

# HISTORY OF SOUTHERN REGION

1966 - 1976



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.**

## **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

|                    |                                   |                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1966 – 1968</b> | <b>Governor Ethel Peterson</b>    | <b>Jacksonville, Florida</b>  |
| <b>1968 – 1970</b> | <b>Governor Georgia Moore</b>     | <b>Atlanta, Georgia</b>       |
| <b>1970 – 1972</b> | <b>Governor Barbara Thrall</b>    | <b>Jacksonville, Florida</b>  |
| <b>1972 – 1974</b> | <b>Governor Evelyn Watkins</b>    | <b>Montgomery, Alabama</b>    |
| <b>1974 – 1976</b> | <b>Governor Doris W. Thompson</b> | <b>Holiday Isles, Florida</b> |

**1966 – 1968**

## **Governor Ethel Peterson**

Southern Region had reached the third decade during this biennium.

October 1966 went by without the usual Southern Region Fall Conference in accordance with a vote at the 38th Conference in St. Petersburg, May 1965 that only one Regional meeting per year be held. Therefore, the 41st Conference of Southern Region was held May 19, 20 and 21, 1967 at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama, with Governor Ethel Peterson presiding. 27 of 33 clubs were represented, with attendance of 126. Federation President Ethel Lord's Biennial Theme was "Initiate - Motivate - Culminate" and the Conference theme was "Let Us Rededicate Ourselves".

The Southern Region Venture Conference was held at the same time. The President of the Venture Club Council of the Americas, Bonnie Hadwin of Shreveport, Louisiana, was special honor guest. Venture Governor Marjorie Marvin and members participated in the opening ceremonies and also hosted the Sunday morning breakfast.

All members agreed no time should be wasted since a year's work had to be covered in the short Conference time and therefore, workshops on vital subjects were conducted Friday afternoon. Valuable information on Education for new clubs and new members, on Classification and Membership, Extension, International Goodwill and Understanding and Public Relations was given by the Chairmen of the Committees involved.

A relaxing Friday evening was planned by the Birmingham Club members and all enjoyed a superb buffet dinner served at the historic Arlington Shrine. The hostess club members wore antebellum dresses and they, together with Sylvia Sanders, Harpist, added much to the atmosphere of the stately mansion.

The report of the Regional Service Objectives Committee held the attention of the members at the Saturday breakfast. The goals of the Soroptimist Foundation were discussed and each Club was urged to participate more fully in this outstanding program.

The opening ceremonies Saturday morning were followed by the business session, which included the report of the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Committee. A new loan has been made to Shere D. Hite, wishing to pursue her education in history with the goal of teaching history at university level and writing history books. Loans with balances still outstanding were reported: June Hadley Goldfarb, Nancy Sitz Schweikert and Sylvia Seamands in the field of medicine and Carol Hyde, continuing her operatic studies.

Saturday luncheon was made interesting by the Regional Public Affairs Committee stressing the advancement of women and emphasizing how woman's role *is* changing. The announcement was made of the Citizenship Award, won by Suzanne Morin of Miami, an outstanding young woman whose entry later also won the Federation Award. This was a "first" for Southern Region and one of which we could be very proud.

Barbara Thrall of Jacksonville was elected the regional member of the Federation Nominating Committee. Nellie Campbell of Miami was chosen to serve on the Regional Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Helen Durkee, Palm Beaches Club, appointed previously by the Governor.

Mrs. George Bridges entertained at the Saturday night banquet using as her interesting subject "The Eternal Feminine". In recognition of Birmingham's primary industry the banquet tables were decorated with miniature iron Vulcan's and iron pipes.

Sunday breakfast was hosted by the Venture club members with a stimulating talk by Council President Bonnie Hadwin and included the memorial service for deceased Soroptimists.

The business of the Conference was concluded in the Sunday morning session and all awards presented. Stuart, Florida, won the Press Book award with honorable mention going to Tampa and Holiday Isles. Tampa won both attendance awards, for percentage of attendance and for mileage.

During this year of the biennium only one Club was chartered, Columbus, Georgia on January 6, 1967, sponsored by Montgomery, Alabama. The Pompano Beach Club was disbanded. Territorial limits of the Boca Raton Club were extended to include part of the Pompano Beach area so it was felt that work would continue there.

