Members of Soroptimist International of HUMBOLDT BAY and guests

I am very happy and privileged to be back here this evening among old friends and new, and am deeply honored to install the Officers and directors of Soroptimist International of HUMBOLDT BAY.

Here in Founder Region we are all about getting the job done, but also having some fun. When asked by incoming president Laura to be her installing officer, I said yes immediately – then I found out she is a Game of Thrones fan, and wanted that theme incorporated into the installation. Having never watched an episode of Game of Thrones I did a slight panic, then realized, I can do this. Thanks to Laura and a bit of research, here we go!

As the curtain fell on the ***Game of Thrones***, one of the most popular TV series, one line from Tyrion Lannister, one of the most smart and witty characters on the show, will stay on.

He said,

***What unites people?***

***Stories.***

***There is nothing in the world more powerful than a good story.***

We have many lessons from the Game of Thrones - The main overarching theme is we all need to find our inner princess warrior...the survivor of battles, ruler of dragons and mostly, in charge of our own destinies. We can tell our own stories, and see beyond ourselves for a greater good. Live for something greater than ourselves. And isn’t that what Soroptimist is all about? Helping women and girls improve their lives and live their dreams? So let’s get started!

First of all, I’d like the 2018-2019 Board to please stand up! Past President \_KELLY SANDERS\_\_\_\_- you and your team accepted the challenge last year. We want to thank you and your officers for your commitment and management as the club discovered new horizons. We thank you for your service and an amazing club year.

Please come up as I call your name.

PAST PRESIDENT KELLY, You’ve been the head Warrior Princess of this group the past two years – and now it is time to sit back and lend your ear. The amazing things you did need your wise help to carry on. As Past President you sit on the board and just like a Mother of Dragons you are there to give advice to President Laura – wanted or not. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your weapon to defend the club – please use it wisely.

Delegates Nancy Woods and Debbie Ivancich

Through you the club speaks at district meetings and region conferences. To you is given the responsibility of voting on behalf of all members, speaking for their concerns, and bringing back to them complete information concerning all soroptimist matters. It is your duty to attend the meetings- all the meetings and to be informed about matters on which a vote is to be taken. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own dragon fighting weapons to insure that you make it to San Ramon in a timely manner.

**Lesson #1 from Game of Thrones: Courage has no gender**

In the finale, when Arya Stark declared that she was to explore the West of Westeros, where all the maps ended, no one batted an eye. Them understanding Arya for who she was, was a normal thing. In fact, Jon even invited her to Castle Black where traditionally, women weren’t allowed. And who can forget little Lyanna Mormont, standing up to the 'Army of the Dead' valiantly? Neither age nor gender deterred her from fighting the common enemy.

Directors Ramona Lima and Patty Thomas

‘And you two will be responsible for Membership Recruitment/Member Education and Inductions – you will recruit new warriors that are brave and fair. You must also represent the membership, be objective, open and receptive, encourage enthusiasm for growth and serve and genuinely be interested in the welfare of those who have elected you to serve.

I present you with your own weapons to keep order as you recruit new warrior princesses to fend off the enemies!

Treasurer \_\_\_LISA DALLAM\_\_\_ and Treasurer Elect MARY WALLAKER Dollars and cents! Deposits and checks! A caution or two…a word to the wise…Always remember… it’s theirs and not mine!’ With you we entrust all financial records and the funds of the club to be guarded as if they were your own,. LISA as Treasurer Your duties consist of receiving all funds of the club and depositing them in the bank, preparing and signing all checks and making all remittances as required. You will serve as a valuable source of financial information to the board and club,. And MARY, you are in charge of the roster, and keeping attendance for the members. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own weapons to keep dragons and enemies out of the club resources. You are the protectorate of the club funds and need to use these weapons wisely!

**Lesson #2 from Game of Thrones: No victim card**

In the last season, there was a moment when Lord Varys reminded Sansa of her journey in life facing both physical and sexual abuse till she reached Winterfell. It revealed the pragmatic side of Sansa when she responded that those experiences were in fact, learnings. She didn’t play the victim card at any time nor did she ask for any sympathy. She believed in herself and that was important.

And Cersei Lannister, despite the abhorrent Walk of Shame, faced abuse with her head held high. While the experience triggered horrible consequences, she had faith in her ability to dispense justice, the way she wanted.

