

HISTORY OF SOUTHERN REGION

1986 - 1996



SROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC. SROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

1986 – 1988 Governor Alicia Zachman	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
1988 – 1990 Governor Vineese Gardner	Fort Pierce, Florida
1990 – 1992 Governor Virginia LoBello	Greater Orlando Area, Florida
1992 – 1994 Governor Pauline Davis	Atlanta, Georgia
1994 – 1996 Governor Sue Lynn	Tuscaloosa, Alabama

1986 –1988

Governor Alicia Zachman

At the beginning of her biennium, Governor Alicia Zachman set her goals, which were disseminated to clubs through mailings and workshops.

1. Improve communication throughout the region.
2. Promote better understanding of Soroptimism, its objects, aims, and ideals.
3. Increase membership and develop leadership.
4. Heighten awareness of our international diversity while united by a common purpose.
5. Leave footprints, not butt prints.

She chose for her regional theme "*Commit to Excellence* " and her first conference bore the theme "*Be All You Can Be.*"

At the pre-Conference Board meeting (Jones County, MS, April 29, 1988), the Board approved the recommendation of the Policy Code Committee to include as a part of the Regional History, the territorial limits to the 45 clubs existing at the time the open territory for clubs in Southern Region was declared. (Committee notation, Territorial limits of clubs in Southern Region is attached and made a part of this history).

There was a continuation of Policy Code revisions to include committee guidelines and member guidelines and other explanatory material. Separation of strictly policy matters from guidelines was also made and a more comprehensive index was developed to make the document a more useful tool.

Southern Accent Sheets (S.A.S.) was developed and Southern Region VISTAS (Very Important Soroptimist Training Assistants) was inaugurated. This astute group was to include only Past Governors who were presented permanent designation ribbons to wear at Conferences so they may be readily recognizable and available as resource persons.

Recognizing the decline in membership throughout the Region, consideration of the concept of districting was discussed. Following in depth studies throughout the Region by club meetings, workshops, etc., the voting body, at the second Conference, accepted districting in the best interests of the Soroptimist organization, effective May 1, 1988.

Governor Alicia was Southern Region's representative to the Federation Board meeting in Melbourne, Australia in July of 1987.

Two new Venture clubs were organized, one in Davie, FL and the other in Columbus, GA.

The theme of the Second Conference (Columbus, GA) was "CARE—SHARE—SERVE" with the further expansion of that "CARE (for others) -- SHARE (Soroptimism -- SERVE (people)."

Soroptimist International of San Juan, Puerto Rico, requested that it be re-assigned from the Caribbean Region to Southern Region. This request was accepted contingent upon approval of the release from the Caribbean Region.

Southern Region officers and Board members for the biennium 1988 -1990 were elected as follows:

Governor	Vineese Gardner, Fort Pierce, FL
Lieutenant Governor	Virginia LoBello, Greater Orlando Area, FL
Secretary	Jane Araguel, Columbus, GA
Treasurer	Pauline Davis, Atlanta, GA
Member -at-Large	Phyllis Goodwin, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN
	Sue Lynn, Tuscaloosa, AL

1988 –1990

Governor Vineese Gardner

Governor Vineese Gardner chose as her theme for the first Conference "*Communicate to Educate.*" It was in this biennium that the designated areas of Southern Region were reduced from seven to four.

The subject of districting having been discussed and studied during the previous biennium, Past Governor Barbara Wilkins, serving as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Districting, spoke further on this subject in that the Region be districted with four districts, commencing with the 1990 -1992 biennium. The present structure with two Members-at-Large being replaced with four District Directors.

The sixty-third Conference was held in Tuscaloosa, AL on April 28, 29 and 30, 1989 and the sixty-fourth Conference was held in Melbourne, FL on April 27, 28 and 29, 1990, the latter having the theme "Strive to Excel." Official visitor to this Conference was Patricia Daniels of Santa Rosa, CA, President of the Federation. Her official speech to those attending included issues and needs in Guatemala and Peru, the gender issue, Youth Forum, disasters in the United States and the governments of the Philippines and Panama.