Members left the Conference filled with enthusiasm for the future and determined to rededicate themselves and work diligently for all Soroptimist "projects.

The Soroptimist Club of Lake Worth - Lantana was hostess to the 42nd Conference held at the Holiday Inn, Palm Beach, April 19, 20, 21 1968. Remembering President Ethel Lord's biennial theme of "Initiate – Motivate - Culminate", "Culmination Through Dedication" was chosen as the Conference theme. The Conference was honored by the presence of Ethel Lord, President of the Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc. and members from Germantown-Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, Alban, N. Y. and Aylesburg, England Clubs.

Friday afternoon workshops dealt with problems in several areas, for example, club bulletins, parliamentary procedure, membership and classification and extension through chartering of new clubs and increasing membership in present clubs. President Ethel proved to be of invaluable help in the discussions.

Enjoying a lovely clear spring evening on Friday night the delegate's boarded boats for a cruise of Lake Worth. Box suppers were provided by the hostess club and all agreed it was a perfect beginning to a weekend of fellowship and education.

Saturday morning breakfast honored new clubs and new members. Past Governor Evelyn Ayers, Regional Extension chairman, introduced the President of the newest Club in Southern Region, Frances Williamson of Columbus, Georgia, who spoke on "What Soroptimism means to the Club's members and me".

At the opening ceremonies Saturday morning welcomes were given by a State Representative, the mayor of Lake Worth and President Mabel Johansson of the hostess Club. It was noted that seven past Southern Region Governors were present and with President Ethel Lord also in attendance, it was felt that the Conference would gain greatly in knowledge because of the wealth of "talent" present. The usual business matters included reports of the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee and the Treasurer. The highlight of the Saturday morning session was the inspirational address by President Ethel Lord.

The Boynton Beach Club was hostess at the Saturday luncheon, which featured the report of the Service Objectives Youth Citizenship Award Committee. The entire delegation felt a great pride in this award won by Deborah Martha Simmons, sponsored by the newest club in the Region, Columbus, Georgia. This was truly an achievement for both the young contestant and the enthusiastic membership of the Columbus Club.

Committee reports, detailing the progress made in the biennium were given during the afternoon session. Aid to five graduate students from the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Fund continued but there had been no new applicants. Area meetings had been held in all areas and although attendance was disappointingly low, it was felt they were helpful to those in attendance. The International Goodwill and Understanding Committee reported a good relationship with Sister Clubs, with two new assignments and five new assignments of Friendship Links. Nine clubs had also responded to a suggestion by the IGU Federation Chairman that Unesco coupons be purchased and \$210 had been forwarded.

Thorough study was given by the delegates to the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By- Laws to be voted on at the Federation Convention in Atlantic City, July 1968.

Club Presidents were honor guests at the Sunday breakfast at which the Soroptimist Club of Stuart was hostess. Following the devotional and necrology, the final business of the biennium continued. Awards were presented, Nashville, Tennessee for mileage, Boynton Beach for percentage of membership in attendance and Stuart for press book.

Governor Ethel Peterson presented her report for the biennium stating she had visited all but one club in the Region during her term of office. She expressed pride in the chartering of three new Clubs, Columbus, Georgia, Upper Pinellas County and Delray Beach and of three new Signs Societies in Ocala, Orlando and Leesburg, but disappointment in the loss of the Pompano Beach Club. She thanked the members for their friendship and cooperation, stating "her life had been enriched by the ideals of Soroptimism and the friendship of women in many walks of life, who have but one purpose in life, a desire to serve, knowing that only in service to others would their own lives have deeper meaning and purpose".

The new Board, installed by Past Governor Evelyn Ayers at the Saturday night Installation banquet was:

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Governor            | Georgia Moore, Atlanta, GA        |
| Lieutenant Governor | Barbara Thrall, Jacksonville, FL  |
| Secretary           | Eunice Sisson, Montgomery, AL     |
| Treasurer           | Doris Thompson, Holiday Isles, FL |
| Member at large     | Evelyn Watkins, Montgomery, AL    |
|                     | Florence Trost, Boca Raton, FL    |

## 1968 – 1970

## Governor Georgia Moore

The time had come for Southern Region to progress. Governor Georgia Moore realized this and used "Channels For Progress" as her biennial theme and "Progress for Your Club" as the 43rd Conference theme. The Conference was held at the Voyager, Daytona Beach, Florida, May 16-17-18, 1969. 33 of 34 clubs were represented with attendance of 168.

