

HISTORY OF SOUTHERN REGION

1976 - 1986



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC. SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

1976 – 1978	Governor Betty Jane Williams	West Palm Beach, Florida
1978 – 1980	Governor Mary Jo Horton	Miami, Florida
1980 – 1982	Governor Marion R. Bigger	Fort Pierce, Florida
1982 – 1984	Governor Millie Grammer	Upper Cumberland Valley, Tennessee
1984 – 1986	Governor Joanna B. Crane	Montgomery, Alabama

1976 – 1978

Governor Betty Jane Williams

The 1976-1978 biennium officially began in an unforgettable blaze of glory in July 1976 when the biennial convention of Soroptimist International of the Americas was convened in Boston concurrently with the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States Declaration of Independence. Against that backdrop of fireworks, music, ceremonials, marches, oratory and flying flags, 1976-1978 Regional Governors were installed as members of the Federation Board of Directors. Southern Region's Governor Betty Jane Williams was one of those select groups of governors.

The 51st Conference of Southern Region was held April 22, 23 and 24, 1977 at Ramada Inn Downtown, Tuscaloosa, AL. The pre-conference meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Governor's suite, beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, to 8 a.m. on Friday. That meeting was recessed and subject to call at such other times as were needed during the Conference.

Governor Betty Jane chose as the theme for the biennium "A World of Opportunity," an extension of the Federation theme "Widen Your World."

Ruth Klotz, immediate past President of Soroptimist International of the Americas was the guest of the Conference. She addressed the body at the dinner meeting following opening exercises that began at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 22. She also spoke at the opening workshop session on Friday afternoon on the subject "Y'all Tell Us," a discussion of club problems, concerns and activities. Past President Ruth attended all the sessions of the conference, serving as a resource person, consulting with groups and individuals, and just visiting.

Other workshop subjects included a lecture on "The Volunteer— a Leader," by Dr. Minnie Miles, Professor of Organizational Behavior, University of Alabama. Dr. Miles was the recipient of the first "Women Helping Women Award" given by the Tuscaloosa Club.

The Conference was formally convened at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 22, with invocation by Eunice F. Gay of the Tuscaloosa club. The color guard of the R.O.T.C., University of Alabama, presented the colors, followed by Pledge to the Flag and singing of "God Bless America" by the assembly. A special honor guard of selected Soroptimists from the five states composing Southern Region placed state flags.

Mayor Ernest "Rainey" Collins welcomed the visitors to the city and the Tuscaloosa metropolitan area. Dinner followed the ceremonies with Past President Ruth Klotz's address and a program of music and entertainment.

The Saturday morning breakfast program featured a presentation of the Federation program in the Maldives Islands, a skit entitled "Ships Ahoy to the Maldives Islands," led by Alice Buell of The Palm Beaches Club, chairman of District 3.

The luncheon on Saturday was held at the beautiful North River Yacht Club.

Awards were presented at the luncheon: the McCall-Life Patterns award of \$2500 to Mary R. Vietch, Montgomery, AL; Regional Training Awards of \$1000 each to Janice Bunch, Nashville, TN and Renita Benjamin, Fort Lauderdale, FL; and Youth Citizenship Awards to Randy Dean Blakely, Columbus, GA, first place \$1000, plus \$500 from the club; Jolene Helen Moser, second place, St. Petersburg, FL \$100; and Catherine Marian Hendricks, Macon, GA and Sharon Ann Sikora, Orlando, FL, tied for third place, \$25 each.

At this Conference, the Region issued invitation to Soroptimist International of the Americans to hold its 1984 convention in Nashville, TN with Southern Region as host.

Of the 37 clubs composing Southern Region, 29 were represented at the 51st Conference. Total attendance, including board members, parliamentarian, Federation visitor and visiting members, was 145.

The 52nd Conference, second of the 1976-1978 biennium, was held at Palm Beach, FL, April 21, 22 and 23, 1978 with headquarters at the Holiday Inn. The continuing theme for the biennium was "A World of Opportunity," a variation on the International theme "Search for Quality" and the Federation theme, "Widen Your World."

The Regional Board of Directors held its pre-conference meeting in the Governor's suite, beginning in the evening of April 20 and continuing at such times as were called by the Governor during the Conference.

Janet Simonds, President-elect of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc., attended all the sessions of the Conference. She led a discussion during the Friday

afternoon workshop session of proposed amendments to the bylaws being prepared for submission to the 1978 Federation Convention, and was available at all times for consultation, advice and assistance. And she installed the 1978-1980 regional officers at the banquet on Friday evening. Governor Betty Jane expressed appreciation to President-elect Janet for being there and to her club, The Palm Beaches, for having paid her expenses because of the importance of proposed Laws amendments which will be presented for action at the 1978 Federation Convention.

Other workshop topics and speakers included a seminar on Parliamentary Procedure and Protocol, by Dr. Herberta Ann Leonardy, Regional Parliamentarian; a talk entitled "Action and Reaction," having to do with dealing with employee problems in everyday business life, by Mrs. Bana Ghioto, Instructor of Nursing, Palm Beach Junior College, and a discussion of responsibilities of committee chairmen led by Kathy Haughn, member of Soroptimist International of Boynton Beach-Delray Beach.

The Conference was officially convened at a dinner meeting on Friday evening, beginning at 7 p.m. After presentation of the Colors and of the Flags of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, Mayor William B. Cudahay of Palm Beach welcomed the guests to the community. The Mayor and Mrs. Cudahay remained for dinner, and a musical program followed dinner.

Saturday morning, the breakfast program dealt with extension and growth, under leadership of Extension Chairman Lois Olson and Evelyn Ayers.

