



SOROPTIMIST[®]
Investing in Dreams

**Soroptimist International of the Americas
SOUTHERN REGION
Welcomes You to the
100th Southern Region Conference!**

**Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista
8100 Lake Street, Orlando, FL 32836
April 30 - May 3, 2026**



Presented by the Southern Region Board

Southern Region Governor



Southern Region Governor Barbara Spyke

Dear Southern Region Members and Friends,

As I conclude my two years serving as Governor of Soroptimist International Southern Region, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the trust you placed in me. It has been an honor to represent you, to support the important work happening across our clubs, and to witness firsthand the strength and compassion that define our organization. Serving in this role has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my Soroptimist journey.

Since becoming Governor-Elect, I have gathered countless memories that I will carry with me always. From inspiring conversations to collaborative problem solving, from celebrating achievements to navigating challenges together, each moment has reinforced my admiration for the dedication and resilience of our members. The fellowship we share—rooted in purpose, service, and membership—has been a constant source of joy and motivation.

The theme of my term was “*Soroptimist is Growing.*” I am so pleased that our membership has grown over the last two years, and I am confident that under Governor Kacie’s leadership, the Region will continue to flourish. Watching our clubs welcome new members, strengthen their programs, and expand their impact has been one of the greatest rewards of my service.

As I step forward into the next chapter, I do so with gratitude, pride, and a full heart. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you, for your support, and for the many ways you continue to uplift women and girls in our communities. I look forward to cheering on the continued success of our clubs and to remaining an active part of this remarkable organization.

Thank you,


Barbara Spyke

2024-2026 SI Southern Region Governor





SIA Official Visitor

SIA Official Visitor

Peggy Gentile -Van Meter



Peggy Gentile-Van Meter served a two-year term as Governor of the North Atlantic Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas 2018-2020. After her term as Governor, she stayed active in various roles as a Soroptimist member. She continued as chair for the North Atlantic Region's Remembrance Committee and administrator for their Face Book page. She was a committee member for the SIA Big Dream Campaign. Her trip to Ireland for the SI Convention was an amazing experience and one she holds such wonderful memories of. Peggy was asked to serve on the SIA 2024 Convention Committee. During that time she was also a part of the second Leadership Fellows Program, and graduated at the SIA Convention. Peggy was elected to the SIA Board for the 2024-2026 term. As board member she is the Chair for MCI (Member Code of Conduct). She is looking forward to the SIA Convention in Incheon, South Korea.

Peggy has always been an advocate for human rights. Her experience as an educator has given her insights on the importance of educating the public about the dangers and spread of human trafficking. She has spoken about this horrible world wide travesty in classrooms and workshops. Domestic Violence Education and Awareness is also very important to Peggy and she has often given presentations about this. She participates in many community education projects and events. Since joining Soroptimist in 2006, she has held several board positions at the regional level, including Governor-Elect, District Director, and District Secretary and is also a member of Soroptimist International of Cumberland County, NJ where she was honored in 2015 with SICC's Soroptimist of the Year award for her hard work and dedication. She currently serves as Membership chair, the Goodwill and Understanding committee and continues to serve as PR Chair for her local club. Peggy is very proud to be a contributing member of the SIA Laurel Society. This past year she earned her Ambassador Level Pin. Peggy is also a member of Lions International and a past committee member of South Jersey Holocaust Coalition.

Peggy graduated from Cumberland County College in 1976, Glassboro State (Rowan University) in 1978 and earned her Masters in Holocaust & Genocide Education from Stockton University in 2001. In 2000 she traveled to Germany, Poland, and the Czech republic on the *Lest We Forget* journey to learn and follow the horrendous history of the Holocaust. Peggy has given several presentations on Women and the Holocaust. Her other honors include induction into Cumberland County's Women's Hall of Fame (2011), Cumberland Regional High School Teacher of the Year (2006/2007), and Cumberland County Leadership Award (2004). Prior to retiring in 2012, Peggy taught history for more than 30 years at Cumberland Regional High School. Additionally, from 2006-2017 she served as adjunct History Professor at Cumberland County College.

When not doing Soroptimist work, she enjoys traveling, reading, volunteering and spending time with her family. She has been married for 50 years this June and lives in a small rural farming community in Stow Creek, New Jersey. Peggy and her husband have two children, Timothy and Jessica. Both are settled close by on the family farm. Their four grandchildren, Brielle, Easton, Sawyer, and Eli are the sparks that light up her life.



SIA Chief Financial Officer



SIA Chief Financial Officer Kim Grossman

Kim is the Chief Financial Officer of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), where she oversees finance, operations, human resources, and technology. She joined the organization in March 2022, bringing more than 15 years of experience in public accounting with deep specialization in nonprofit and mission-driven organizations.