On Friday afternoon reports were made by the Public Affairs, Advancement for Women, Youth Achievements and Service Objectives Committees. A seminar for presidents, secretaries and treasurers was led by Lieutenant Governor Barbara Thrall, Secretary Eunice Sisson and Treasurer Doris Thompson.

A luau was held Friday night in the banquet room due to the turbulent weather outside. Everyone attending came in Hawaiian costumes.

Saturday breakfast was under the direction of Gladys Givens, Chairman Education Committee. A program patterned after the Dr. IQ program was presented.

The opening ceremonies began in the Convention Hall at 9:15 A.M. Saturday with the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Katherine Stinson, President-elect, Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc., was the keynote speaker. Her address centered on the 50th anniversary of Soroptimism and she urged Soroptimists to assume their share of responsibility in leadership in community and world affairs. She asked all present to adopt an old Chinese proverb, "Lord, the World Is So Bad - Make it Better – Beginning with me." She said if we adopted this philosophy we would have no problem in meeting the challenge of the future.

The Soroptimist Club of Orlando, Florida acted as hostess for the Saturday luncheon and presented a program on S Clubs and Sigma Societies.

Saturday evening a reception was held honoring Katherine Stinson prior to the Banquet. Henry C. Coleman, Daytona Beach, was guest speaker. His subject was "Who's on First?"

The Regional winner of the Youth Citizenship Award was announced: Nicholas A. Manzini, Miami, Florida.

Dr. Enid Brady led the devotional and conducted the necrology service at Sunday breakfast.

Reports of various committees were given. An S club was chartered by the Soroptimist Club of Fort Lauderdale, Florida in April 1969.

The Governor gave her report and asked that Soroptimists of Southern Region be tolerant, sincere, imaginative, humorous and tactful.

Awards were presented for press book, attendance and mileage. Courtesy resolutions were read by Roma Reyner.

At this time there were 34 clubs in the Southern Region. The only club not represented was Homestead, Florida.

The Board met throughout the Conference including a post conference meeting.

The meeting adjourned after which the members sang Auld Lang Syne.

The 44th Conference was held at the International Inn in Tampa, Florida, April 17-18-19, 1970. Governor Georgia continued her theme for the biennium using "Progress For Soroptimism" for this Conference.

Friday afternoon workshops were held:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Protocol   | Madrid Williams           |
| Parliamentary Law  | Dr. Herberta Ann Leonardy |
| SIA Structure  | Barbara Thrall            |
| Seminar for Presidents, Secretaries,<br>Treasurer and Committee Chairmen | Board Members             |

A shipwreck party was held Friday night. A contest for the best costume was held.

Virginia Harris, Chairman, Extension Committee, introduced new members and members attending their first Conference at the Saturday breakfast.

Opening ceremonies began at 9:15 A. M. Saturday morning. During this time Governor Moore appointed special committees for the Conference. The Nominating Committee gave its report together with recommendations of the Board read by the Secretary.

The Saturday luncheon was hosted by International Goodwill and Understanding Committee, with Jackie Dick, Chairman. Two foreign students of the University of Florida, Miss Nadia Pastine of Genoa, Italy and Mr. Sankwan Panomkowa, Bangkok, Thailand, told of their impressions of the United States and what it means to them to attend school in the United States.

Saturday afternoon various reports were given by committee chairmen.

As usual, the installation banquet was held on Saturday night. Music was provided by the Business Women's Choir at the banquet. Mollie Ferrara, Mayor of your City, entertained the audience with some timely remarks, in her traditional Spanish style and custom.

The Youth Citizenship Award winner, Steven Callahan, Columbus, Georgia, spoke briefly to the guests. Florence Weiser, past Governor of Southern Region, introduced all Soroptimists.

Mildred Brown, Chairman, Public Relations Committee was mistress of ceremonies for the Sunday breakfast. Norma Reyner conducted the Necrology.

The Extension Committee announced that the Soroptimist Club of Huntsville, Alabama, was chartered on November 8, 1969 and the Soroptimist Club of South Montgomery on March 28, 1970, bringing the total number of clubs in Southern Region to 36.