The Conference body, in a session considering proposed amendments to Soroptimist Laws which would make substantial changes in the organizational structure, expressed unanimous opposition of Southern Region clubs and members to: (1) an amendment which would divide the Federation into six geographical areas, each headed by a Federation vice president who would serve on the Federation Board of Directors, thus removing the regional governors from Federation Board service; (2) an amendment which would delete the words "she" and "her" throughout, using instead the word "person," which would open membership to males; and (3) an amendment which would place the executive director of the federation on the Board of Directors. Several other proposed law changes were opposed also, including one, which would eliminate from Article IV the words "developing highest concept of patriotism and love of country."

At the banquet Saturday evening, regional awards were given: McCall-Life Pattern Awards of \$2500 each to Mrs. Lucy M. Thomas, Tampa, FL., Mrs. Rose Marie Stephens, Birmingham, AL; and Mrs. Christine Redford, Gainesville, FL;

Soroptimist Training Awards of \$1000 each to Mrs. Patricia A. Burton, Palm Beach, FL and Mrs. Estill E. McMillan, Montgomery, AL; and Youth Citizenship Awards to Pammy Kit Yue, Miami, FL, first place \$1000; Robin Love Collins, Madison, TN and Kimberly Smith Shumate, Columbus, GA, in second and third places, respectively.

Past Governor Doris Thompson reported to the Conference as a matter for information that the Soroptimist Foundation has now realized its original million-dollar goal. She, nevertheless, urged that clubs and individuals continue their contributions to the Foundation as a routine and on special occasions. Past Governor Doris' closing thought on the subject of continuing support to the Foundation was:

"Do your giving while you're living,
So you'll be knowing where it's going".

During this biennium, Governor Betty Jane placed special emphasis on growth: increasing the number of clubs and increasing the number of members. During the biennium, six clubs were chartered: Franklin, TN, Manchester, TN, Tupelo, MS, Columbia, TN, Murfreesboro, TN, and Tullahoma, TN. Several others were at various stages of organization at the end of the biennium, and some of them have been chartered since then.

Three clubs received regional awards for membership growth: 1st place, Macon, Georgia, 66% increase; 2nd place, Boynton-Delray Beach, FL, 50%; 3rd place, Columbus, MS, 32% increase. Close runners up were Leesburg, FL (now Lake County, FL), 26.6% increase, and Montgomery, AL. 25% increases.

Thirty-three of the 40 clubs were represented at the Conference. Total attendance, including board members, parliamentarian, Federation guest, and visiting members, was 216.

Delegates at the 1978 Conference had the unique experience of voting for new regional officers on a voting machine. Jackie Winchester of The Palm Beaches Club, who is Supervisor of Registration, Palm Beach County, demonstrated the use of the machine.

Officers elected for the 1978-1980 biennium were installed at the Friday evening banquet, and will assume office at the close of the 1978 Convention of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. They were:

Governor

Mary-Jo Horton, Miami, FL

Lieutenant Governor	Marion R. Bigger, Fort Pierce, FL
Secretary	Mildred Grammer, Madison, TN (Upper Cumberland Valley Club)
Treasurer	Martha L. MacCullough, St. Petersburg, FL
Member at Large	Katherine Walker, Nashville, TN Helen Berenthien, Macon, GA

1978-1980

Governor Mary Jo Horton

The 53rd Conference of Southern Region was held at the Hilton Inn, Huntsville, Alabama, May 4, 5, 6, 1979. Governor Mary-Jo Horton's regional theme for the

biennium was "Working Together Works" and the conference theme was "Working Together is Success."

The pre-Conference Board meeting was held on Thursday evening May 3, 1979, and continued during Friday morning and evening, May 4, 1979.

Friday, afternoon, a Laws and Resolutions workshop was conducted followed by a program on the five areas of the American Field Services Student Exchange Program. This joint venture between AFS International/Intercultural Programs and Soroptimist International of the Americans is one of the club projects under the Federation President's Program for which the "Golden Gavel" will be awarded. Mrs. Thomas Bray conducted the program and two foreign exchange students, Annemarie Krusman of Germany and Philip Lanz of South Africa, talked about their lives in the United States.

That evening following a tour of the Redstone Arsenal, an Old South Barbecue was enjoyed at the Noojin House by Conference attendees.

Lieutenant Governor Marion Bigger honored past Governors at the Saturday morning breakfast with her program, "Turning Back the Pages."

An impressive opening ceremony was presented at 9:30 a.m. by the U.S. Army Missile Materiel Readiness Command, Redstone Arsenal, followed by an opening address from the Honorable Joe W. Davis, Mayor of Huntsville.

Of the 41 clubs in Southern Region, 32 were represented and total conference attendance was 153. The business session included the election of Mary Lou Frye (Memphis, TN) to the Regional Nominating Committee. Governor Mary Jo announced that Melba Creveling (Columbus, GA) will be chairman and Katherine Walker (Nashville, TN), who was elected by the Board will be the other member of the Nominating Committee. The Conference body also elected Melba Creveling as its representative to the Federation Nominating Committee and Past Governor Georgia Moore (Atlanta, GA) as alternate.

Board recommendations were acted upon and committee reports were accepted. The establishment of a Regional Fund to accept club contributions for the Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home (Southern Region Project) received a favorable vote. Funds received will be placed in an interest-bearing account until used for the project.

The McCall Pattern Company has joined with Soroptimists in a Women Helping Women Program through its McCall Award Luncheon, which featured the presentation of McCall Life-Pattern Fund Awards, TAP and YCA awards as follows:

MCCALL LIFE-PATTERN FUND: Linda M. Padgett, Jacksonville, \$2500, Darlene B. Rylee, Montgomery, AL, \$2500; TAP Awards: Venita A. Blackhurst, Tampa, FL, \$1000; Odessa P. Dowlen, Nashville, TN, \$1000; YOUTH CITIZENSHIP: Catherine Painter, Franklin, TN, First place \$1000; Timothy Edwin McGinty, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 2nd place, \$100; Mary Kathleen Nord, Coral Gables, FL, 3rd place \$25; Susan Rachel Wells, Montgomery AL, Honorable Mention.