During this Conference, annual members' dues to Southern Region were raised from \$5.20 to \$10.00.

Raffle fund monies received were contributed to the "Women's Development Project in Peru," and "Decade of the Environment" and the "International Book Project."

Due to decrease in member numbers by loss of clubs, Jo Campbell of Grand Prairie, TX, serving as a member of Federation's Growth and Development Committee, visited at each Conference to assist in this work within the Region.

A new Venture Club was chartered in April 1990 in Homestead, FL.

Southern Region officers and Board members for the biennium 1990-1992 were elected as follows:

Governor	Virginia LoBello, Greater Orlando Area, FL
Lieutenant Governor	Jane Araguel, Columbus, GA
Secretary	Paula Harvey, Upper Pinellas County, FL
Treasurer	Sue Lynn, Tuscaloosa, AL
District I Director	Helen Ditzler, Fort Lauderdale, FL
District II Director	Catherine Strawser, Tampa, FL
District III Director	Shirley Ray, Tupelo, MS
District IV Director	Phyllis Goodwin, Upper Cumberland Valley, TN

1990 –1992

Governor Virginia LoBello

Due to Federation laws changes, this biennium had the distinction of numbering twenty-six months in length, rather than the usual twenty-four. It began July 1,1990 and terminated on September 1,1992 and actually only affected the Governor's term of office.

The customary District meetings were held in the fall of 1990 and, to assist the Region in growth, Del Nickerson, Federation advisor on Growth and Development, attended and spoke at the District IV meeting.

The sixty-fifth conference was held in Jacksonville, FL on May 3,4 and 5, 1991 with the theme "*Crossroads to Success.*" Federation visitors were Sandra Dannefeldt, Secretary of the Federation, and Del Nickerson.

During the workshops, much discussion on the Laubach Literacy Program took place, led by the District Chairman of the Districts serving on that committee.

The Venture Club of Columbus, GA presented a program on Venture. Also, during the sessions, Secretary Sandra Dannefeldt and Advisor Del Nickerson both spoke on growth planning.

Recommendation was presented by the District Committee, with the Board concurring, that the format of the Directory be shortened to exclude individual names so that it could be published in a timelier and less costly manner.

Announcements of Awards by Foundation Chairman, Doris Thompson, indicated that the Youth Citizenship Award first place winner would receive \$1,250.00 and the Training Award winners (2) would each receive \$3,000.00. These are the largest sums yet to be awarded.

Following a custom from previous Conferences, led by the Past Governors, all sang the Soroptimist Symphony at the close of the business session.

The usual District meetings were held in the fall of 1991 and the sixty-sixth Conference was held in Fort Lauderdale FL May 1, 2 and 3, 1992, with Dr. Joyce Byrne, President of the Federation, as official visitor. In her keynote address, she covered the chartering of clubs in Taiwan, the Laubach Literacy Fund, the Foundations, personnel changes at Headquarters, Youth Forums, and extending membership to men in the United States.

Youth Citizenship winners were submitted by the Coral Gables, FL and Orlando FL clubs;
Training Award winners were submitted by the Melbourne, FL and Savannah, GA clubs.

Southern Region officers and Board members for the biennium 1992 -1994 were elected as follows:

Governor	Pauline Davis, Atlanta, GA
Lieutenant Governor	Sue Lynn, Tuscaloosa, AL
Secretary	Catherine Strawser, Tampa, FL
Treasurer	Ann Decatrel, Fort Lauderdale, FL
District I Director	Liz Helleskov, Boynton Beach/Delray Beach, FL
District II Director	Cheryl Lee, Orlando, FL
District III Director	Jane Arague, Columbus, GA
District IV Director	Shirley McCormick, Huntsville, AL

1992 –1994

Governor Pauline Davis

Many achievements were accomplished in this biennium through active participation by many, not only the Board and Committee Chairmen, but also by dedicated members.

