highly successful and original fund raising event, "Art in Action," an art exhibit in which over 100 Sonoma County artists participated. The location for these shows was again our Villa Chantecler. We sponsored an "Art in Action Show" for three consecutive years. We opened with an invitational champagne "Meet the Artists" Preview on a Saturday night and an exhibit open to the public on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. We had several outstanding guest artists participate. We haven't had an Art Show since 1965 as the work and preparation was stupendous. As a result of these exhibits a Healdsburg Art Club was formed from our list of participating artists. That Club is still very active. Also an art store was opened specializing in art supplies. We gave our outline and format to the Soroptimist Club of Calistoga and they put on several similar exhibits.

In the ~~last~~<sup>NEXT</sup> five years, we enlarged our service to Youth. We had a garden booth at the annual Future Farmers Country Fair here which is a very unique and successful event where the 4-H and Future Farmers of America members show their animals. KRON-TV has covered this event several times. We have a very successful "Girl of the Month" program. At our first luncheon meeting of the month, an outstanding senior girl from our high school is a guest of honor. She tells about herself and her activities and is presented with a small gift from our president. This is followed up by an article and picture in the local newspaper. The girls write us glowing thank you letters and consider it quite an honor. We participate in the Youth Achievement program, giving several cash prizes locally. We give several 4-H camperships each year.

We felt we may have played an important role in the passing of a state law which specifies ramps in the colleges for handicapped students in wheelchairs. Through the influence of a local woman whose son was paralyzed from the waist down in a swim accident when he was a senior in high school, we deluged Sonoma State College, then under construction, and our state legislature with letters emphasizing this need.

Through the recommendation of our IGU committee, we adopted a Korean orphan ~~two years ago~~. Also in this program, we have a very successful and rewarding relationship with our Sister Club, now called Friendship Link, in Como, Italy. We have good communications with Como through correspondence, magazine exchanges, books and Christmas gifts. We always have the current AFS student as a guest at our Christmas lunch meeting where we present the student with a gift and also have the student as a lunch speaker. Individually, we try to entertain the AFS representative.

Now we are up to 1972 and a crossroad. We are trying to analyze our current Soroptimist program and look to the future. We have had programs on drug abuse and the American Indian situation, but we plan to go into these areas more actively in the future. We have a brand new hospital in Healdsburg and we are eager to have the Soroptimist influence felt there. We have members who have signed up for volunteer service as soon as it is offered and a gift of hospital equipment is under consideration.

We are proud of our past Soroptimist history and we are confident that the impact of Soroptimism in the future will be even more meaningful.