Participation by Southern Region Soroptimist Clubs in both the Training Award and Youth Citizenship programs increased over the previous year.

Committee reports were received during the afternoon business session. Of note was the availability of \$6715 unencumbered funds for loan by the Ruby Lee Minar Loan Fellowship Fund. Also, Southern Region has received \$1000 from Federation for extension during the second year of the biennium.

An outstanding presentation by the Columbus, MS club detailing the activities of its members to celebrate "The International Year of the Child" with their "I Care" project concluded the Saturday afternoon business session.

A reception honoring Marilyn K. Hostetter, President-elect of Soroptimist International of the Americas was held prior to the Saturday evening banquet. President-elect Marilyn was keynote speaker for the occasion. She emphasized human rights and advancement of the status of women and complimented Southern Region on its membership growth and the inspiring dedication of the Columbus, MS Soroptimists in developing the "I CARE CENTER" for their community. A delightful program of music, song and dance was presented by the "Rock of Ages," a senior citizens band.

Sunday morning breakfast was a program of special music and a devotional. The Soroptimist Memorial Service followed honoring four Southern Region Soroptimists lost since last Conference.

The Sunday business session reconvened to receive the remaining committee reports. First place awards to clubs were presented as follows: Mileage, Homestead, FL; Attendance, Orlando, FL; Press Book, Franklin, TN; Club Bulletin, Palm Beaches, FL; and New Membership Gain, Jacksonville, FL.

Revised Southern Region Bylaws and Procedures (Articles I through XV) were presented and approved as amended by the Conference.

First birthday greetings were extended to Soroptimist International of Tupelo, MS, which was chartered May 6, 1978.

Soroptimists were reminded that the 1980 Conference would be in April hosted by Soroptimist International of Upper Pinellas County, FL.

Following the courtesy resolutions, the Soroptimist Pledge was repeated and the 53rd Conference was adjourned.

After adjournment, the post-conference Board meeting was held.

The 54th Conference was held at the Caribbean Gulf Hotel, Clearwater Beach, FL, April 25, 26, 27, 1980, with the continued conference theme of "Working Together Works."

The pre-Conference Board meeting convened on Thursday evening April 24 and continued during Friday morning and evening, April 25, 1980.

Friday afternoon, the latest innovation for Federation visits— a video message from SIA President Janet Simonds — was presented. Also presented via this medium was an invitation to the 1980 convention in Denver.

Following the video presentation, Regional Treasurer Dr. Martha McCullough introduced information for clubs on reporting, adding or deleting members; also, she explained the contracts available for donations to the Regional Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home Fund.

Friday evening found everyone enjoying hospitality hour on the beach followed by a luau with entertainment by the Caribbean Steel Drum Band and the Eva McKeon dancers.

The Saturday morning breakfast program, "What Did We Do?" highlighted two special happenings during the second year of the biennium — the chartering of a Venture Club by the Ft. Lauderdale Club on June 21, 1979 and the "Hurricane Frederick" Relief Program for hurricane victims in the Mobile, AL area. Joanna Crane (Montgomery, AL) coordinated the effort to which fourteen Southern Region Clubs donated \$1145 to aid eight families.

Following presentation of the colors at the opening ceremonies, Commissioner Rita Garvey of the City of Clearwater welcomed the Southern Region Soroptimists.

Of the 41 Clubs in Southern Region, 34 were represented and total conference attendance was 189. It was reported, regretfully, that Soroptimist International of Brandon, FL has surrendered its charter. However, the Region had a substantial new member gain with Pinellas Park having the greatest percentage gain in new members. Also, the request to change the name of the Madison, TN Club to Upper Cumberland Valley, TN was approved by the conference.

Saturday morning's business session included the report of the Nominating Committee, nominations from the floor, regional officers' reports (which included, for the first time, the Lieutenant Governor's substantial activities during the biennium), and Board recommendations.

Saturday luncheon, "Where Are We? Who Are We?" featured the chairmen of Areas 3, 5 and 8 with reports of workshop meetings and programs in their respective areas. Workshop areas were expanded from 7 to 9 during the second year of the biennium to allow for closer geographical planning.

The conference body received committee reports and regional officers were elected during the afternoon. Past Governor Doris Thompson, a member of the Federation Foundation Fund Board, reported that there is \$1,250,000 in the Fund, earning \$70,000-\$80,000 interest annually. This fund provides the monies for TAP and YCA awards. The Ruby Lee Minar Loan Fellowship Fund has \$2462 available for loans at this time.

Officers for the 1980-1982 biennium were announced and recognized:

Governor	Marion R. Bigger, Ft. Pierce, FL
Lieutenant Governor	Mildred Grammer, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN
Secretary	Joanna B. Crane, Montgomery, AL
Treasurer	Alicia Zachman, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Member-at-Large	Betty Byars, Columbus, MS Bernadette Storck, Tampa, FL

Evening festivities began with a reception for the 1978-1980 and 1980-82 regional officers followed by the installation banquet featuring a program of classical and semi-classical music presented by vocalists Rose Posno and Roberto Gilvano accompanied by Marvin Telhara. Prior to the installation ceremony, Training Awards and Youth Citizenship Awards were presented as follows

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TRAINING AWARDS: Patricia Willis-Rudman, Miami, FL \$1000; Marie Elena Sandstorm, Melbourne, FL \$1000; and YOUTH CITIZENSHIP: Robin Andrew Godwin, Montgomery, AL \$1000; Elizabeth Ann Johnson, Manchester, TN \$100; and Daniel E. Maley, Macon, GA \$50.

Dr. Herberta Ann Leonardy introduced Buena Vista Meade, charter member, Soroptimist International of Ft. Pierce, FL who installed the 1980-1982 regional officers and board members.

Dr. Tommy Jackman presented a program of inspirational music at the Sunday morning breakfast. A memorial service honored ten Southern Region Soroptimists deceased since last conference.

