

# SOUTHERN ACCENT

Southern Region Newsletter

October 2016 Issue

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## NEWS FROM GOVERNOR DENISE



At our district meetings, I had the opportunity to meet some incredible and passionate women. Listening to their great projects and their plans for the future to help women and girls warms my Soroptimist heart. I was especially impressed with our Coral Gables club and the efforts they went to make the District I & II meeting so special. Debby Diaz and her girls really provided a special venue and a great experience.

I was equally impressed with the Huntsville's District III meeting which took on a casual and more intimate experience. The tailgate party was a lot of fun and I believe the Bama fans won! Roll Tide! What has impressed me the most is the talent and the passion we have amongst our clubs and how we all pull together to make this dream work. In addition, we have some very gifted District Directors too. I'm so proud of Kathy, Michelle, and Karen and the presentations provided for us at the District Meetings. A lot of thought and work went into their agendas and it really provided a great learning experience.

For the next two years, I have pledged to work together as a team to communicate not only to the Presidents and the Treasurers but to all members in Southern Region. I believe communication is "key" in order for our teams to work effectively and efficiently. Our Southern Region board has pledged to provide more support to the clubs. In order for our team to be successful, you must be successful. The Southern Region Board is an extension of the clubs and it's important that we work on your behalf. I am honored to be able to represent the Southern Region.

Special thanks goes out to our Governor-elect Caroline for taking care of me for the week, for driving me around to the clubs in district 3 and just being a great Soroptimist sister. She will be an awesome Governor!! Thank you to our two District Directors, Michelle and Karen and those who attended the SI Atlanta meeting. I know we're off to an awesome start! Thank you to the Montgomery club for meeting us for lunch. Thank you to the Tuscaloosa club for walking us through the big goal presentation. I also want to thank President Crystal and SI Tuscaloosa for their hospitality and their kindness. The pie was to die for and I will be wearing my slippers with great pride!

I hope to see all of you at our Southern Region conference April 28-30, 2017 at the Hollywood Beach Marriott. Your Board and the conference committee are working very hard to make this conference a beach ball of fun for you!

I'm proud to be a Soroptimist!

In Soroptimist Spirit,  
Denise Held

## NEWS FROM GOVERNOR-ELECT CAROLINE



This fall has been a whirlwind of activity filled with District Meetings that empower us to help women and girls and with individual Soroptimist club visits that highlight the valuable work each group is accomplishing. I love the camaraderie and friendship that our Southern Region Board is fostering with enhanced communication to all Southern Region Club members. By building great relationships between all of our clubs and members, Southern Region can direct its efforts to fulfilling its most important goal: the Soroptimist mission.

I want to thank all of you for your hospitality and generosity in making me feel welcome at all of our Soroptimist events. I would like to give a special “Thank You” to SI Coral Gables’ Margaret McCaffery for hosting me at her lovely home prior to the District I and II Meeting. Margaret enthusiastically toured me through the Coral Gables’ Agape/Mustard Seed Project, the Bay Oaks Historic Retirement Home, and around Miami and Miami Beach. All were fabulous! In addition, Past Governor Pat McCay graciously hosted Governor Denise and me in her beautiful home in Huntsville the night before our District III Meeting. We were both very grateful for our comfortable accommodations.

I also want to congratulate our District Directors, Kathy Blanton, Michelle Strawser, and Karen Karpinski for planning and coordinating our highly successful District Meetings. Presidents Debby Diaz of Coral Gables and Beth Douglas of Huntsville and their District Meeting committee members did a superb job arranging all of the intricate details that are required to make a District Meeting flow smoothly.

Finally, I want to compliment all who attended one of our two District Meetings. Your involvement and participation made these events so meaningful. If you were not able to make a District Meeting this year, please make it a priority for 2017.

You see, what Governor Denise says is really true: **“TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK!”**

### *Governor-Elect Caroline*



## District II—Michelle Strawser

My acceptance of the District II Director position came with many unknowns and some hesitation for accepting such a big responsibility. Was I going to be able to handle the additional work involved? How would I know if I was successfully conducting the duties of this position? The hesitation was immediately removed upon attending the interim board meeting with the new Southern Region Board in August. Listening and learning from women with more knowledge and experience only increased my desire to fulfill the duties of this position to the best of my ability.

There was no ambiguity as to the team having my back if I didn't know something or if I misstep along the way. The meeting was productive, efficient, and secured the bond between eight women who will be friends for life.

