



## Southern Region GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

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### *From Pat's Pen*

Fall is in the air and I just returned from my second road trip to the District meetings. What great meetings they were! And what a fun time I had visiting several Florida clubs!

**District III & IV meeting**, hosted by **SI Montgomery**, was a big success, October 11 and 12. From the **Leadership Training** and fast-paced Bunko games on Friday evening to the informative Saturday meeting, everyone had a great time and took away new ideas and memories to share with their clubs.

**District I & II meeting**, hosted by **SI Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach**, was well-attended and quite successful, October 18 and 19. From Leadership Training and the "Ghouls

**Night Out"** Halloween Party (held at **District I Director Kim Champion's** lovely home) to the business meeting on Saturday, many new project ideas and information was gathered to take back to our clubs.

**Thank you, District Directors Kim, Betsi, Margaret and Rebecca** for a wonderful job creating a fun and worthwhile agenda for the District meetings.

I want to thank **Past Governor and Leadership Development Chair Priscilla Tatarsky** for preparing and conducting the **Leadership Training workshops** at the District meetings. We had great attendance at both meetings with great reviews and excited attendees. Great job!

Can you believe it is now time to get down to business planning the **2014 Southern Region**

**Conference?** Please mark your calendar for **May 1-4, 2014**, to join us in **Nashville, TN** at the **Embassy Suites Airport Hotel** to celebrate a successful biennium and install officers for the 2014-2016 biennium.

We plan to offer fun excursions before and after the Conference again this year. So be watching for information about these fun activities. Plan to come early and stay late in **Nashville, TN**. **See you there!**

*Governor Pat*



### **Southern Region Conference, May 1-4, 2014, in Nashville, TN!**



We are looking for volunteers to participate on the **Region Conference Committee**. If you would like to help make the 2014 Southern Region Conference a big success, please contact Yvette Doherty at [bydoherty@aol.com](mailto:bydoherty@aol.com) or **786-236-8158**. This is a fun way to get involved and share ideas for a great Region Conference!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

## Why are you a Soroptimist?

An editorial by Governor Pat

What does Soroptimist mean to you? To me, Soroptimist has given me a means to give back to my community and serve through many club projects. It has offered me the opportunity to participate in leadership training; personal development; and the privilege and honor to serve in several leadership roles.

It became clear at our recent District meetings that many of our clubs are not doing service projects in their communities. It may be optimistic but certainly possible that we should have a Governor's Service Award entry from **every club in every District**. However, this is far from reality. Service projects are what Soroptimist is all about: service to our communities and the women and girls who need our help in so many ways. Yet many of our clubs are getting farther and farther away from service projects each year.

We continue to stress getting new members and retaining the members we currently have as the goals of our organization. Perhaps the following statement from Michelle Strawser, SI Tampa, a young 4th generation Soroptimist -- the targeted generation for recruiting new members -- will help clarify these concerns. She stated, "Belonging (to an organization) where you are (just) writing a check" versus "belonging (to an organization) by being a member of something where you are physically involved to make a difference is a noticeable difference, more importantly a noticeable feeling." She continued by saying, "How can we call ourselves a service organization and have so few people proud of what they are doing in their communities? Service is the backbone of the organization. If we aren't doing (service projects), then why would new members want to join?" I would further add the question: How do we keep our current members engaged and energized without service projects?

The new generation as well as our current membership want to be and should be connected to their communities; and service projects are the means for doing just that. Do you remember why you joined Soroptimist? I am sure if you think back to that period in your life you will realize that service to the community was at the top of your list of reasons. Soroptimist was organized on the premise of service and making a difference in the lives of women and girls. Then why have we migrated so far from that concept?

Making the Governor's Service Award mandatory for all clubs is not the answer. The answer is for each club member to remember why we joined Soroptimist; and for each club to re-prioritize its efforts and re-emphasize the importance of service and improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

Michelle's message is one that should ring loud and clear with all of us. She represents the future of this organization. And I thank her for reminding us what Soroptimist is all about!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**Southern Region Conference**  
**May 1-4, 2014**  
**Nashville, TN**

**SIA Convention 2014**  
**July 23-26, 2014**  
**Vancouver, B.C., Canada**

**SI Convention**  
**July 9-12, 2015**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**

**SIA Convention 2016**  
**Orlando, FL**