The business session was reconvened to receive reports and for the announcement of the awards to clubs as follows: Mileage, Nashville, TN; Attendance, Tampa, FL; Press Book, Columbus, MS; and Club Bulletin, Holiday Isles, FL.

The Distinguished Presidents "Golden Gavel" for achieving 100 or more points for participation in SIA President Janet Simond's Program for the 1978-1980 biennium were awarded to the following clubs: 1978-1979. Columbus, GA 100 points; Coral Gables, FL 100 points, Fort Lauderdale, FL 120 points; 1979-1980: Columbus, GA 100 points, Ocala, FL 100 points; Stuart, FL 100 points.

Soroptimists were urged to attend the 1981 Conference to be hosted by Soroptimist International of Orlando. Following the courtesy resolutions and recitation of the Soroptimist Pledge, the 54th Conference was adjourned.

A post-conference meeting of the incoming and outgoing board members was held after adjournment of the conference. New officers were welcomed and it was agreed that Governor-elect Marion Bigger would send a bulletin to Southern Region clubs to inform them of upcoming events and issues to be voted on at the 1980 Federation in Denver, Colorado

1980-1982

Governor Marion Bigger

The 55th Conference of Southern Region was held at the Court of Flags Hotel, Orlando, FL, and May 1 - 3 , 1981. Governor Marion Bigger's theme for the biennium

was "Back to Basics, Then Awareness Leads to Successful Action;" the conference theme was "Review, Refresh and Revitalize."

The pre-conference Board meeting was held Thursday afternoon, April 30 continuing through Friday morning, May 1, 1981. Ilse M. Greer, President-elect, Soroptimist International of the Americas, also attended the Board meeting, representing the Federation.

Friday afternoon the workshop session opened with a presentation by Buens Meade, charter member of Soroptimist International of Fort Pierce, on the history of the Soroptimist emblem and banner, with handmade emblem and banner accompanying the presentation.

The first workshop was for club officers, followed by a delightful skit regarding parliamentary procedures and protocol, after which Dr. Herberta Ann Leonardy, Parliamentarian, gave a clear summary of parliamentary procedures and protocol.

Workshops were held for the following topics: "Classification," "Projects," and "Foundations," led by committee chairmen, board members and past governors. An audio-visual and multi-media presentation, "Orlando in Celebration of a Day," was shown by The Sentinel Star and was enthusiastically received by the group.

The Federation visitor, President-elect Ilse M. Greer, addressed the entire group, after which committee chairmen conducted individual meetings of their committee members.

Friday evening a country and western barbecue was enjoyed. Entertainment was provided by the Bill Ford Square Dancers and by a club singing competition. Winners of the competition were Soroptimist International Clubs of Columbus, MS, Melbourne, FL, Fort Pierce, FL, and Savannah, GA. Everyone present observed or participated in square dancing to conclude the evening.

Lieutenant Governor Mildred Grammer presented the program, "Honoring Past Regional Officers," at the Saturday morning breakfast. Opening ceremonies began at 9:30 Saturday with Presentation of the Colors by the 1812 Ceremonial Fife and Drum Corps, United States Navy Color Guard from the Naval Training Center in Orlando, FL, followed by a welcoming address by Commissioner Mary Johnson, on behalf of the Mayor of Orlando and the other

Commissioners. Of the 40 clubs in Southern Region, 34 were represented, with a total conference attendance of 173.

During the business session, the Chairman of the Growth and Development-Extension Committee reported that two clubs have been reactivated, Leesburg and Daytona Beach, FL, and in spite of all efforts made, Soroptimist International of Tullahoma, TN has been disbanded. The first year of the biennium has been devoted to strengthening and encouraging present clubs and members ("Back to Basics"), and the second year will be dedicated to growth in both new clubs and members ("Then Awareness Leads to Successful Action").

The Saturday luncheon meeting also followed this theme in its program by first presenting representatives of the clubs responsible for the reactivation of the two clubs, followed by a report from Soroptimist International of Ft. Lauderdale relating its effort to establish a new club in Pompano Beach.

Ilse M. Greer, President-elect of Soroptimist International of the Americas, addressed the assembly, emphasizing the importance of each level of the organization, the role of headquarters, status of the computer, insurance coverage, programs of the Federation and a brief history of the Foundations. She expressed pride in Southern Region's contributions. She also expressed concern about financial problems, including a deficit of the past Federation Convention. She reported on the status of the service projects and the structure of dues.

At the business session of the conference, Joy Burnham, Columbus, GA was elected the third member of the Region Nominating Committee. She will serve with Helen Ditzler, Ft. Lauderdale, appointed as Chairman by the Governor, and Virginia LoBello, Orlando area, elected by the Regional Board. Barbara Wilkins, Jacksonville, FL was elected as Southern Region's representative to the Federation Nominating Committee, with Flossie Keaton, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN as alternate.

Reports by the Chairmen of the Regional Committees were given with action taken on the recommendations submitted. The Chairman of the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Fund Committee reported that there are four outstanding loans at present; one loan has been settled for \$500 and the balance written off as per instruction of previous Conference. There is \$5,489.10 available in the loan fund at this time, with no applications pending.

A reception honoring President-elect Ilse Greer was held Saturday evening, followed by the Awards Banquet. The following awards were presented and each winner present expressed thanks and shared plans, which the Soroptimist awards made possible. TRAINING

AWARDS: (Federation, 26 clubs participating): Barbara Gay Simon, Jacksonville, FL \$1000, and Mary Katherine Skinner, Savannah, GA \$1000; YOUTH CITIZENSHIP AWARDS (32 clubs participating): 1st place, Sarah Jane Bone, Huntsville, AL (Federation Award) (\$1000; 2nd place, Carl David Apple, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN (Regional Award) \$100; 3rd place, Lisa Ann Conti, Homestead, FL, Regional Award \$50; and Honorable Mention, Karen Joyce Kravtin, Columbus, GA, certificate.