I traveled to Orlando for the 44<sup>th</sup> Biannual SIA Convention in July meeting other millennials and forming a bond with young women who will be the future of our organization. The constant communication and work towards our collective impact reminds me to focus on our "WHY." If we remember this the work towards our mission doesn't feel like work at all!

Traveling to Coral Gables to plan the Joint District meeting was the start to a productive business year. Alongside Governor Denise, District Director I Kathy Blanton, and the SI Coral Gables club we made sure we were proactive in planning a successful meeting. Fail to plan, plan to fail they say and this meeting gave us all more confidence for the upcoming meeting.

My first club visit as District II Director was to the Greater Daytona Beach Area's club. If you want to be reenergized attend a program meeting led by President Wanda Moore! With 7 guests in attendance and 15 members it is easy to see why they were third in all of SIA for club growth. She introduced their theme song for the year; I mean who is cooler than SI GDB, they have a theme song!!! She prepared and presented information on the "WHY" of Soroptimist. She presented staggering statistics showing the challenges still faced by women today. The club invited me to speak on the programs conducted throughout our clubs to combat those statistics and improve the lives of women and girls! They collected over 60 bras from their members to bring to the District meeting for SI of Ft. Lauderdale's bra drive. The club is strong, effective, and energetic. I look forward to working with SI of GDB to support and assist with their club development and growth.

A membership drive in Atlanta brought Governor Denise, Governor Elect Caroline, District III Director Karen, and two new members to the Atlanta club! It warmed my heart to see them all collectively proactive in this endeavor. It was great to be a part of the District III event in Atlanta!

Lastly, I was nervous yet honored to "co-lead" the Joint District meeting with my friend District I Director Kathy Blanton. It was our first meeting and the support, team work, and positivity provided a perfect combination for a successful meeting. Governor Denise, Governor Elect Caroline, Secretary Yvette, Treasurer Cathy, SI Coral Gables, and Debby Diaz worked hard to teach and lead the two "newbies" through their first event. I thank each one of you for your support, guidance, and friendship. May the rest of this biennium be as amazing as the first few months!

***Michelle Strawser, District II Director***

## DISTRICT MEETING REPORT

### District I and II

Wow, what an amazing opening to this biennium Southern Region! We have definitely started the year with great focus, commitment, and fun towards the Soroptimist mission. The District I & II meeting was evaluated by all of you to be considered a success. The meeting was a collaborative effort by your Southern Region board and Soroptimist International of Coral Gables, with a special recognition to Debby Diaz.

The meeting held at the Historic Biltmore Hotel brought a Tour, High Tea, Guest Speakers on Human Trafficking, a Caribbean friendship dinner, Girl Scouts, Panel Discussions, Governor Service Award Presentations, Pumpkin Dip, Raffles, and Prizes!!! And to think this all occurred in 36 hours!!!

The historic tour brought us on the journey of the Biltmore from Ground Breaking, to fancy parties and gatherings, to imminent domain and it being turned into a hospital during WWII, the conversion to a VA hospital, and to a vacant building with plans for destruction! It taught us about the importance of preservation and the persistent it took to have this hotel placed on the National Historic Landmark list.

High Tea is one to be remembered. The bird cages, the harpist, the elegant setting, the hats, and the conversation made this a very memorable event.



The Caribbean themed friendship dinner left no detail unturned. Debby Diaz and team worked to make this an evening of perfection for the visiting Soroptimists. The venue, the music, the food, and the decorations were all carefully planned out for a perfect evening in Coral Gables, FL.



All of this was before our business meeting even began. Our official meeting opened on Saturday with an informative and positive President's meeting. The mini market and breakfast was under way across the hall in the Merrick and Bowman rooms, while the Presidents got to work. The discussion of conference calls with the Presidents was well received. Effective communication will continue to be one of the goals this biennium.

We began the business meeting with the presentation of the flags by the Girls Scouts; including the Pledge of Allegiance. Soroptimist International of Homestead recognized our First Times with beautiful Orchids in keep sake Soroptimist mugs. Governor Denise then recognized every attendee with a certificate of appreciation for the member's years of service, 57 years for Ms. Mary-Jo Horton! We thank each and every one of you for your dedication to the Soroptimist mission!

We had a special addition to the agenda. Governor Denise Held received the SR Governor's gavel from previous Governors, Immediate Past Governor Terri Pettengill 2014 \* 2016, Past Governor Mary-Jo Horton 1978 \* 1980, Past Governor Ann Decatrel 1996 \* 1998, and Past Governor Connie Desko 2006 \* 2008.

