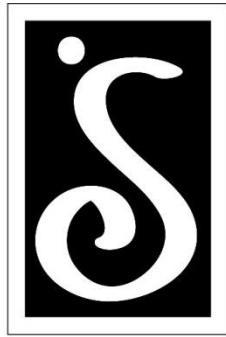


# HISTORY OF SOUTHERN REGION

2006-2018



S O R O P T I M I S T

**Best for Women**

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

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

<b>2006-2008</b>	<b>Governor Connie Desko</b>	<b>Greater Fort Lauderdale, FL</b>
<b>2008-2010</b>	<b>Governor Nidia Bernstiel</b>	<b>Stuart, FL</b>
<b>2010-2012</b>	<b>Governor Priscilla Tatarsky</b>	<b>Music City-Nashville, TN</b>
<b>2012-2014</b>	<b>Governor Patricia McCay</b>	<b>Huntsville, AL</b>
<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>Governor Terri Pettingill</b>	<b>Stuart, FL</b>

Southern Region Territorial Limits: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico and Tennessee

The Region began the biennium, July 1, 2006, with 26 clubs and maintained all 26 clubs for the two year term.

Membership July 1, 2006: Regular 578, Life 50, Retired 11, and Associate 2. Total: 641.

May Membership 2008: Regular 587, Life 42, Retired 11, Embarking 1, Associate 1.

(71 new members) Total Membership: 642 (86% retention rate).

Twenty Six Southern Region Clubs:

SI of - Atlanta, GA, Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, FL, Columbus, GA, Columbus, MS, Coral Gables, FL, Davie, FL, Franklin, TN, Greater Fort Lauderdale, FL, Holiday Isles, FL, Homestead, FL, Huntsville, AL, Lake County, FL, Largo Mid-Pinellas County, FL, Montgomery, AL, Music City, TN, Naples, FL, Nashville, TN, Orlando Area, FL, The Palm Beaches, FL, Pompano Beach, FL, San Juan, PR, St. Lucie, FL, Stuart, FL, Tampa, FL, Tuscaloosa, AL, Upper Pinellas, FL.

**39<sup>th</sup> Biennial SIA Convention** – Philadelphia, PA, July 19-23, 2006

Focus on the Renaissance Campaign, Leadership Training and By-Law changes.

Installed Tes Choa as SIA President and Machiko Yamada as President Elect.

Membership in SIA March 31, 2007:19 Countries, 1,429 Clubs, 40,592 Members.

SIA Program: “Sorooptimists Stop Trafficking” – ending the Sexual slavery of women and girls.

Workshop: Created a New Southern Region Strategic Plan.

Governor Connie loved sharing her hometown of Philadelphia, the Duck Tour, Philly Steaks and twenty four members gathered at “Bookbinders” the oldest city restaurant for dinner.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sorooptimist International Convention** - Glasgow, Scotland – July 29/August 2, 2007.

Convention Theme: Unity of Purpose; Diversity in Action, “A Lasting Legacy.”

136 International Flags were presented and Governor Connie was honored to escort the flag of Puerto Rico dress in a country costume.

As a Program Voting Delegate for SIA, Governor Connie attended all SI Board meetings for five days. The 2007-2011 Program Focus and development of a strategic plan were our focus.

In attendance: International President Lynn Dunning 2005-2007, SIGBI, President –Elect Margaret Lobe 2007-2009 SWP, and Immediate Past President Joan Cromer 2003-2005

International Quadrennial Project 2003-2007: Project Independence: Women Survivors of War in Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan. A study Tour was led in February Cost \$1,700.

Women for Women International of Washington, DC provided the name of women for participating Sorooptimist to give emotional and financial support.

Governor Connie’s lady was Speciose Mukarukaka of Rwanda, Women’s Group: Ganza.

Letters about family and daily activities, goal setting were exchanged and each participant was able to attend education classes in areas such as Domestic Violence, women’s legal rights, disease prevention, family health and voting. Market based job skills will give her the opportunity to start her own business. This was an extremely popular and successful project that connected the SIA member to a community of women around the world.

**International Quadrennial Project** - Project Sierra Leone: A Family and a Future 2007-2011.

Partner: “Hope and Homes for Children,” Supporting orphans and abandoned children.