Sunday morning the devotional was given by the Reverend Richard Heap, Minister of Pine Hills Christian Church, Orlando, FL, followed by a memorial service conducted by Carolyn R. Wilson, SI Coral Gables, FL honoring eleven Southern Region Soroptimists lost since the last conference.

Remaining committee reports were received at the Sunday morning business session. The Chairman of the Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home Committee recommended an addition be made to the Policy Code of Board and Conference Action to include all the pertinent information concerning the Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home previously adopted as a Southern Region project. The recommendation was accepted unanimously.

Presentation of Southern Region First Place Awards were as follows: Attendance, Holiday Isles, FL; Club Bulletin Award, Holiday Isles, FL; Press Book Award, Columbus, MS; Mileage Award, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN; New Membership Gain, Orlando Area, FL - 35.7%; and Service Hours Award (New), St. Petersburg, FL - 6,754 hours of service through multiple projects.

Members of Soroptimist International of Upper Cumberland Valley, TN enthusiastically extended a gracious Southern invitation to the 1982 Southern Region Conference to be held at the Airport Hilton, Nashville, TN, and April 23-25, 1982.

The courtesy resolutions were presented, followed by Retirement of Colors and the Soroptimist Symphony sung by Cile Berger, SI of Boca Raton. After the recitation of the Soroptimist Pledge by the conference, the 55th Conference was adjourned.

The post-Conference Board Meeting was held after adjournment of the conference.

The 56th Conference was held at the Hilton Airport Inn, Nashville, TN, April 23-25, 1982. Continuing the Governor's biennial theme, "Back to Basics, Then Awareness Leads to Successful Action," the Conference theme was "We've Just Begun - More to Come!!"

The pre-Conference Board meeting convened Thursday afternoon, April 22 and continued through Friday morning and evening April 23, and a brief session Saturday morning, April 24.

Friday afternoon was devoted to workshops, directed to the entire assembly. The first workshop, "Laws and Resolutions, Understanding of" was conducted by the Regional Chairman of this committee who explained the status of regional procedures and the reason for the committee's recommendations mailed with the Call to Conference. The recommendation calls for housekeeping duties: A change in form to conform with the ruling of the 1978 Federation Convention in Calgary, Canada, at which time an effort was made to separate the laws from the procedures. There will, however, be no change in content from the regional procedures adopted in 1979 at the conference in Huntsville.

The second workshop, "Budgets, How to Make and Live With" was presented jointly by the Regional Treasurer and Chairman of the Regional Finance Committee. They answered many questions concerning the preparation and use of budgets as well as separate checking accounts and how to make money for the general fund.

The third workshop, "Club Problems, Cause, Effect and Solutions" proved to be the most popular and thought provoking. It was led by past Governors who responded to the many questions on a variety of topics.

Friday evening there was a choice of entertainment — a Grand Ole Opry Tour or a Riverboat Dinner Cruise.

The Governor presented the Saturday morning breakfast program, "Honoring Regional Committee Chairmen," She praised the work of the twenty-eight committee chairmen and introduced them as the hard-working, unsung heroes of the program and technical committees.

Opening ceremonies began at 9:30 a.m. with Presentation of the Colors by a Soroptimist Honor Guard, followed by a welcoming address by Mrs. Helen Allen, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Administration of the State of Tennessee. She welcomed the assembly to Tennessee on behalf of the Governor of Tennessee and indicated his interest in the Regional theme of "Back to Basics." Commissioner Allen spoke upon the importance of the involvement of executive women throughout government and business affairs, and suggested that, in addition to "Best for Women," the word SOROPTIMIST stands for "Best from Women".

Of the 42 clubs in Southern Region, 36 were represented, with a total conference attendance of 158.

Saturday morning's business session included the regional officers' reports, report of the Regional Nominating Committee, nominations from the floor and a Board recommendation. The recommendation, an increase to 20 cents per mile for automobile expenses, to be included in the Policy Code, was adopted unanimously. The report of the Finance Committee was received, and the proposed budget for the next biennium was adopted.

In addition, the Chairman of the Growth and Development-Extension Committee presented her report. At the beginning of this biennium, Southern Region had 40 clubs and during the first year two clubs were reactivated and one was disbanded, leaving a net of 39 clubs, as reported at the 55th Conference. Since last conference, April 1981, three new clubs have been chartered: Pompano Beach, FL on June 17, 1981; Jones County, MS on August 26, 1981; and West Hernando County, FL on October 24, 1981. Additional extension work has been progressing in two other areas and it is hoped that clubs will be chartered in those areas before the end of this biennium. Those prospective clubs will be in the Kendall-Cutler Ridge Area (south Florida), and Lake Placid, FL.

At the Saturday Chapeau Luncheon, "Honoring New Clubs - New Members," as the theme indicated, Board Members, delegates and visitors wore hats designating their classification of Soroptimist membership, and prizes were awarded for various categories of hats. Representatives of the sponsoring clubs gave very interesting updates on the newly chartered clubs and further extension efforts. New members of Soroptimist clubs and those members attending their first regional conference were recognized. It was noted with special interest that one of the newly chartered clubs, Soroptimist International of West Hernando County, was represented by the president and one delegate.

The Conference body received additional committee reports, during the afternoon session. The Venture-Youth Activities Committee reported there were seven "S" Clubs, one Sigma Society and one Venture Club in the Region at the time of this Conference. The Chairman of the Youth Seminars Committee reported on the first Regional Youth Seminar held in the Region. The Chairman of the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Fellowship Fund reported that the four persons holding loans are repaying them on a satisfactory basis, and there is now \$6,962.10 available for loans.

The Chairman of the Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home Committee reported on the various problems encountered during further investigation and submitted the Committee's recommendation that the deadline for making a decision on the project be extended from December 31, 1983 to December 31, 1985. The recommendation was adopted.

The Conference approved an amendment to the Policy Code which provides that the \$500 presently sent to Soroptimist International of the Americas Foundations each biennium from the Regional Project Fund be given as a memorial in honor of those members who have died during the biennium.