Chair Marsha McGrath of The Dream It, Be It Program led a panel with club members who participated in the program during the last club year. We were able to learn about challenges and how to overcome those challenges while hosting a session or series of session with teenage girls. Soroptimist International of Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach and Soroptimist International of St. Lucie both believe they are ready to start this program after listening to the panel. We are here for you ladies!



We heard an update on the Ruby Lee Minar award and have requested the clubs remember to include this in their services offered through social media or sharing with local colleges. It can be of great assistance if we can reach more people with the opportunity to apply.

Chair, Adrienne Griffitts, from Membership led a discussion on the importance of membership. We heard from SI of Pompano Beach of retaining members and from SI Greater Daytona Beach Area on tips for recruiting members. The words fun and visible remained relevant during this panel discussion.

Lunch is served! The Biltmore served an incredible lunch which included Lobster rolls. We set at tables assigned by important figures/leaders who have stayed at the Biltmore. We enjoyed conversation with old and new friend while discussing the Big Goal form for Soroptimist International of Americas. It is up to the voice of all of us as to the direction of this great organization for the next Century.

The Governor's Service Award presentations took place promptly after lunch. We love hearing and seeing the great service being performed in the clubs throughout District I & II. The LEAPS project from SI Davie, the Sewing Smiles from SI Pompano Beach, and the Mark Your Place from SI Tampa all demonstrated the variety of service conducted at the club level. All improving the lives of women and girls!

The segment on Fundraising brought our first Chair, Skye Kent, appearing through a video file. We are definitely in an age of technology ladies. We thank her for preparing this video file for our meeting and learned a lot through her tips. Governor Elect Caroline finished the fundraising session speaking of the CEO (Corporate Engagement Opportunity), the idea of a Southern Region Fundraiser, and Pumpkin Dip!! Shout out to DDI Kathy Blanton for preparing, transporting, and arranging our delicious afternoon snack.

DDI Kathy Blanton led the Public Awareness segment and reminded us the importance of being seen. We need to be seen through all mediums, primarily the digital one. She discussed Facebook, Boosting Posts, Constant Contact, having a Public Awareness Chair on the club level, and collecting emails at EVERY event we host or attend. We have to remain visible and we can only do that by being a constant reminder in our current members and prospective members in box or FB feed.

Our last session was a recap of the millennial panel held at the 44<sup>th</sup> Biannual SIA Convention in Orlando this July. Danielle Zimmerman President of SI Homestead and DDII Director Michelle Strawser from SI Tampa both spoke on the panel in Orlando and at the District I & II Meeting. The importance of assistance, patience, and social media were all stated to be importance in recruiting and retaining millennials. They are the future of this organization.

Awards were presented to clubs for their work during the previous club year in Live Your Dream Award participation, Dream It, Be It participation, Club Giving contributions, and Club Leader awards. We closed the meeting with raffle drawings and the Soroptimist Pledge.



We are not sure how we will top this District I & II meeting but join us next year in Pompano Beach, FL to see how we rise to the challenge!

*~Your Soroptimist Southern Region Board – 2016 \* 2018*

## DISTRICT MEETING REPORT

### District III

Fun, friendship, networking and education – all were elements of the District III Meeting, hosted by SI Huntsville on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and what a great job they did. Committee Chair, Past Governor Pat McCay, President Beth Douglas and their entire club presented great venues, fabulous food and warm hospitality.

The Friday night social was held at the Highlands Division Club House with tailgating as the theme. Jerseys and shirts from everyone’s favorite team were well represented and the Huntsville club members provided great appetizers, burgers, beans, potato salad and many other typical tailgating fare.

Musician, song writer and story teller, Shane Adkins entertained us throughout the evening and all left with one of his music CD’s.



Saturday morning began with a wonderful continental breakfast and the Presidents’ Meeting at the Trinity Methodist Church, such a terrific meeting location. The tailgating theme continued with the clubs’ baskets for raffle. We were thrilled to have raised over \$600 dollars with the raffle and Laurel Society Quilt donations.



Years of service were recognized for all in attendance; SI Montgomery was selected to represent District III at the April conference with their Governor’s Service Award and it was wonderful to witness all the other Awards presented to clubs by Governor Denise.