Governor Georgia was very proud of the two new clubs but as equally proud of a Sigma Society chartered by the Soroptimist Club of Stuart in December 1969 and two S Clubs. One S Club was chartered by the Soroptimist Club of Boca Raton in January 1970 and the other by the Soroptimist Club of Fort Lauderdale in April 1970. At this conference there are four Sigma Societies and thirteen S Clubs.

The Governor announced that Southern Region has contributed to the Soroptimist Float in the 1971 Rose Parade, the theme of which will be "Through the Eyes of a Child."

The Governor discussed the theme of the 50th Anniversary and asked each Soroptimist to resolve to be grateful, to be knowledgeable, to be adaptable, to be imaginative and to initiate long range and permanent programs.

These were things in the challenge she gave to the new board:

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Governor            | Barbara Thrall, Jacksonville, FL |
| Lieutenant Governor | Evelyn Watkins, Montgomery, AL   |
| Secretary           | Eva Burkard, Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| Treasurer           | Jennie P. Jackson, Leesburg, FL  |
| Member-at-Large     | Jackie Dick, Fort Pierce, FL     |
|                     | Mela Crevling, Columbus, GA      |

**1970 – 1972**

## **Governor Barbara Thrall**

Governor Barbara Thrall's theme for the biennium was "Action Through Reaction". The Conference theme for April 23, 24, 25, 1971 was "The Golden Challenge".

There was a pall over this Conference because Governor Barbara's husband, Al Thrall, had passed away with a heart attack just before leaving for Conference. The remains were sent to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and interred there. As the Conference was meeting at the Holiday Inn Oceanside in Fort Lauderdale, it gave all Soroptimist an opportunity to honor the Governor's husband.

The pre-conference board meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, April 23rd, and the regional board breakfast Friday morning the 24th were cancelled. On Friday morning the regional board went to the home of Juanita Clay, a member of the Fort Lauderdale Club, where Governor Barbara was staying and had a short board meeting. The luncheon on Friday was cancelled so those who desired to do so could attend Al Thrall's funeral.

The workshops scheduled Friday afternoon were held. Dr. Herberta Ann Leonardy, Parliamentarian gave a presentation on etiquette and protocol. Dr. Marie Cooper Hall spoke on "How to Use Soroptimist Classification Guide". There was a seminar for club presidents, secretaries, and treasurers.

A buffet dinner was held on Friday night with the Fort Lauderdale Mini Singers providing entertainment. Other functions planned for the buffet dinner were cancelled.

On Saturday morning, April 24, Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Watkins presided over the breakfast. The theme was "Extending our Soroptimism" and all new Soroptimist members and "first timers" for a Conference were introduced.

There were 36 clubs in Southern Region with 33 represented at the Conference and a total attendance of 207.

The Southern Region voted to contribute \$1,000 to the Ruby Lee Minar Fellowship Fund and \$1,000 to the Soroptimist Foundation as its 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee project.

Gladys Neale, Vice President Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc., delivered the keynote address entitled "All Past is Prologue". She reviewed the history of Soroptimist from the beginning.

Governor Barbara congratulated the Montgomery Club, which has achieved Jubilee status.



The theme for the luncheon was "Soroptimists Lead the Service Action". The General Service Objectives Committee had charge of the program.

Reports from various committees were given in the afternoon.

A reception was held for Vice President Gladys Neale followed by the Golden Jubilee Banquet.

Leona Brenner, Miami, first place and John Cooper, Homestead, second place winners of the Youth Citizenship Award were introduced and presented their awards.

A certificate from Southern Region was presented to the Ocala Club by Vice President Gladys Neale for having attained Jubilee Club Status.

On Sunday morning, April 25, History Committee Chairman Helen Durkee gave a brief review of Southern Region history at the breakfast. Each past director or governor who was present gave a short resume of her tenure in office.

After the memorial services, a sympathy resolution was adopted with regard to the passing of Al Thrall.

Eunice Sisson Montgomery had been appointed by the Governor as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Melba Creveling of the Columbus, Georgia Club, was elected by the Board; Lois Olsen of St. Petersburg was elected by the Conference.

Flossie Keaton of Nashville was elected to serve on the Federation Nominating Committee.