Prior to joining SIA, Kim worked with public accounting firms serving a diverse portfolio of nonprofit clients, including membership associations, social service agencies, community development organizations, museums, religious institutions, preservation organizations, child-care providers, and community legal services organizations. Her extensive experience advising nonprofit leaders and boards provides a strong foundation for her strategic and operational leadership at SIA.

Kim earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Temple University's Fox School of Business and is a Certified Public Accountant. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). She also serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of PennDel Mental Health Center in PennDel, Pennsylvania.

Throughout her career, Kim has often been one of the only women in leadership and decision-making spaces—an experience that fuels her commitment to Soroptimist's mission of empowering women and girls through education and increasing the number of women leaders in the future.

Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Kim now resides in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Tom, their two children, Howie and Joey, and their cat, Ceeley.

#SOROPTIMISTISGROWING



Dear Soroptimists,

It is with deep joy and gratitude that we welcome you to your region conference — a time to reconnect with friends, celebrate your accomplishments and look toward the future we are building together.

Our theme this year, *Transformation Through Leadership*, reminds us that leadership is not about titles or hierarchy. It is about courage, curiosity and compassion. It is the choice to see possibility where others see limitation and to believe in someone's potential, sometimes before they believe in it themselves.

Every time a Soroptimist helps a woman return to school, mentors a girl who is still finding her voice or welcomes a new member into her club, she is leading transformation. She is creating a ripple that will reach far beyond what she can see.

Across our federation, those ripples are forming waves of change. In every community, Soroptimists are helping women and girls access education, rebuild their confidence and discover their power. Each of those stories is proof that when women support women, transformation becomes unstoppable.

And while we celebrate these visible successes, we also honor the quiet, steady leadership that sustains our movement — the members who mentor behind the scenes, the club officers who give their time freely and the teams who persist with grace and determination. *You are the heart of Soroptimist.* Your commitment keeps our mission vibrant and our future bright.

This year calls us to lead not only within our clubs, but within our communities and beyond, to listen to new voices, welcome new ideas, and create space for every woman who believes in a better tomorrow. Together, we are strengthening our organization, expanding our impact and showing the world what collective leadership looks like.

As you gather this weekend, we invite you to pause and celebrate how far you've come, as individuals, as regions and as one Federation. May you leave this conference renewed in spirit, connected in purpose and reminded that you are a leader, transforming lives every day through your service, your compassion and your example.

With heartfelt gratitude and admiration,

Sue Riney
2025-2026 SIA President

Michelle Burnett
Executive Director & CEO

PO Box 95000 - 2553 | Philadelphia, PA 19195 | 215-893-9000 | siahq@soroptimist.org | Soroptimist.org | LiveYourDream.org
Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, specifically those facing significant obstacles.

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Greetings from Southern Region Conference Chair



Southern Region Conference Chair Yvette Doherty

Hello Southern Region Soroptimists,

Welcome to beautiful Orlando, Florida! Governor Barbara and I, along with your Southern Region Board and a host of Region Conference Committee members, have been working for the past several months to make this destination conference one to remember. We are happy to welcome you to the **100th Soroptimist International of the Americas, Southern Region Conference!**

I hope you will take time to enjoy all that Orlando has to offer: Disney World, Universal Orlando, Epcot, Discovery Cove, water parks, and more while you are here. Orlando has so much more to offer than just theme parks. Check out the many museums, Sealife Aquarium, the Walking Ghost Tour, the many great restaurants, and so much more!

We chose the Embassy Suites Hotel because it offers many comfortable amenities that will allow you to relax and enjoy yourself while renewing your Soroptimist friendships and making some new ones, too.

We have exciting and fun-filled meetings and activities lined up for you. I hope you will enjoy the Conference and your stay in exciting Orlando, Florida.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this conference a reality! It is an honor to serve as your Southern Region Conference Chair again this year. This biennium, Southern Region has grown not only with two new clubs in 2025, but we have also increased our Live Your Dream Awards again this year. Here is hoping your Southern Region Conference is a wonderful experience for everyone!