December 10<sup>th</sup> Appeal; (UN Human Rights Day) Created in 1981 to make a personal sacrifice.

2007- Restoring dignity: Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

SI executive Offices are in Cambridge, England UK – Executive officer: Rosie Coutts.

Sorooptimist Residence House - B & B at 63 Bayswater Rd London England UK.



**Installation** - Governor Connie Desko and her Board of Directors were installed at a Candle Light Ceremony at the 80<sup>th</sup> SR Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Saturday evening, May 6, 2006.

Representing International: Helene VanThemsche, Federation: Alicia Zachman, Southern Region: Sandra Baumann. Theme for the biennium: "We Can Do It" and Butterfly's.

**Interim Board Meeting** – August 18, 19, 20, 2006 in Plantation, Florida

Officers for the two year term: Governor: Connie Desko SI Greater Ft. Lauderdale, Governor-Elect: Nidia Bernstiel SI Stuart, Secretary: Deborah Hultquist SI Atlanta, Theresia Carrington SI Atlanta, Priscilla Tatarsky SI Music City, Treasurer: Sonja Davis SI St. Lewis, District One Director: Elaine Hollander SI Pompano Beach, Cathy Iho SI The Palm Beaches, District Two Director: Betsi Lewis SI Upper Pinellas, District Three/Four Caroline Feagley SI Huntsville. Parliamentarian: Sandra Baumann SI Greater Ft. Lauderdale.

Governor Connie presented a full agenda and reference book composed of all information and forms to be covered. The main focus was: COMMUNICATION. The Board decision to unite District III and District IV under one Director and special attention was on each officer's duties, District Meetings and District Directors Handbook. By-laws and Procedures reviewed with recommendations. Saturday night the SI Davie Club hosted the board of directors for dinner.

**81<sup>st</sup> Southern Region Conference** – Key Largo, Florida

Holiday Inn Key Largo Hotel, Host Club: SI Homestead, Florida

May 4 – 6, 2007 Theme: "Keys to Success"

Credentials Report: Total Voting: 73, Non-Voting/Guests: 75 Total: 148

Official Visitor: Susan Miller - SI Quincy, CA – Sierra Nevada Region,

Fund Development Council: Beverly Carr – SI Doylestown, PA – "Where is the Money."

SIA United Nations Representative & Quadrennial Project Liaison: Dawn Marie Lemonds, presented a workshop on Leadership and UN update.

Special Visitors: Dr. Wendy Place brought greetings from SIGBI , Governor Beverly Bucur, Midwestern Region and Barbara Patchell SI Indian Rock, Bucks County, PA.

Treasurer Sonja Davis distributed the Compilation report for 2004-2006.

100% Participation in Women's Opportunity Award & Founder Pennies.

Governor Service Awards: District I – "Butterfly Project" SI Naples, District II "Center for Girls"

SI Tampa, District III "Trash to Treasurers" SI Tuscaloosa,

District IV "Pastor Mom", SI Nashville. Winner: "Trash to Treasurers SI Tuscaloosa.

Awards: Making a Difference for Women Award – Executive Director of the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, Marsha Currant, SI Greater Ft. Lauderdale.

Violet Richardson Award, Yasmin Assar, SI Atlanta.

Women's Opportunity Award: 3rd Place - Santreia Tanksley \$3,000. SI Pompano Beach,

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Sze H. Lee \$3,000 SI Coral Gables, 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Audrey Lopez \$5,000. SI Largo/Mid Pinellas.

Emerging Leader 2007 Paula Moore, Vice President SI Greater Ft. Lauderdale

Laurel Society Memberships: Marion Spyke SI Davie, Lois Robertson SI Huntsville.

Attendance: SI Coral Gables, Mileage: SI Tuscaloosa, Club Newsletter: SI Stuart, Press Book: SI St. Lucie,

Membership Gain: SI St. Lucie.

We had a special celebration for the 60<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of the Southern Region with a cake, champagne and members competed dressed in 1946 outfits. The winner from SI Homestead dressed in her mother's wedding, going away outfit.

Bob Doherty, husband of SI Homestead President Yvette, refurbished the state flags, purchased new poles and travel bag as a donation to the Southern Region.

Presentation of the "Ten Year History Books" by Past Governor Doris Thompson.