Governor Barbara gave her report entitled "State of the Region". In this she stated "as we move into the decade of the seventies, we have the greatest opportunity for progress at home of any people in the world". This is the message President Richard M. Nixon gave Congress in his 1970 State of the Union address. How true this is for the Soroptimist organization. She closed stating that we now say to that first Soroptimist Club in Alameda, California, "thank you for starting the Soroptimist organization" and let us act now so that fifty years hence, Soroptimists may say of us "thank you for continuing".

The post Conference board meeting was held following the adjournment of the Conference.

The 46th Conference was held at the Ralston Motor Hotel in Columbus, Georgia, April 27, 28, 29, 30, 1972 with the pre-conference board meeting held the night of April 27.

Breakfast for the regional board and then the meeting of the board was held on Friday morning April 28. There was a dutch treat luncheon for regional chairmen, area workshop chairmen and regional board members.

The afternoon session started with a film "Fifty Years of Service".

There were seminars for club presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. Pluma Batten, past president of the Soroptimist Federation of the Americas presented a slide entitled "Travels and Friends".

The theme for Friday night was "Evening in the Old South". Southern Sassafras tea was served before the dinner and after dinner prizes were awarded for most beautiful, most original, and most pathetic "Old South" costume.

After the dinner Soroptimists were taken to the recently restored historic Springer Opera House for the balled "The Graduation Ball."

Governor Barbara following her theme for the biennium "Action Through Reaction" used the Conference theme "Silver and Gold".

Saturday, April 29, 1972, the Conference was called to order at 9:15 a.m. We now had 37 clubs in Southern Region as Tuscaloosa. Alabama had been chartered on February 26. Thirty-two Clubs were represented with a total attendance of 171. Pluma Batten, past president of Soroptimist Federation the Americas, Inc., delivered the keynote address. She reviewed quite a bit of the history of our country and Soroptimism. She closed with these words, "We dedicate a pledge allegiance to the integrity of our profession and the love for this country. It worked 50 years ago – it can work now – and it is good enough for 50 years from now".

After much work in digging through past minutes, the history of Southern Region from the beginning in 1946 through the 1966 Biennium was ready for distribution. This was compiled and authored by Pluma Batten, past president of the Federation and a member of South Atlantic Region. She has since moved to Jacksonville, Florida and is a member of that club.

At the luncheon, members of the newest club of Tuscaloosa gave their "Impressions" as new Soroptimists. It made an inspiring program and gave all of us something to think about. Following the luncheon there was a fashion show.

The afternoon committee reports were given. One of these was the Youth Citizenship Award. The First place winner was Thomas Paul Thigpen of Savannah, Georgia and second place Benjamin Max Modschein of Miami, Florida.

New officers elected for the 1972 – 1974 biennium were:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Governor            | Evelyn Watkins, Montgomery, AL  |
| Lieutenant Governor | Doris Thompson, Holiday Isle, FL  |
| Secretary           | Mellba Creveling, Columbus, GA  |
| Treasurer           | Rose T. Miller, Tampa, FL   |
| Members at large    | Betty Jane Williams, The Palm Beaches, FL<br>Ruth H. Bethea, Birmingham, AL |

Before the installation banquet, the region honored Past President of the Federation, Pluma Batten, with a reception. At the installation banquet the first place winner of the Youth Citizenship Award was introduced and presented his check. Past Governor of Southern Region Madrid Williams installed the newly elected officer.

The International Goodwill and Understanding Committee was in charge of the Sunday morning breakfast followed by the memorial service. A past governor, Easter Martin Russell Silvers of Coral Gable, Florida, who served from 1954 - 1956, had died before the conference. We had lost one of our most dedicated and active Soroptimists.

Due to the expanding fellowship program of the foundation, each region was asked to select a category in which it would like to participate. The delegates voted Southern Region would participate in "Retraining".

Governor Barbara gave her report entitled "The Next Fifty". She gave the delegates some things to think about in reviewing what was happening to women 50 years ago and what we as Soroptimists could do for others and realize "the joy of achievement". She closed by saying "Be a lead the action club this year and then continue to lead the action in your community during the next fifty".

Awards for attendance and Press Book were made and the Soroptimist Symphony was beautifully sung by conference chairman, Frances Williamson.

A post Conference board meeting of the incoming and outgoing board was held following adjournment. Before adjournment, Governor Barbara handed the new gavel to Governor-elect Evelyn Watkins, Montgomery, Al.