Love to all,
Yvette





Southern Region Board of Directors 2024-2026



Governor Barbara J. Spyke
SI St. Lucie, FL



**Governor-Elect
Kacie Obradovich**
SI Tuscaloosa, AL



**Treasurer
Denise Held**
SI Homestead, FL



**Secretary
Gail Reinfeld**
SI Davie, FL



**District I Director
Kathi Pease**
SI The Palm Beaches, FL



**District II Director
Deborah Wilde**
SI Stuart, FL



**District III Director
Daphne Boswell**
SI Tuscaloosa, AL



**Parliamentarian
Patricia McCay**
SI Huntsville, AL





Southern Region Conference Committee



YOUR SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Southern Region Conference Chair

Yvette Doherty, *SI Homestead, FL*

Assistant Southern Region Conference Chair

Megan Sheriff, *SI Homestead, FL*

Southern Region Board Members

Governor Barbara Spyke, *SI St. Lucie, FL*

Governor-Elect Kacie Obradovich, *SI Tuscaloosa, AL*

Treasurer Denise Held, *SI Homestead, FL*

Secretary Gail Reinfeld, *SI Davie, FL*

District I Director Kathi Pease, *SI The Palm Beaches, FL*

District II Director Deborah Wilde, *SI Stuart, FL*

District III Director Daphne Boswell, *SI Tuscaloosa, AL*

Parliamentarian Patricia McCay, *SI Huntsville, AL*

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Southern Region Clubs

DISTRICT I

- SI Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach, FL
- SI Davie, FL
- SI Glades and Palm Beach North, FL
- SI Homestead, FL
- SI The Palm Beaches, FL
- SI Pompano Beach, FL

DISTRICT II

- SI Greater Daytona Beaches, FL
- SI St. Lucie, FL
- SI Stuart, FL
- SI Pasco County, FL
- SI Tampa, FL

DISTRICT III

- SI Huntsville, AL
- SI Music City Nashville, TN
- SI Tuscaloosa, AL





Conference Standing Rules



The voting delegates of the Region shall be the Southern Region Board and three accredited delegates from each Club in good standing. A Club shall be deemed to be in good standing upon meeting all of the requirements of Federation, Region and Club bylaws by the time of the delegates' registration.



Standing Rules of the Conference

The Conference shall be conducted in accordance with the standing rules published in the Call to Conference and/or printed programs as follows:

1. Delegates shall present their credentials and be registered before being admitted to the business meeting.
2. Delegates shall be seated 5 minutes before each meeting convenes and shall sit in an assigned section by District.
3. Identification badges must be worn at all business sessions.
4. All meetings shall be called to order promptly.
5. The official agenda as adopted shall be the order of the day. If necessary, changes may be made by a majority vote and at the discretion of the chair.
6. No member shall speak in debate more than twice or longer than 2 minutes on the same questions without the consent of delegates, granted by two-thirds vote without debate.
7. Conference Pages shall pass notes and messages as required.
8. The appointed Tellers will assist with all voting results as applicable.
9. The Governor must approve all official publicity releases.
10. Board recommendations proposed at conference shall be presented in writing to delegates no later than the opening of business session at which they are to be considered.
11. The Proposed Budget and Financial Statement will be distributed to delegates prior to the opening business session.
12. Cell phones are to be turned off or set on silent mode throughout all conference proceedings including meals and breakout sessions or a fine of \$5 will be imposed. The fines will be deposited into the Southern Region service fund.
13. Presidents or their Alternates shall attend the Governor's meeting.



Credentials Reports

100th SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE

Date: _____

Clubs in Southern Region _____ District I _____ District II _____ District III _____	Clubs Represented _____ District I _____ District II _____ District III _____
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PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT

Presidents	
Delegates	
Board Members	
Total Voting	
Non-Voting Soroptimists	
Official Federation Visitor	
Federation Guest(s)	
Guests (Soroptimists)	
Guests (Non-Soroptimists)	
Total Attendees	

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Presidents	
Delegates	
Board Members	
Total Voting	
Non-Voting Soroptimists	
Official Federation Visitor	
Federation Guest(s)	
Guests (Soroptimists)	
Guests (Non-Soroptimists)	
Total Attendees	



Ruby Lee Minar Soroptimist Memorial Fund, Inc.



The Ruby Lee Minar Soroptimist Memorial Fund gives interest free loans to qualified candidates for graduate study in fields of their choice. Applicants' legal residence shall be within the territorial limits of Southern Region, but they may attend schools elsewhere.