**82<sup>nd</sup> Southern Region Conference** - Clearwater Beach, Florida, Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort

Host Club: SI Upper Pinellas, Florida

April 17 – 20, 2008 Theme: "Plunder the Possibilities"

Credentials Report: Total Voting: 72, Non-voting/Guests: 92, Total: 164 / 23 Clubs represented

Official Visitor: Catherine Standiford, SI Garden Grove, CA – Desert Coast Region

100% Participation in Women's Opportunity Award & Founder Pennies.

First Governors Champagne Lite Luncheon in her suite after Conference.

First time doing room reservations and saved over \$4,000. in taxes for members.

Friday Night Cruise on the "Star-Lite Majesty." Fascinating Pirates captured us all.

Governor Service Awards: District I - Shared Hope International Project SI Stuart, District II Pinellas Village SI

Largo/Mid Pinellas, District III The Recovery House SI Columbus, MS,

District IV Night Against Domestic Violence SI Music City.

GSA Winner: Pinellas Village, SI Largo/Mid Pinellas

Awards: Making a Difference for Women Award: Tillie O'Neal-Kyles, SI Atlanta.

Violet Richardson Award: Rebecca Marie Espinosa SI Coral Gables.

Women's Opportunity Award: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Melinda McDonald \$3,000. SI Tampa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Marien Elizabeth

\$3,000. SI Upper Pinellas, 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Lisa Roberts \$5,000. SI Nashville.

Laurel Society Memberships: Theresia Carrington SI Atlanta, Kathi Pease SI The Palm Beaches, Quilt raffle:

Dominga M. Riveria, SI San Juan

Attendance: SI Homestead, Mileage: SI San Juan, Club Newsletter/Bulletin: SI Tampa, Membership Gain: SI Naples.

**District Meeting Workshops:** 2006 Friday workshop: Balancing Our Lives and 21 points of Leadership - 2006 Meeting: Recruitment (125 in attendance) 2007 Meeting: Leadership to Recruit, Retain and Remember. Each member was tossed a global ball as a reminder of our membership in a global organization.

District One – SI Ft. Lauderdale, Oct. 13-4, 2006 – SI St. Lucie, Oct. 12-13, 2007

District Two – SI Orlando, Oct. 6-7, 2006 – SI Tampa, Oct. 5-6, 2007

District Three – SI Tuscaloosa, Sept. 23-24, 2006 – SI Columbus, MS Sept. 28-29, 2007

District Four – SI Nashville, Sept. 29-30, 2006 – SI Music City, Sept 21-22, 2007

**Addition Undertakings and Activities:**

Reinstituted Conference Friday afternoon Workshop – “What is being a President.”

EZ Pro 710 Projector a gift donated by eight clubs in District I at a cost of \$900.00.

Charlotte Wheeler designed and ordered the new Governor’s Service Award Plaque and we retired the large brass bowl.

Published the First Presidents Guide Book (28) with information from SI, SIA, and Region.

Past Governor Vocile presented the new Southern Region Web-site at the 2007 Conference.

Created the new Southern Region Pin (fully paid for from sales, with a profit of \$400.00).

Created the first monthly, two column, update newsletter for Presidents and Clubs.

SI Largo/Mid Pinellas received a \$16,000. Grant for a single-parent residential community.

Created a list of all Club Friendship Links and assisted in finding new ones for clubs.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated by SI Orlando, SI Holiday Isles and SI Tampa.

SI Coral Gables celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary June 16, 2007.

SIA creates an Internet presence with “Member to Member Marketplace – Yearly Fee \$99.

Grateful thanks to an outstanding group of women who served the Southern Region for the two year term of office 2006-2008 as officers, region chairs and club officers and all members.

Thank you to the Southern Region for your continued support as I served as your Governor and your vote of confidence as I serve as an SIA Director form September 1, 2010-2012.

## Southern Region Theme "Recruit, Retain, Remember"



The biennium began with the Governors Round Table Meeting at the Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention in Taipei, Taiwan in July 2008. The theme of the Convention, "Sharing Good Fortune", was appropriate as we shared successes and many awards. What a thrill it was to have SIA incoming President Alice Wells, SI Phoenix, AZ, introduce the incoming Governors. The Renaissance Campaign Chairs, Membership-Priscilla Tatarsky, Fundraising-Theresia Carrington, Program-Caroline Feagley, and Public Awareness-Ann Decatrel attended the Convention as the Campaign continued for another year. Margaret McCaffery, SI Coral Gables was a graduate of the Emerging Leaders program at this convention. A "Celebrating Success" Third Place Finalist was given to SI Stuart, in Human Rights and the Status of Women for its work with Light of the World Charities in Honduras.

