



SOROPTIMIST
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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF QUEZON CITY

A Glimpse into Soroptimist International of Quezon City

Soroptimist International Quezon City (SIQC) is a dynamic club which will celebrate its 50th Charter Anniversary on April 24, 2022.

SIQC was chartered on April 24, 1972, becoming the 8th club of Soroptimist International of the Philippines (SIP). The Charter President of SIQC was Justice Lourdes Paredes San Diego, who later became the 2nd National President of SIP, succeeding Founder Mariquit Castelo.

SIQC, in turn, chartered the following clubs: Caloocan, Antipolo, Fairview, Novaliches, Sampaloc, Tourist Belt, Diliman, Eastwood, Capitol Hills, and Marikina.

During Biennium 1984 – 1986, SIQC scored a Grand Slam. The club's entries won the Region's top prize for the Woman Opportunity Award (WOA), now Live Your Dream Award (LYD), and the Training Award Program (TAP), now Dream It Be It (DIBI). Past President (PP) Elsa C. Syjuco received the Most Outstanding Club President Award. SIQC Foundation was established during the term of Past President Asuncion C. Zuniga, Biennium 1996-1998. It serves as a fund-raising arm of the club, and its earnings help support the projects for women and girls of SIQC. Past President Thelma T. Ortiz, Biennium 1998-2000, organized the SIQC Sunshine Fund. This Fund, to which members contribute annually, was established to enhance membership relations. It arranges for greetings to birthday celebrants, brings joy to members who may be unwell, injured or in the hospital. Through the Fund, SIQC conveys its condolences to its members and their families in times of grief.

The club was always among the top 5 clubs in the Governor's Achievement Club Awards (GACA). During Biennium 2001 – 2002, and then 2002-2004, under the stewardship of Past Presidents Elinor C. Gorospe and Amaryllis T. Torres, SIQC garnered The Hall of Fame Award after being recognized for three (3) consecutive years as the Region's Most Outstanding Club and its Presidents as Most Outstanding Club Presidents. This award effectively recognized SIQC as one of only a handful of clubs at the apex of the Region, a tribute to its success as a voluntary organization devoted to the promotion of the rights and well-being of women and girls.

Although the club no longer competes for the GACA as a Hall of Famer, it continues to pursue with vigor the projects mandated by Soroptimist International of the Americas, Philippines Region (SIAPR). Our entry for the LYD

Award in 2020 garnered the District Award and competed for the Region's top prize. In February 2021, we successfully completed the DIBI with students from Sauyo National High School participating in an online webinar. SIQC has also been active in providing aid to communities affected by natural calamities. After the extensive damage wrought by typhoon Rolly in November 2020, SIQC responded to the call of its past awardee for the Women Helping Other Women Award, the Pambansang Tagapag-ugnay ng mga Manggagawa sa Bahay (PATAMABA), to provide assistance to affected families in Bulacan and Rizal. Our members readily donated old clothes, cash, canned goods and other necessities. We also delivered goods for affected families in Bicol in partnership with another NGO, Gota De Leche (Proteccion de la Infancia, Inc.), which transported our donations of hygiene kits and other goods through the cooperation of motorcyclists who waded through the flooded highways and roads of Bicol to reach the evacuees.

The pandemic has completely disrupted the way we normally do things; but it did not deter the club from actively and safely participating in all District and Regional events and in helping the community. In April 2020, even while on total lockdown, SIQC distributed face masks and other hygiene products to PNP frontliners, particularly to policewomen. We donated face masks to women members of the QC Solo Parents Federation, and provided face masks, food and hygiene packs to the women of Barangay Loyola Heights, our adopted barangay. Selected women in this barangay were later remotely trained to mold colorfully painted flowerpots (fashioned from towels or rags cast in cement) as part of the club's livelihood outreach program: "Nego20, Pangkabuhayang Pangkababaihan sa Pandemic, alay ng SIQC." This March, the women of Barangay Loyola Heights will take part in a workshop on "Gender and Financial Literacy" in partnership with PATAMABA. SIQC celebrates Women's Month through this project - to put into place sustainable livelihoods for the women of Barangay Loyola Heights.

The club continues its monthly meetings through Zoom. Our meetings reach quorum each time, and we rigorously go over business matters. But we take pains to conclude each meeting with energizing games and raffles which enable us to bask in the 'joy of friendship', socialize, enjoy each other's company, and have fun, even while physically apart.

The club's goal now is to successfully invite younger members to lead the SIQC to its Diamond or Platinum anniversaries. Shalom!