Election of regional officers held during the afternoon, and new officers for the 1982-1984 biennium were announced:

Governor	Mildred Grammer, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN
Lieutenant Governor	Joanna B. Crane, Montgomery AL
Secretary	Helen Berenthien, Macon, GA
Treasurer	Vineese Gardner, Ft. Pierce, FL
Member-at-Large	Joy Burnham, Columbus, GA Bessie Stanley, Boynton Beach-Delray Beach, FL

A reception honoring the current Regional Board and the Regional Board-elect for 1982-1984 was held. The awards were presented with each winner present expressing appreciation: TRAINING AWARDS (Federation), (24 clubs): Linda Roulette, Ft. Pierce, FL \$1000; and Linda Ellison, Tampa, FL \$1000; YOUTH CITIZENSHIP AWARDS (30 clubs): 1st place (Federation) Ann Caroline Brown, Homestead, FL \$1000; 2nd place (Regional award) Patricia Elizabeth Podres, Savannah, GA \$100; 3rd place (Regional award) Brently Preston Pope, Coral Gables, FL; and Honorable Mention, Elizabeth Scholes, Orlando, FL, certificate of the Region.

The Governor recognized and congratulated Fannie Mae Leeper, member of Soroptimist International of Miami, FL as a recipient of the Federation "Women Helping Women" Award. Only ten such awards were given in the American Federation.

Flossie Keaton, Past Governor of Southern Region, installed the 1982-1984 Regional officers and board members.

The Reverend Todd Grammer, son of Governor-elect Mildred Grammer, gave the invocation and presented a program of inspirational music at the Sunday morning breakfast. The Soroptimist Memorial Service honored thirteen Southern Region Soroptimists lost since last Conference.

At the Sunday morning business session, the remaining committee reports were received. The Governor's report was also given and it listed among the accomplishments of the Region this biennium the successful extension program: Addition of three new clubs, located in Pompano Beach, FL, Jones County, MS and West Hernando County, FL with a fourth club, Soroptimist International of Kendall-Cutler Ridge to be chartered June 16, 1982, and a fifth scheduled for November, 1982 - Lake Placid, FL.

An increase of 127 dues paying members brought the total number of dues paying member to 1,035, and adding life and honorary members, the grand total is 1,148. In addition, the clubs this biennium reported 28,159 hours of service rendered and \$77,283.10 donated. The money given as individual club awards in the Foundations programs exceeded \$10,000 each year of the biennium, and is not included in the previous listed amount.

Presentation of Southern Region First Place Awards were as follows: Attendance, Nashville, TN; Club Bulletin Award, Holiday Isles, FL; Press Book Award, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN; Mileage Award, Tampa, FL; New Membership Gain, Pompano Beach, FL 52%; and Service Hours Award, St. Petersburg, FL 4,275 hours.

Members of Soroptimist International of Fort Lauderdale, FL extended a rousing invitation, including an original theme song, to the 1983 Southern Region Conference to be held at the Marriott Hotel and Marina, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 29 - May 1, 1983.

Courtesy resolutions were presented, followed by the Retirement of Colors and the Soroptimist Symphony sung by the conference assembly. After the recitation of the Soroptimist Pledge by the Conference, the 56th Conference was adjourned.

A post-Conference meeting of the incoming and outgoing board members was held after adjournment of the conference.

1982 – 1984

Governor Mildred Grammer

The 57th Conference of Southern Region was held at the Fort Lauderdale, FL, Marriott Hotel and Marina, April 29, 30 and May 1, 1983. The biennial theme for Soroptimist international of the Americas was "United in Service - For Action," and Governor Mildred Grammer chose Southern Region Theme "Awareness Sees Wants - Action Fills Needs."

Friday afternoon workshops were held for club officers and delegates. Convention co-Chairmen Flossie Keaton and Polli Yount also held a workshop to explain the responsibilities for Southern Region in hosting the 1984 Federation Convention in Nashville, TN.

The Friday night activity found all the Soroptimists in "Roaring Twenties" dress and competing in a Charleston dance contest.

The Saturday morning breakfast entitled "First Timers," honored new clubs in Lake Placid and Davie, FL, as well as "first time" attendees at the conference. Chairman of Growth and Development, Lois Olsen, of Soroptimist International of St. Petersburg, FL hosted the breakfast.

Forty-two of the 45 clubs were represented and there was a total attendance of 220.

The official visitor from Soroptimist Federation of the Americas was Federation Treasurer Betty Mendelson.

Florence Patterson from S/I of Columbus, GA gave clever spot announcements about the history of Soroptimism.

Christine Motherwell, a Ft. Lauderdale Venture Club member, led a period of rest and relaxation.

Lieutenant Governor Joanna Crane presided over a luncheon honoring Members of Sigma Society Clubs and Venture Clubs in Southern Region.

Alicia Zachman was elected a member of the Federation Nominating Committee and Melba Crevling was elected as alternate.

The Training Award Program winners were Kay Carver from Tuscaloosa, AL and Norris Ann Roland from Columbus, MS.

The Youth Citizenship Award winners were Hazel Marie Hughes from West Hernando County, FL and Angela Mary La Pointe from Miami, FL. This was the first time each region in the Federation could receive money from the Foundation for two each of the T.A.P. and Y.C.A. winners.

Dr. Marie Cooper presented a memorial service from Soroptimist International of Macon, GA.

The Easter Martin Russell Retirement Home Committee recommended that the Retirement Home no longer be considered as a regional project. The recommendation was based on information asked for on survey from all clubs in Southern Region. The recommendation was unanimously adopted.

The 58th Conference of Southern Region was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, GA, April 27, 28, 29, 1984.

The Friday Night meal was held at the historic "Pirates House" in Savannah and afterwards everyone was on their own to enjoy the annual "Night in Old Savannah" celebration held in the streets of downtown Savannah.