The Southern Region Interim Board Meeting was held at the home of the Governor Nidia in Palm City, FL in August. Sonja Davis could not fulfill her term as Treasurer and the Board appointed Jeanine Webster to complete the term. The most important item the Board Members accomplished at this meeting was to review the Southern Region By-laws and Procedures, not only to acquaint themselves with the documents that rule the Region, but to recommend needed changes. This was accomplished with the guidance of Parliamentarian Mary-Jo Horton. The complete revision of the laws would be an important contribution that this board would make. The new Bylaws were approved at the 84<sup>th</sup> Southern Region Conference in Deerfield Beach in the second year of the biennium.

Another accomplishment was the launch of the Southern Region web site. The web site soroptimistsr.org was established in 2008 by web site chair Voncile Rayner. It is the main resource for the region history and other permanent records of the region. It contains a secure "Members Area," links to Region Officers, Committee Chairs, the Southern Region Clubs, the Calls to Conference, District Meetings, and information for The Ruby Lee Minar Memorial Fund, Inc. All are there for Members to read, download and use as needed.

"Leadership to Recruit, Retain, Re-Member" was Governor Nidia Bernstiel's theme for the biennium. With this in mind, Soroptimists of Southern Region joined in the four host club cities, District I Palm Beaches, FL, District II Upper Pinellas FL, District III Atlanta GA and District IV Franklin TN, on Friday afternoon for leadership training and the Saturday District Meeting in late September and the first 3 weekends in October. Members came up with ways for clubs to RECRUIT, RETAIN AND RE-MEMBER at the workshops on Friday. We learned leadership strengths and how to translate them into strong membership for clubs, and received fundraising tips for programs. On Saturday the Region Directors had varying agendas. There was a nice mix of sharing club projects, SI and SIA focused projects. In addition funds were raised with the quilt raffle for the Laurel Society.

The 83rd Southern Region Conference, "Fly Me to the Moon," was held April 23-26, 2009 in Huntsville, AL. The total attendance was 100 members with seventeen First Timers. The Official Visitors SIA Director Judy Strong presented the workshop "Recruitment and Promoting Member Satisfaction" and Suzanne Sullivan, SI/Pasco-Kennewick, WA, presented the workshop "Swim with the school, and you will cruise right along". We reconnected with old friends; reported on another year's work well done; enjoyed rest and relaxation; and also revived and renewed our enthusiasm. We reviewed how to accomplish our mission and reflected on the lives of those Soroptimists no longer with us. Outstanding projects, dedicated members and deserving program honorees were rewarded and recognized.

Recognition and Awards:

We had 100% participation in Founders Pennies.

The Violet Richardson Award was given to Brittney Young, nominated by SI/Greater Ft. Lauderdale. Fourteen clubs participated.

The Woman's Opportunity Award winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place to Anne "Maya" Sage nominated by SI/Tampa, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Jessica Sager nominated by SI/Holiday Isles, and 3rd place to Melissa Edwards nominated by SI/Huntsville. Because 100% of Southern Region clubs participated in the program a laptop computer was also provided for the first place winner by Jackson-Hewitt, an Income Tax Form Preparation Company.

The Making a Difference for Women Award was presented to Linda Smith, founder of Shared Hope International, a not-for-profit organization that fights sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. She was nominated by SI Stuart, FL. Six clubs participated in giving this recognition this year.

SI Largo received a disaster grant of \$16,000 for Pinellas Village.

Jeanine Webster won the quilt raffle for membership in the Laurel Society.

Soroptimist International of Huntsville AL celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Lake County club was disbanded this year.

Governor Nidia and Governor Elect Priscilla attended the Federation's Soroptimist Women's Leadership Institute in Chicago, Illinois in July. The Women's Leadership Institute focused on learning leadership skills to help business and professional life. Breakout sessions conducted by the Institute speakers covered identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and enhancing performance in our careers and in the community. Catherine Standiford, Cypress, California, was installed as SIA President. Sharon Fisher, Langley, Western Canada was installed 2009-2010 SIA President-elect.

