

P R O C L A M A T I O N
Celebrating Soroptimist International –
100 Years of Service for Women and Girls

WHEREAS, one hundred and one years ago in 1920, passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution gave women the right to vote, but women could not join fraternal service clubs until 1985; and

WHEREAS, the first Soroptimist club was founded one year later, exactly one hundred years ago on October 3, 1921, in Oakland, CA, originally by eight women who wanted to make a difference by serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist quickly expanded into an international nonprofit organization, now with 72,000 members in 121 countries; and

WHEREAS, the Soroptimist has evolved into “a global volunteer organization with a mission to provide women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment;” and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist clubs have been an integral part of Fort Bragg’s community now for 46 years, with two local Soroptimist clubs: Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg, chartered in 1975, and Soroptimist International of Noyo Sunrise, chartered in 1991 – two of six clubs in the county; and

WHEREAS, local Soroptimist clubs have given tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to help local women and girls get the education and training they need to improve their employment prospects and economic standing; and

WHEREAS, local Soroptimist clubs have promoted and sponsored dozens of programs and awards to help women and girls succeed, from Soroptimist Dream programs, to providing local grants for sports, music education, health and wellness, and college programs; and

WHEREAS, local Soroptimist clubs have sponsored many decades of co-educational school events such as Odyssey of the Mind and Youth Forum, which expand team building and problem solving skills in a gender neutral environment; and

WHEREAS, both local Soroptimist clubs have many times partnered with Project Sanctuary, the hospital, and the schools to educate women and girls about career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Bernie Norvell, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the Fort Bragg City Council and staff, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as the “Soroptimist International Centennial Month,” and we express appreciation to the Fort Bragg and Noyo Sunrise Clubs for their many contributions to our community, and for their positive impact of service to the women and girls in our community.

SIGNED this 25th day of October, 2021

BERNIE NORVELL, Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk

No. 20-2021