Governor Denise inspired and encouraged everyone to be part of the dream team by helping Southern Region achieve 100% participation in “Live Your Dream” and “Dream It, Be It” programs as well as providing updated information from Federation. District Director Karen engaged members in a discussion on “Conquering the Barriers” to providing a Dream It Be It program, and along with two millennial members from Tuscaloosa, Crystal Buck and Kacie Obradovich presented a panel discussion on recruiting younger members. Governor-Elect Caroline Williams presented information on fundraising along with a video by Fundraising Chair, Skye Kent, who was unable to be present. SI Huntsville President, Beth Douglas gave an exciting presentation on using social media to increase our public awareness. A special appearance by “Pearl”, sister of Ruby Lee Minar (aka Governor-Elect Caroline) informed us that two new loans have been approved recently and encouraged everyone to seek applicants for this loan program.



The day culminated with members taking lots of information back to their clubs with renewed excitement about recruitment, dream programs and implementing our new knowledge of social media to increase our collective and club impact. I look forward to reaching out to each of the clubs in District III providing any support to help reach their goals.

***Karen Karpinski, District III Director***

What a day it was!

Mission

Passion



Dedication

District III Meeting  
Speakers

October 7-8, 2016 Huntsville, Alabama

## SIA Convention—Orlando A First Timers Story

The 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial SIA Convention was held in Orlando in July and Terry Sue Turner and I attended. Neither of us had been to a convention before and it was eye-opening and wonderful. We met so many women from other countries, and I learned how to use Google Translate very quickly!

What is your Soroptimist story? This was the theme of the 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention held in Orlando, Florida at the Dolphin Hotel on July 20-23, 2016. What an opportunity it was to be in the presence of 809 like-minded women who were there because of their concern for other women and girls. How often do we get the chance to be with women who do not speak our native language and are not afraid to take a picture with you or present you with a small token?



There were warm welcomes from SIA Susan “Sam” Buchenau, CEO and Executive Director Elizabeth (Liz) Lucas, Soroptimist International President Yvonne Simpson and the opportunity to meet many form SIA Presidents and Board members.



SIA President Sam Buchenau

SI President Yvonne Simpson

Terry and I spoke with women from clubs that are in the north, south, east and west of the country we live in. We attended workshops that gave insight into how to take better care of ourselves and how to enhance our service projects.



What is your Soroptimist story? Our story is about women helping women, forming great friendships, having fun, laughing often, and being thankful that we can do all of the above. Our story includes road trips with my road trip “buddies” and awaiting the next big project to conquer. As one speaker said, “Women are multi-taskers; we can do it all; and when we can’t, we still find a way to get the job done”.

Past Governors Pat McKay and Priscilla Tatarsky were Convention Co-chairs and did an excellent job keeping everyone on track. All in all, it was an informative, fun event that I would recommend every Soroptimist attend!

Betsi Lewis, SI Pinellas County

### From the Chairs

What a journey Pat McKay and I (Priscilla Tatarsky) began when we accepted the invitation to chair a federation convention. We logged many miles, phone calls, sent e-mails too numerous to count, and met more giving, dedicated women than we ever thought possible. It was a hard job but very satisfying.

We set out to show the rest of SIA what Southern Hospitality is all about. With the help of the southern region members that attended, we accomplished our mission. Women from all over the world came together and laughed, learned, and even cried together in friendship.

A big thank you to all our members who volunteered (or were “voluntold”) their services to help present a successful week at Disneyworld.

Past Governors Pat and Priscilla



## *Fundraising—Skye Kent*

Welcome to Fall, Yall!! I hope everyone enjoyed the District Meetings! Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffles. Between both meetings we raised \$970 – that money goes a long way towards funding Southern Region Laurel Society Honorees. Thank you to everyone who purchased squares on the Laurel Society Quilt. Between the two meetings, we sold 33 squares for \$330 – we should be able to easily fill the quilt at the Southern Region Conference in April. There are several other fundraising projects in the works – keep an eye on your inbox in the coming months for more details! Here’s a recap of the Fundraising session from the District meetings:

### **Fundraising vs. Philanthropy?**

**Fundraising** is all about raising the funds to do what we do.

**IDENTIFY:** Look for commonalities with Soroptimist and your cause, such as businesses owned by women within your community. Look for companies that have a direct correlation with your cause/mission. Look for businesses that can gain from an association with women and your Soroptimist event. Look for businesses that are involved in your community or that have expressed a desire to be more involved. Look for businesses that are close to your home and that you are likely to frequent.

**PLAN:** Remember that timing is critical when asking for sponsorships. Before you go, do your homework: Who, What, Why and When. Update your Marketing Materials – consider a digital approach. Use the free apps and programs available to freshen up your look. Check out Soroptimist.org for lots of free pre-made graphics.