SIA announced that the August 23, 2009, issue of *The New York Times* will contain a full-page ad promoting SIA. This issue of *The Times* will focus on the economic empowerment of women, and provide the perfect showcase to create awareness about Soroptimist. Because *The Times* is read throughout the world, SIA felt promoting Soroptimist in this manner would increase the impact of its programs and attract new members to achieve our mission.

District Meetings in 2009 were held on the first 4 weekends in October. Host clubs were: District I, Coral Gables FL, District II, Holiday Isles FL, District III, Columbus GA, and District IV, Music City TN. The workshops focused on leadership development in the clubs. The theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally" enabled the District Directors to focus on programs in their clubs.

SI Stuart FI received an SIA Grant for its Save OurSelves, Save Our Sisters (SOS/SOS) project (\$10,000) this year.

Every 8 years Southern Region has an opportunity to nominate members for election to the SIA board. Connie Desko, SI Greater Fort Lauderdale, was elected Southern Region's Federation Director 2010-2012.

The Region was asked to join the "Soroptimist Live Your Dream Team" with a donation of \$5,000 to Soroptimist International of the Americas to keep the dream of a better life alive for many women. Southern Region members rallied and raised \$5,810 in this new partnership with SIA.

The "S.S. Leg-a-Sea" theme launched the 84th Southern Region Conference April 30-May 2 2010 in Deerfield Beach. There were 107 members in attendance with 26 first timers. The Federation Guest SIA Board Member

Diane Thompson presented the workshop "Chartering the Course for an Exceptional Cruise" and Membership Director Nicole Simmons presented the workshop "New Members: Who, What, Where and Why" on Friday. On Saturday Director Diane presented the workshop "Women who Take Risks". The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Karen Baetzel, Retired Captain USN, one of the nation's premier experts on leadership training. Karen used examples of women from military history to illustrate her theme, "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think".

Recognition and Awards:

We had 100% participation in Founders Pennies.

The Violet Richardson Award: Emily Martinez-Lanza, nominated by SI Coral Gables FL. Emily founded and serves as president of Teens Against Domestic Abuse "Ta-Da" which raises awareness about this issue and provides direct support for victims of domestic violence.

Soroptimist Ruby Award was presented to Julie Riggs, nominated by SI Atlanta, GA. Julie is the executive director of Redeemed Ministries which works with victims and survivors of child prostitution in Atlanta.

The Women's Opportunity Awards were given to: Silvia Gorzoni 1<sup>st</sup> place, nominated by SI Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, FL; Yvette Williams-Barr 2<sup>nd</sup> place, nominated by SI Atlanta, GA; and Jamie Edwards 3<sup>rd</sup> place, nominated by SI Davie, FL. Jackson-Hewitt donated a lap-top computer to the first place winner as a result of 100% club participation in this program. They also donated laptops to all the District II winners this year. Throughout the region thirty women received awards totaling \$19,625.

Membership Gain Award - SI Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, FL and the Governor's Attendance: 1<sup>st</sup> place SI Homestead, FL; 2<sup>nd</sup> place SI Music City, TN; 3<sup>rd</sup> place SI St. Lucie, FL.

Mileage: 1<sup>st</sup> place SI Music City, TN; 2<sup>nd</sup> place SI Huntsville, AL; 3<sup>rd</sup> place SI Atlanta, GA.

Newsletter: SI Tampa, FL.

Press Book: SI Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, FL.

Governor's Service Award: SI Tuscaloosa, AL.

Ruby Neely, SI Huntsville, AL and Cheryl Bradley, SI Music City, TN were honored by the Region with membership in the Laurel Society. Mary-Jo Horton won the quilt raffle for membership in the Laurel Society. Soroptimist International of Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach, FL celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The SI Naples and Orlando Clubs were disbanded and the Music City and Nashville TN clubs were merged.

The following were installed as officers and directors for the 2010-2012 Biennium:

Governor Priscilla Tatarsky

Governor Elect Pat McCay

Secretary Pamela Hough

Treasurer Jeanine Webster

District I Director Kim Champion

District II Director Diana Miller

District III Director Helen Wilson

District IV Director Diana English.