Recording Secretary \_\_\_LYNN MARTINEZ\_\_\_: ‘It will be your responsibility to present at board and business meetings and to keep accurate minutes of all proceedings and submit minutes of the business and board recommendations to the club. You are the memory of your club and must be careful to record all matters required under the rules of good parliamentary procedure. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own powerful weapon to help you keep the important minutes from being pillaged by the enemies.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY JENNY OSZEWSKI

Take care of club correspondence and provide Sunshine/Hospitality to members that need it! Also your job is to send thank yous to sponsors and others after fundraisers. Creative communication can create interest and involvement among your members and the community. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own personal weapon to keep away the dragons and defend the castles where the records are kept.

## Lesson #3 from Game of Thrones: Each of us is unique

Of course, given the depiction of the medieval ages, women accepted their husbands' name and protection, wore dresses, but in many ways GoT broke the norm. It allowed each character a voice, and built it based on their life experiences and settings.

The show featured some strong women characters - right from the Machiavellian matriarch Olenna to the soft-spoken yet firm Gily, wife of  Samwell Tarly, who did not hesitate to speak her mind when needed.

It also did not hesitate to show the other side of strength. Brienne gave into the emotion of love while Cersei would do anything for her children. Each of the characters was unique and didn’t conform to gender stereotypes.

Vice President ELAN FIRPO: You will be asked to stand ready at all times to assist the president AND president - elect, to help in any way you can, always showing your strength to assist, as we know you will, just like Arya in Game of Thrones. You’ll get all the speakers and make them interesting and inspirational. It will bring in new members that will increase our army of princess warriors . You also are in charge of Public Relations – an easy task for you! Other jobs won’t always be visible, but they will be essential to the smooth operation and continued success of your club. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own special weapon to use to defend our Soroptimist castle and rulers from all enemies – dragons, as well as the enemies from the South.

## Lesson #4 from Game of Thrones: Feminine and masculine

Can a leader be feminine yet powerful? Or does she have to display so-called masculine traits? Are women successful when they don’t conform to gender stereotypes and play masculine roles?

GoT showed us that Dany could love, be a mother of dragons, and still wield enough power to wipe out a city. She could wear a dress and look beautiful but that didn’t mean she couldn’t rule.

Ser Brienne of Tarth may have been strong, but that didn’t mean she could not love, get hurt, and shed tears when her heart bled. GoT in many ways showed that women need not conform to the traits of any gender.

It let characters such as Sansa, Dany, Cersei, and Arya be who they wanted to be.

PRESIDENT ELECT - TOSHA MARTINS BOWLING You are in training to be number one in this club, and can take pride in being like Sansa in Game of Thrones. You’ll be in charge of Fundraising and help bring in lots of money. Your tasks will include other duties as assigned which we all groan when we hear. It’s amazing what those presidents can find for you to do. Do you accept this responsibility? I present you with your own personal weapon to help guard Queen Laura against the enemies from the South, the North, the West and the East.

**And the final Lesson from Game of Thrones: Leadership is about capability**

Time and again, *Game of Thrones* showed us women in power without labelling them as bossy, rude, or over-ambitious. Cersei’s thirst for power and Danerys spitting fire in revenge (Dracrys and Drogon), though widely vilified, had nothing to do with the fact that she was a woman.

This was a big shift because women rulers weren’t seen in a different light from their male counterparts. Even Sansa Stark’s desire to rule the North was not portrayed as negative. In fact, all these women have been shown as badass.

In the finale, Sansa asking her uncle to stop talking and sit down since he won’t make the king, is an epic moment. It just shows how strong and vocal Sansa had become.

*GoT* showed that power had no gender, and women could aspire to it in equal measure.

President LAURA MIDDLEMISS: We know you have been given the highest office we can offer, and will make us proud as did Daenerys in Game of Thrones. Take hold this year. Your duties are spelled out in the bylaws and procedures, but they are only a partial list of our expectations. Your fellow Soroptimist have done you the honor of selecting you to lead them in the achievement of Soroptimist objectives during the year. It is your duty, as president, to preside at all meetings, appoint and guide committees carrying out the work and activities of the club and to represent the club at public affairs whenever called upon. They have honored and elected you to lead the club because we know you will fulfill all the obligations required of our Queen of our Land. But remember, this is a joint adventure, one of accomplishment and joy. We’re right here to help you…as we share our stories together! Your club will be a strong and well maintained club with you in charge and this board to assist you and with the support our membership pledges. You’re going to take this club far as you create amazing stories along the way. I present you with your personal weapon so that all the battles you fight along the way will be easy for you and your queendom will flourish!

I can now declare these officers, directors and delegates duly installed in the offices to which they were elected. And offer my congratulations to each of you for the 2019-2020 club year. And, I should offer my apologies to the writers of Game and Thrones for the liberties I have taken. Ladies and gentlemen, it’s my pleasure to present to you the officers of Soroptimist International of HUMBOLDT BAY.