Federation President Ilse Greer spoke at the Saturday morning breakfast bringing the Soroptimists up to date on the Federation Convention to be held in July 1984 in Nashville, TN.

Flossie Keaton, Regional Parliamentarian, had suffered a heart attack and was unable to attend the conference. Jackie Sellers from Soroptimist International of Murfreesboro, TN served as parliamentarian in her place.

The Saturday luncheon was an international luncheon, where all attendees dressed in the costume of a country in which there was a Soroptimist club. Containers were put on each table and each time the words "I" and "me" were used money was dropped in for the Federation Water Project. Approximately \$220 was collected.

Forty-one of the 45 clubs were represented with a total of 202 in attendance.

Training Award Program winners were Mrs. Rosa (Rene) Perry, Savannah, GA and Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Hearn, Columbus, GA.

Youth Citizenship Award winners were Cheryl Lynn Courtney, Murfreesboro, TN and Rex Miller, Nashville, TN.

Past Governor Betty Jane Williams installed the Southern Region Board for 1984-1986. Those elected were:

Governor	Joanna B. Crane, Montgomery, AL
Lieutenant Governor	Alicia Zachman, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Secretary	Virginia LoBello, Orlando Area, FL
Treasurer	Vineese Gardner, Ft. Pierce, FL
Member-at-Large	Suzette Pope, Miami, FL
	Jackie Winchester, The Palm Beaches, FL

Major Ruth Hudson of the Salvation Army and a member of the Soroptimist International of Gainesville, FL presented a memorial service for the members deceased since the last conference.

Governor Mildred reported that of the clubs in Southern Region, who filed service reports, the clubs spent 9,399 hours in service and \$125,580 was raised to be spent on service and community projects. Six past governors were in attendance at the 58th conference.

1984 – 1986

Governor Joanna B. Crane

Southern Region experienced several innovations during the 1984-1986 biennium. These included:

1. **Composition of Committees:** Whenever possible, committees were composed of members in the same geographical areas in order for the committees to meet to plan and to implement those plans. In addition, to secure a broad representation from the Region as a whole and to offer the opportunity for expanded leadership throughout the Region, three committees drew their membership from each of the seven areas in Southern Region: Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT), Growth and Development Extension, and the Bulletin Committee. Finally, in order for the Board members to be vitally involved as leaders with the work of the Region, each member of the Board was appointed to serve in an overall committee capacity.
2. **Development of Guidelines for Committee Duties:** These guidelines were made a part of the Policy Code for permanent reference and for maximum use.
3. **Naming Expansion of the Regional Bulletin:** The Regional Board recommended and the conference body approved the name of Southern Accent for the regional bulletin.
4. **Establishment of an Interim Board Meeting:** During the first year of the biennium, an interim board meeting was held, providing an opportunity for the Governor and the entire Board to work with troubled clubs and to plan for the biennium. Later, at the first conference of the biennium, the conference body voted for the Board to hold an interim meeting within ninety days following the beginning of each biennium.
5. **The Holding of a Growth and Development Extension Workshop** involving clubs within two areas of Southern Region with Ilse Greer, Past Federation President, as leader.
6. **Recognition of Local Club Presidents and Past Governors** by their inclusion in the Saturday night banquet processional, along with the regional board members.
7. **The provision of Soroptimist education and singing** through SOS and SIS Spots during the business and program sessions ("Soroptimists on Stage" and "Soroptimists in Song").

Through these activities and many more, the three goals for this biennium were indeed furthered. The goals were (1) to fulfill the objects of Soroptimism through awareness, advocacy, and action of all Soroptimist programs at all levels; (2) to

develop strong lines of communication on all levels through committee work and the regional bulletin; and (3) to continue to develop leadership in Southern Region.

The 1984-1986 biennial theme for Southern Region was "Soroptimists Choose — and Are Chosen — to Make a Difference." President Joyce Blake of "Together We Make a Difference...through Awareness, Advocacy, and Action" based it on the Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. theme. The 1985 Conference theme for Southern Region was "Choose to Care, to Commit, and to Complete." This theme was carried out on April 26, 27 and 28, 1985 at the 59th Conference hosted by Soroptimist International of Jacksonville, FL, held at the Sheraton at St. John's Place in Jacksonville with Governor Joanna B. Crane presiding.

The 1985 Annual Spring Conference provided the impetus to continue the activities and to evaluate the work through the Friday afternoon concurrent workshops, the videotape presentation on Soroptimism, a slide presentation on the Soroptimist water project, a panel composed of Federation appointees, songs, workshop summaries, and the regional committees' planning session.

Friday night, the conference body enjoyed a fun night at a T-Party dinner, where T-shirts were worn and many gifts, all beginning with a "T", were given to members of the audience.

Saturday's events began with "The Past Is Prologue," a breakfast honoring past governors through the Venture and Youth Activities accomplished during their biennium's. Lieutenant Governor Alicia Zachman presided.

The opening ceremonies Saturday morning were marked by beautiful new state flags of Southern Region, purchased by Soroptimist International of Savannah, GA as a result of its hosting the 1984 Annual Conference and presented to Southern Region. Business of the morning included reports of regional officers and committee chairmen and actions concerning the Policy Code.

"Where Are We Growing?" was the theme for the luncheon on Saturday, focused on the development of new clubs and on the maintenance of membership in the present clubs.

During the afternoon business session, the conference body approved the proposed name of the Southern Region bulletin, Southern Accent. The conference body also approved a loan from the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Fund to Peggy Elam. Outstanding loans included those to Suzanne Cassidy, Lynda Flynt, Lauren Jorgenson, Megan Gideon, and Jill Sanford.

Reports of outstanding achievements were given in the areas of Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT), Laws and Resolutions, and Service. The Service Committee reported that the amount of \$170,798.54 was donated through Soroptimist club service projects, made possible by numerous ways and means projects.