**1972 – 1974**

## **Governor Evelyn Watkins**

The 47th Conference was held at the Downtown Motor Inn in Montgomery, Alabama, April 26, 27, 28, 1973. Governor Evelyn Watkins' regional theme for the biennium was "It's me and Now" and the conference theme was "This is My Country". The usual board meeting was held on Thursday night and Friday morning. There were seminars on Friday afternoon.

After a buffet dinner on Friday night, the group made a visit to the W.A. Gayle Planetarium.

On Saturday morning special recognition was paid to members from new clubs at the breakfast. The new clubs were Brandon, Florida, Shades Valley, Alabama, and Madison, Tennessee. Now there were 39 clubs in the Southern Region with 32 represented at the Conference and attendance of 166.

The usual opening ceremonies were started at 9:15 A.M. Governor Evelyn gave her report showing a grant from the Federation of \$1,132.71 to be used for extension. She also discussed the new Federation award program the training and re-training award. She closed with this thought for all Soroptimists, "Soroptimists you have vision, you have a task, and you can be the hope of the world".

The keynote address was given by Federation Vice President Dottie Kissinger, Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc. Vice President Dottie's speech was entitled "Who Are You". At the conclusion she presented printed invitations to Soroptimist International Friendship Days to be held August 21-26, 1973 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

The speaker for the luncheon was Nancy Williams, who is a recipient of the Ruby Lee Minar Fellowship award and her topic was "What the Ruby Lee Minar Fellowship Meant to Me".

The election of members to the Regional Nominating Committee was held. Governor Evelyn had appointed Emma Lee Donaldson as chairman, Roma Reymer was elected by the Board, and Arabelle Longfellow was elected by the Conference.

Flossie Keaton of the Madison Club was elected to serve on the Federation Nominating Committee.

Virginia Harris, Chairman of the Extension Committee, announced new clubs since July 1, 1972: Brandon, Florida, Shades Valley, Alabama, and Madison, Tennessee.

Other committees gave reports of their work for the year.

The usual Saturday night banquet was held with Conference Chairman Dessie M. Romeo presiding.

Lois Olson, Chairman of Youth Citizenship Awards, announced the winners, who were Curtis Allen Holt of Daytona Beach, Florida, second place; Jack Bernard Strauss, Jr., Columbus, Georgia, first place. Jack was presented with a \$100.00 series "E" savings bond.

Isabel Hunt, Chairman of Training and Re-training, presented a \$1,000 check to Paula Nancy Rubin.

Sunday morning breakfast was as usual inspirational. Memorial services were also conducted for the Soroptimists who had died during the year.

The attendance award for mileage was won by Homestead, Florida and for attendance by Tampa, Florida. Montgomery, Alabama won the Press book Award.

The Courtesy Resolutions were read, the assembly sang the Soroptimist Symphony and the Governor declared adjournment for a most enlightening and enjoyable conference.

The 48th Conference held April 25 to 28, 1974 in Orlando, Florida, Governor Evelyn continued her biennium theme with a conference theme being "Wonderful World of Soroptimism." The usual board meeting was held on Thursday night and Friday morning with workshops held Friday afternoon.

A seafood buffet dinner was served at the hotel on Friday night with everyone enjoying bingo after dinner.

Saturday morning's breakfast honored members attending the conference for the first time as well as new clubs represented. We had lost 2 clubs, Key West and South Montgomery, but gained a new club, which was chartered July 28, 1973 at Columbus, Mississippi. There were 179 members attending this conference.

The usual ceremonies were held on Saturday morning and the Governor appointed necessary conference committees. The officers' reports were interesting and show how much work had been done during the previous year.

A surprise luncheon was held with immediate past Governor Barbara C. Thrall acting as mistress of ceremonies. The surprise was the presentation of "This is Your Life Dr. Herberta Ann Hathcock Leonardy." Each of the past governors presented Dr. Herberta a special charm for a bracelet and told of some of the past experiences they had shared. There was also a tape cassette from Dr. Herberta's son, her daughter-in-law and 2

grandchildren. Past Governor Barbara then presented a bracelet from the Region to hold the charms and commended her for her loyalty and faithful work as parliamentarian for Southern Region for which she had received no monetary compensation. Dr. Herberta was given a standing ovation.