The first Conference was held in Orlando, FL with the theme "*Share the Magic* " and our second in Atlanta, GA with the theme "*Spirit of the South,*" sharing with guests Leigh Wintz, Executive Director of the Soroptimist International of the Americas; Del Nickerson, Foundation President; and Joan Cromer, Federation Board member.

Regional procedures were revised and distributed. The original Policy Code has been organized into a Regional Guide, an updated tool for ready reference by all clubs.

To make it possible for clubs of any size to host a Conference, the club Conference fee was raised to \$100.00. In addition, a Conference planning guide, with an outline for every step to achieve a successful Conference, is now a part of the regional records.

During this biennium, Hurricane Andrew caused great destruction to the Homestead, Miami and Coral Gables, FL areas. The Homestead club members suffered the most losses and Bay Oaks Retirement Home, the long time project of the Miami club, suffered considerable damage. Funds from the Federation Disaster Relief Fund and assistance from clubs and members totaled \$18,000.00, which was distributed to the Homestead members and Bay Oaks. Funds and necessary items, such as food, clothing etc. were collected and distributed by a committee chaired by District I Director Helen Ditzler and Regional Treasurer Ann Decatrel, both members of the Fort Lauderdale Club. The three affected clubs, Homestead, Miami and Coral Gables, all maintained as active a schedule as possible throughout the recovery period.

Southern Region finally was successful in coordinating the change from an "at Large" status to an "at Large and then rotation" basis in Area 11 which is shared with three other Regions to elect a member to the Federation Board. Southern Region will now have a member on the Federation Board every eighth biennium, and members can run every other biennium with the "at Large" status. We are so much smaller in size it will be impossible to win the at Large.

The region was especially proud of Soroptimist International of The Palm Beaches, FL in receiving the Federation award "Soroptimist Celebrating Success" for the environmental program of "Recycling Cans for the Handicapped" and its semi-finalist award in Health with their Soroptimist Cancer Fund entry.

Southern Region officers and Board members for the biennium 1994 -1996 were elected as follows:

Governor	Sue Lynn, Tuscaloosa, AL
Lieutenant Governor	Ann Decatrel, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Secretary	Shirley McCormick, Huntsville, AL
Treasurer	June Wallace, Orlando Area, FL
District I Director	Callie Stewart, Fort Lauderdale, FL
District n Director	Cheryl Lee, Orlando Area, FL
District in Director	Vonceil Strong, Columbus, MS
District IV Director	Martha Lannom, Murfreesboro, TN

1994 –1996

Governor Sue Lynn

The usual four District meetings were held at the beginning of the biennium with the Governor using as her theme "*Keys to Becoming a Part of the Whole* " and urging all members to set goals of a 25% increase in members and the chartering of two or more clubs.

The sixty-ninth Conference was held May 5,6 and & 7, 1995 in Clearwater, FL with hostess clubs being Soroptimist International of Tampa and Soroptimist International of Upper Pinellas County, FL.

At this Conference, delegates voted to change the office of Lieutenant Governor to that of Governor Elect.

A proposal was offered to increase dues from \$10.00 to \$20.00 met with adverse discussions, and was followed by a vote that delegates would take the information to their respective clubs for vote by mail ballot. Result was the increase.

Soroptimist International of The Palm Beaches observed its 50th anniversary and Region was successful in chartering a new club in St. Lucie, FL, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Stuart, FL.

The second Conference of the biennium was held in Nashville, TN April 26, 27 and 28, 1996 with Soroptimist International of Music City, TN serving as hostess club.

At this Conference much attention was focused on observation of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of Southern Region, October 20,1946.

It was noted that the awards this year would be the largest ever to have been given to the Foundation.

Southern Region officers and Board members for the biennium 1996 -1998 were elected as follows:

Governor	Ann Decatrel, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Governor Elect	June Wallace, Orlando Area, FL
Secretary	Callie Stewart, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Treasurer	Ramona Blakenship, Montgomery, AL
District I Director	Josephine Geiser, Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, FL
District II Director	Helen Robinson, Jacksonville, FL
District III Director	Judy Calland, Gwinnett County, GA
District IV Director	Martha Lannom, Murfreesboro, TN