The conference body elected Carol Harrison as the third member of the Regional Nominating Committee. Governor Joanna had selected the chairman, Maxine Walker, and the Regional Board had selected the second member, Jackie Sellers. Barbara Thrall Wilkins was elected as representative from Southern Region to the Federation Nominating Committee.

The Foundation Awards Banquet spotlighted the Youth Citizenship Award (YCA) Program, the Training Awards Program (TAP) and the Youth Seminars Program. YCA winners were Margaret Ann Killian, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Montgomery, AL, and William Otis Lacefield, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Macon, GA and TAP winners were Mary Stansfield, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Fort Pierce, FL, and Francina Alexander, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Lake County, FL.

Attendees at the Sunday morning breakfast were privileged to hear the Reverend Marjorie Howell's devotional and Federation Past President Pluma Batten's exceptional memorial service.

The business meeting reconvened with reports and the presentation of awards to winning clubs in the Region. Among the awards won were the Membership Gain Award by Soroptimist International of Memphis, TN, Service Award of Excellence by Columbus, MS and the Ways and Means Award by Columbus, MS.

The 59th Conference concluded with the retirement of colors, the "Soroptimist Symphony," led by the past Governors; and the Soroptimist pledge, led by Governor Joanna and the past Governors.

The Post Conference Board Meeting was held immediately after adjournment.

The second year of the 1984-1986 biennium was highlighted by (1) the chartering of two new Soroptimist clubs: Soroptimist International of Citrus County, FL, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Ocala, FL, and Soroptimist International of

Jackson, MS, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Columbus, MS; and (2) Chartering of a Venture Club, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Pompano Beach, FL and coordinated by the Regional Venture Committee and its capable chairman, Helen Ditzler; and (3) the involvement of Southern Region in its and the Federation's project to assist Mexico in the wake of the earthquake in Mexico City (\$2,040 from Southern Region, the project coordinated by Vineese Gardner, Southern Region Treasurer), and (4) the celebration of Southern Region's forty years of Soroptimist service.

The sixtieth Conference theme, "From Cradle to Crown," heralded the Conference by revealing the humility of the babe in the cradle (1946) to the crown of accomplishments by the time Southern Region reached its fortieth birthday (1986).

Montgomery, AL, the Cradle of the Confederacy, was the site of the Conference, held April 25, 26, 27, 1986, and sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Montgomery, AL at the Madison Hotel. The official Federation visitor was Lois Creelman Cyr, Vice President of Soroptimist International of the Americas.

The Friday afternoon Pre-conference Session enjoyed a panel, "Looking Ahead," composed of Lois C. Cyr; Marion R. Bigger, Secretary of Soroptimist International of the Americas; Mildred Grammer, Federation Advisor of the Health Program Area; Alicia Zachman, Chairman of the Federation Laws and Resolutions Committee; and Pauline Davis, member of the Federation Finance Committee. Learning centers regarding various areas of Soroptimist work ran concurrently with committee chairmen and members giving brief verbal and visual presentations. Participants moved from one learning center to another during the assigned time.

Saturday's breakfast, "United We Stand," emphasized the Soroptimist work with the nonpolitical components of United Nations.

Following the opening ceremonies, business included reports and ensuing action of the Region's officers, board members and committee chairmen. Changes in the Policy Code required Conference action. The Conference voted the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Fund loan to Sharon A. Swain to complete her education in the field of veterinary medicine and continued the loans of the recipients from 1985.

The theme of the luncheon at the Capital City Club was "We've Come A Long Way, Baby." The emphasis was on the program area of Human Rights/Advancement of the Status of Women. Club members wore attire appropriate for the year in which each member's particular club was chartered.

The afternoon business session included an outstanding presentation by Federation visitor Lois Cyr and the election of the 1986-1988 Southern Region officers and board members:

Governor	Alicia Zachman, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Lieutenant Governor	Vineese H. Gardner, Fort Pierce, FL
Secretary	Virginia LoBello, Orlando Area, FL
Treasurer	Suzette S. Pope, Miami, FL
Member-at-Large	Polli Yount, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN Shirley Ray, Tupelo, MS

The Foundations Awards Banquet on Saturday evening honored the TAP winners (Jessie Mae Williamson of Jones County, MS, and Dona Schroeder of Memphis, TN) and the YCA winners (Jacqueline Bain, by Soroptimist International of The Palm Beaches, FL and Ronna Mutzman, of Coral Gables, FL).

Past Southern Region Governor and Federation Secretary Marion R. Bigger, installed the 1986-1988 Regional Officers and Members-at-Large.

Sunday morning breakfast was the occasion for the devotional, led by Dr. J. Carlisle Miller, Associate Minister of the First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, AL. Soroptimist memorial service prepared by Virginia Farnell of Soroptimist International of Montgomery was presented by Madrid Williams, Past Governor of Southern Region.

During the business session, additional committee reports were given, including a special report by Betty Byars of Soroptimist International of Columbus, MS in regard to the club's House of Hope, a community involvement spearhead by Soroptimist International of Columbus to provide (1) a shelter for abused women and their children and (2) a transition home for alcoholic women (\$100,000 effort to date). The clubs of Southern Region donated more than \$199,166.37 through the Soroptimist Program Areas and spent at least 20,972 hours. Alicia Zachman, incoming Governor, was elected the Region's delegate to the Soroptimist International Convention in Melbourne, Australia in 1987. The upcoming 1986 Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention in Seattle, Washington, was noted.

Among the Awards won and presented were Membership Gain by Soroptimist International of Boynton Beach/Delray Beach, FL; Service by Soroptimist International of Columbus, MS. Governor Joanna presented the Federation President's Awards to a number of clubs in Southern Region. The 60th Conference concluded with the "Soroptimist Symphony" and Pledge.

Governor Joanna represented Southern Region at the SI/A Convention in Seattle, Washington, and was named SI/A Advisor for the International Goodwill and Understanding Program Area for 1986-1988.

The 1984-1986 Biennium ended with "Soroptimists Choosing—and Being Chosen—to Make a Difference."