Officers for 1974 - 1976:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Governor               | Doris W, Thompson, Holiday Isles, FL.                       |
| Lieutenant Governor    | Melba Creveling, Columbus, GA                               |
| Secretary              | Betty Jane Williams, West Palm Beach, FL.                   |
| Treasurer              | Rose T. Miller, Tampa, FL                                   |
| Board Members at Large | Mary Jo Horton, Miami, FL<br>Marion Bigger, Fort Pierce, FL |

Betty Jane Williams, Chairman of Directory Committee, made a report on the directories and the following motion was passed:

That each club be responsible for the printing of its own club roster and title page, and that this printing be done during the months of July and August, and mailed to the committee chairman by August 15 for assembly and mailing by September 1 each year. That the present format be used so the directory will be uniform and as attractive as possible. The amount of this printing would be 1,000.

Isabel Hunt, Chairman of TAP Committee announced the awards for the region. Winners were Doretha Brooks, Homestead, Florida and Carolyn Teel, the Palm Beaches, Florida. Each won \$1,000.

Lois Olson, chairman of the Youth Citizenship Awards, announced the winners, who were:

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fifth Place  | Rebecca Collins, Madison, TN      |
| Fourth Place | Leslie Killie, St. Petersburg, FL |
| Third Place  | Rudolf Hehn, Fort Pierce, FL      |
| Second Place | Jennifer Corrie, Coral Gables, FL |
| First Place  | J. Craig Crawford, Orlando, FL    |

On Recommendation of Chairman Doris W. Thompson of the Ruby Lee Minar Fellowship Committee, the code was amended to provide that "Applications from high school graduates may also be considered if perusing careers in practical and graduate nursing, secretarial and vocational training". Applicants shall claim their legal residence to be within the territorial limits of Southern Region, but may attend schools elsewhere.

The Chairman also moved and the Conference voted loans to Jill Linderman Sanford in the amount of \$2,880 and Sandra Lynn Hammar in the amount of \$1,000.

A reception was held at 7:00 P.M. honoring the new regional officers for the 1974-76 biennium. After the reception the installation banquet was held with Eva Suggs, president of the Orlando club presiding.

J. Craig Crawford winner of the first place award for Youth Citizenship was presented \$1,000 from Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc., after which Ethel Peterson Lewis, past governor of Southern Region installed the newly elected officers and members at large.

Sunday morning buffet breakfast was very impressive and inspirational, Memorial services were held for nine Southern Region Soroptimists and Gertrude G. Huett, E. St. Louis, Illinois, who was the first SIA President and President of SFA from 1948-50.

Awards were given as follows: Attendance - Mileage, Northwest Miami, Attendance - Percentage - Northwest Miami, Press Book - Stuart, Florida, Bulletin - Holiday Isles.

Courtesy resolutions were read, the Governor thanked all those who helped her during the biennium and asked everyone to register early for the conference to be held in Macon in April 1975. She also thanked the hostess club for a job well done.

The conference adjourned with the Soroptimist Symphony.

**1974 – 1976**

## **Governor Doris W. Thompson**

As we begin a new biennium, with theme "Crossroads for Change" for Soroptimist International of the Americas Inc., our governor chose the theme for Southern Region "If It Is To Be - It Is Up To Me", as we were celebrating the 49th Anniversary Conference. Governor Doris's theme for the 49th Conference held April 24-26, 1975, was "Golden Days with the 49'ers".

The Conference opened at the Macon Hilton Hotel in Macon, Georgia on April 24, 1975 with the board meeting.

The afternoon there was a get-acquainted and welcoming "So Nice To See You" meeting. Dr. Herberta Leonardy held a short workshop on Parliamentary Law and a Cybernetics Workshop were conducted by Anita P. Loeber of the Pacific Region, which was very stimulating.

Staying with the theme "Golden Days with the 49'ers", Friday night's party was a "Honky Tonk" fun evening.

A Gold rush breakfast was held Saturday morning with Lois Olson, Chairman of the Development Committee, acting as mistress of ceremony. At each place there was a small mining pan with six gold nuggets in the pan. "Six in Seventy Six" is the theme for the year as we seek to charter six new clubs during 1976.

As of this date there are 37 clubs in Southern Region. A new club was chartered November 2, 1974 at Pinellas Park and there were 165 attending this Conference.