RUBY LEE MINAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Nancy Los, SI Music City Nashville, TN (2023)

Treasurer

Teri Matlach, SI Tampa, FL (2022)

Board Liaison

Kacie Obradovich, Governor-Elect, SI Tuscaloosa, AL





Southern Region Conference Agenda



Thursday, April 30th

5:30pm	Meet in Hotel Lobby for Transport to Restaurant Near Front
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Dutch Treat Dinner – Kizuna Asian Buffet & Sushi
Afterhours	Bingo Party—Hosted by SI Huntsville, AL Palm Room

Friday, May 1st

9:30am - 11:30am	Board Meeting with Official SIA Visitor & SIA CFO Orange Room
11:45am - 1:00pm	Member’s Lunch by the Pool Bar – All Welcome Hosted by SI Members - By the Pool Bar (under umbrellas)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Past Governor’s & Board Luncheon – Invitation Only Palm Room
2:00pm	Conference Begins - Buena Vista Ballroom
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Opening Remarks and Introductions SISR Governor Barbara Spyke
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Club Presidents—Updates & Advice Led by Governor Barbara
3:15pm - 3:45pm	Transformation through Leadership: Stories that Connect Us SIA Board Member Peggy Gentile-Van Meter
4:30pm - 5:00pm	President’s Meeting Orange Room (Back)
4:45pm - 5:30pm	First Timer’s Party - All New Comers Welcome! Hosted by SI Homestead, FL Orange Room (Front)
6:00pm - 10:00pm	100th Conference Birthday Party & Dinner (Dinner 6-8pm) Hosted by SI Tuscaloosa, AL Buena Vista 2 & 3

Registration Times Are:

Friday 12:00pm to 1:45pm

Saturday 8:30am to 9:00am

Located in front of

Buena Vista Ballroom



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Southern Region Conference Agenda



Saturday, May 2nd

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast - Hotel Lobby
8:45am - 9:00am	Delegates' Meeting - Attendance Required Orange Room (Front)
9:10am - 9:30am	Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance Buena Vista Ballroom
9:30am - 9:50am	State of the Region - Governor Barbara Spyke
9:50am - 10:05am	"Club Identity & Global Brand: How They Work Together" Ann Smallman, SI Stuart FL
10:05am - 10:15am	Opening Credentials Report Region Treasurer Denise Held
10:15am - 10:30am	BREAK
10:30am - 10:45am	"Big Goal Accelerator Projects: Eligibility Deep Dive" Tanda Jackson, SI Tuscaloosa AL
10:45am - 11:00am	"Empoweriug Every Member Through Financial Clarity: Transparency from Club to Region" CFO Kim Grossman
11:00am - 11:15am	"Dream It, Be It" - A Panel Discussion Elizabeth Seymour & Jeanne Sherwood, Co-Chairs
11:15am - 11:30am	"Human Trafficking Awareness: Coordinating the Community" Past Governor and HTA Chair Pat McCay
11:30pm - 11:45am	"Evolving Trends: How to Tap Into Fundraising Tactics" Past Governor & Chair Marie Kennedy
12:00pm - 1:15pm	"Live Your Dream" Luncheon Skye Burnett, SI Tuscaloosa, AL Buena Vista Ballroom
1:15pm - 1:40pm	A.I. and Social Media Lucie McGuire, Social Media Brand Coach
1:40pm - 1:55pm	"Infusing Joy Into Membership" SIA Director Michelle Strawser & Adrienne Griffiths
1:55pm - 2:25pm	Break Out Sessions - Member Joy & Social Media
2:25pm - 2:40pm	BREAK
2:40pm - 3:05pm	"Building a Culture of Transformational Leadership: Inspiring Impact" SIA Director Peggy Gentile-Van Meter
3:05pm - 3:15pm	Final Credentials Report Region Treasurer Denise Held
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Delegate Vote, Including Slate of 2026-28 Officers
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Ruby Lee Minar Annual Meeting
4:00pm - 4:15pm	Announcements
5:15pm - 5:45pm	Laurel Society Reception - All Laurel Society Members and Prospective Members Welcome Past Governor Marie Kennedy Orange Room
6:00pm - Until?	"Homecoming Dance" and Installation of 2026-2028 Officers



Southern Region Conference Agenda (continued)



Sunday, May 3rd

8:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast	Central Atrium Embassy Suites
9:00am - 9:30am	Celebration of Life - Location TBD Hosted by SI Stuart, FL	Buena Vista Ballroom
9:30am - 10:15am	Announcements, Raffles and Awards - Ballroom	
10:30am - 11:15am	Post Conference Board Meeting (2024-26 & 2026-28 Officers) Orange Room	



Soroptimist Pledge

**I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
And to the ideals for which it stands;**

- The sincerity of Friendship,**
- The joy of Achievement,**
- The dignity of Service,**
- The integrity of Profession,**
- The love of Country.**

**I will put forth my greatest effort to Promote, Uphold,
and Defend these ideals for a larger Fellowship**

- In Home,**
- In Society,**
- In Business,**
- For Country, and**
- For God.**



Celebration of Life



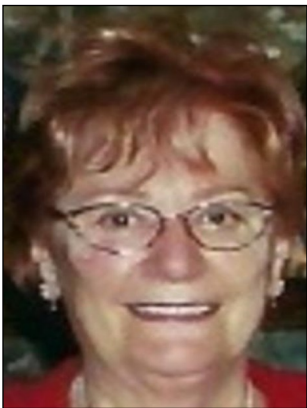
Soroptimist International of Stuart Mary Jo Horton

With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of our dear friend, mentor, and leader, Mary Jo Horton. A cherished member of the Soroptimist International of Stuart, Mary Jo's legacy is one of service, strength, and unwavering dedication.