There were several housecleaning recommendations from the Board and one recommended the approval of the bicentennial proposed plans of the Federation for a Commemorative plate and an art recycling ecological contest.

The keynote address was given by Eileen M. Bidwell, immediate past president Soroptimist International of the Americas Inc. She spoke on "Crossroads For Change, You Choose I".

Carrying out the Forty-Niner theme, Barbara C. Thrall, Foundation Chairman, presided at Saturday's luncheon. Guests for this luncheon were Susanne Morin, Youth Citizenship Award winner 1968 (characterized by Mary Jo Horton), and Carolyn Teel, TAP award winner in 1974 (characterized by Betty Jane Williams).

Announcement was made that Southern Region had contributed \$17,216.33 to the Foundation. The Holiday Isle's club, which contributed the largest sum, was awarded an engraved tray.



Marion Bigger was elected as the Region's member of the Federation's nominating Committee.

The members of the nominating committee for Southern Region were Anna Valentine, Barbara Thrall, and Alicia Zachman.

Julie Robinson, Chairman of the Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Loan Fellowship Committee, reported an application for a loan from Elizabeth M. Moyers sponsored by Soroptimist International of Madison, Tennessee in the amount of \$3,400.00. As there was not enough money in the fund to grant the entire loan, the Conference voted to lend the applicant \$500.00 and suggest she apply again when more funds are available.

Youth Citizenship Awards Committee announced the winners:

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| First Place  | John Ott, Jr., St. Petersburg, FL |
| Second Place | Wayne W. Word, Jacksonville, FL   |
| Third Place  | Dee Wilson, Huntsville, AL        |
| Fourth Place | Sanjay Yada, Savannah, GA         |
| Fifth Place  | Julia Goodall, Tuscaloosa, AL     |

TAP Award Winners who received \$1,000 each from the Soroptimist Foundation, were Mrs. Sally S. Royal, Montgomery, AL and Mrs. Alice V. Boyette of Gainesville, FL.

All gathered at 7:00 P.M. for a reception honoring Eileen M. Bidwell and Anita P. Loeber together with the officers of the region. The Gold and Silver Banquet was presided over by Helen Berenthien, President of the hostess club. TAP and YCA awards were presented. The winners of the TAP awards were Mrs. Sally S. Royal, Montgomery, Alabama, and Mrs. Alice V. Boyette, Gainesville, Florida. The winner of the YCA award was John Ott, Jr., St. Petersburg, FL.

On Sunday morning the customary inspiration breakfast was held together with the memorial service.

The business session reconvened with awards being presented and various committee reports.

The 49th Conference was over at 10:30 A.M. and the post conference board meeting was held following the adjournment.

The 50th Conference "A Past to Remember -- A future to Mold" was held at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach April 23 - 25, 1976.

On Friday afternoon various workshops were held. At 6:30 P.M. all boarded the "Biscayne Belle" for an evening of dinner, cruising and dancing.

Opening ceremonies were held on Saturday morning. The credentials report showed 37 clubs in Southern Region with an attendance at the Conference of 194. Saturday afternoon was taken up by committee reports and the election of officers for the next biennium. The following officers were elected:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Governor            | Betty Jane Williams, West Palm Beach, FL                                    |
| Lieutenant Governor | Mary Jo Horton, Miami, FL   |
| Secretary           | Marian R. Bigger, Ft. Pierce, FL  |
| Treasurer           | Margaret Champney, St. Petersburg, FL                                       |
| Member at Large     | Alicia Zachman, Fort Lauderdale, FL.<br>Miriam Hendrickson, Northwest Miami |

The Installation Banquet was held Saturday night. Verna Stewart, President of Soroptimist International of Miami presided. Helen Durkee, Past Governor of Southern Region, installed the 1976-78 Regional Officers and Members-at-Large.

The winners of the TAP awards were:

Mrs. Ann M. DeRose, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Mrs. Ruth Ann Huff, Montgomery, AL

The winner of the YCA award was Debra Arnowitz, Miami, FL.

Sunday morning the breakfast was inspirational both in words and music. Awards were presented by the Committee Chairmen and the Conference closed with the singing "I'd Rather Be a Soroptimist".

This ended another decade in Southern Region with a challenge to the new officers to do more and spread Soroptimism in Southern Region than has been done in the past 30 years.