Her contributions to our club and community were remarkable. Mary Jo was a proud member of the Laurel Society, a Past President, Past Region Officer, and Past Region Governor. She was also honored as a Woman of Distinction - an acknowledgment well-earned through decades of tireless commitment to empowering women and improving lives.

Mary Jo's wisdom, warmth, and generosity touched all who knew her. She gave selflessly, inspired many, and left an indelible mark on our hearts and organization.

We invite you to join us in honoring her life, her many accomplishments, and the extraordinary spirit she shared so freely.



Soroptimist International of Tampa/Pinellas Patricia Louise Arbutine

Patricia Louise Arbutine, a beloved mother, grandmother, and pioneering business woman, passed away on April 25, 2025 at the age of 90. Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Pat was a strong and resilient spirit from a young age, being a survivor of rheumatic fever in her adolescence. She married the "love of her life" in 1963 and became a military wife following her husband Art across the globe during his service in the U. S. Air Force. She made history as the first female President of the Bluffs Business & Professional Association and long-time member of Soroptimist International of Pinellas and Tampa since 1983.

Although Pat presented herself as strict and stern, she was deeply generous supporting her family and numerous charities with boundless devotion. Thanksgiving was her holiday, a time when the family gathered under her watchful and loving eye. She was also known for her love of fast red cars, her fierce independence, and her deep compassion. A devoted animal lover, she always had a special affection for Doberman Pinschers, who were part of her life for many years.

She served her club as President from 1995 to 1997, and served as Secretary and Club Director many times over.

I am grateful for the leadership, service, and heart across our region, and I am excited for all we can accomplish together.

Kacie Obradovich
Southern Region Governor 2026-2028



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**2024 - 2026 SOUTHERN REGION BOARD
THANK YOU** for your leadership, commitment,
and service on behalf of
Southern Region and its members!

and

CONGRATULATIONS
to our incoming **2026 - 2028 Board!**



**SI Music City Nashville
is proud to present our 2026
Live Your Dream Award Winners**



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TEAM



Susie Boning
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**Soroptimist of Stuart
2024–2026 Board Members,
Our heartfelt thank you for your service.**



**2026–2028 Board Members,
Welcome!**

Empowered women empowering women.

**Welcome First Time Conference Attendees:
Susie, Christa, Jane, Lynne, Patty, Lucie, Nerieda, and Ann!**



Soroptimist of Stuart
Celebrating 70 Years supporting the
women of Florida's Treasure Coast

SI TUSCALOOSA

INVESTING IN DREAMS & HELPING COLOR A BRIGHTER
FUTURE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SINCE 1972

Color with us!



Congrats to our very own

Tanda Jackson
Region Treasurer 2026-2028

& Kacie Obradovich
Region Governor 2026-2028

We are so proud of you!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of DAVIE

Serving Women & Girls in Broward County, Florida since 1983

*Let your
dreams
grow wild.*

sidavie.org



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL IN ROCKET CITY!  SOROPTIMIST OF HUNTSVILLE



Congratulations to our new Board of Directors!
And a big thank you to our outgoing board for their service.
We are deeply grateful for your invaluable time and
commitment to making a lasting impact on our organization.

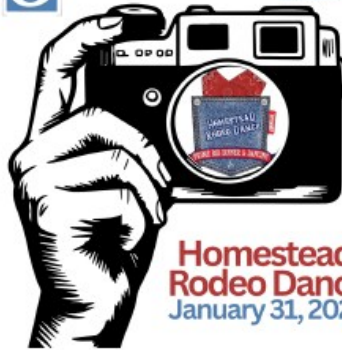
Soroptimist International of St. Lucie



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HOMESTEAD



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Scan the
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view our
event photos!



SI of The Palm Beaches

**Offers best wishes to the
Southern Region's current and incoming board
and to all our members as we celebrate
"100 Years Strong"!**



**Here's to another 100 years of making
an impact for women and girls**

This page added after printing