**PRESENT:** Make your request in person. Remember that less is more. Don’t be afraid to make “The Big Ask”!

**REGROUP:** “No” now doesn’t mean NEVER, it means not right now. Keep going back. Don’t give up. Determine the obstacles to achieving your goals and look for ways to overcome them.

**FINISH STRONG:** Thank your sponsors and keep them updated about your club’s service efforts.

While fundraising is a necessity for our clubs, have you ever wondered what would happen if we change our view from just fundraising - the transaction of “ask, receive, thank” to the more relationship building style of **philanthropy**? Would it feel like less of a burden and more natural?

To become more philanthropic, first we need to look inward at ourselves – *become an Ambassador* for your club by supporting every event, every project, and every party in some small way even if you can’t attend. Use committee reports as group education at your meetings, emails or however your club communicates – *be educated* about all aspects of your club. *Share* that education in your circle of friends, coworkers, life. *Take ownership* in everything your club does...we joined our Soroptimist clubs because we believe in the mission of the organization, therefore regardless of whether we can attend something, we should support the club in all of its endeavors. Next we need to work on our relationships with our donors and potential donors! Philanthropy should be strategic (as in we should have a plan and we should be smart about who we approach), but fundamentally, *philanthropy is personal*. It’s about inspiring people to give, making a connection and then following up with some appreciation. Share a personal story. Work on an elevator speech. Send thank you notes with tax information, but beyond that, what can you do to think outside the box?

We should also think about what we ask of our donors. Is the only time you see or interact face to face with a donor when you are asking for money? Host a “Getting to Know Soroptimist” event. Invite a donor to be a speaker at a meeting. Host a donor roundtable discussion to ask for their opinions and input. Offer a donation matching program...or to help them set one up at their business.

Another key step to cultivating an air of philanthropy is to pay attention to what the donor needs and values. We know they want to know where their money is going and to hear from our members, but what else could we add to that? Share a quote from a participant in our Dream It, Be It program, or use some artwork from a participant on a Christmas card. Or even share a funny anecdote from one of our sessions in an annual update.

We need to keep in mind that building relationships with donors is as important as asking for money. You will wear yourself and your club out if you are constantly starting over with chasing down dollars and turn a blind eye to where it came from. Use the golden rule: Treat your donors like you want to be treated.



## *Public Awareness—Susan Coyle*

### "Toot Your Horn"

As we prepare to enter into a new year, I want to encourage all clubs to take a more active role in "tooting your own horn"!

**Public Awareness** promotes awareness of Soroptimist organizations in the community through service, programs, web sites, newsletters and social media presence on Facebook. Share your public awareness success stories.

Facebook is a vital platform for targeting your audience. Do you know how to "boost" on Facebook? Boosting is designed to let your individual posts reach more people on Facebook who like your page and those who are unfamiliar with you. Boosting increases the visibility of your post by moving it higher and ensures you reach the specific audience you select. For example, you can boost the post for people who "like" your page including their friends, and/or you can choose a new audience based on location, age, gender, or interests. Generally, the goal of boosting a post is to drive customers towards your web site and Facebook page. Boosting a post is a useful tool when you want to advertise a specific promotion or event. The boosted post should contain a link to your web site. When you click "Boost Post", you have the option to choose either pushing the post to "People who like your page and their friends" or "People you choose through targeting." You will also be able to set a budget (the price to boost" starts at as little as \$5.00). You must be both the **Page admin** and the **event creator** to select these objectives. You do not need to pay and boost every post on Facebook—just choose the best ones for you. Your goal is to promote your club and by "boosting" the goal is to find new sponsors and or members! So let's get out there & "boost" our clubs!

On another note .... In 2007, Soroptimist launched a major campaign, "Soroptimists STOP Trafficking," aimed at raising awareness about the devastating practice of sex trafficking. Southern Region would like to encourage all clubs once again to promote a Human Trafficking Awareness event in January and use the tag line "Stolen Girls...Stolen Dreams". Human Trafficking "day" is January 12th but any day in January will do.

Remember to include public awareness in your discussions whenever you are planning your club meetings, service projects, awards/grants, fund raising events or community needs. We are not only changing lives, but we are creating interesting news that the media and public want and need to know about. So get out there and **"Toot Your Horn"**!

**It is the time of year to remember how thankful we are for the opportunity to help others. May everyone have a happy, healthy holiday season.**



## *Membership—Adrienne Griffitts*

Greetings from Southern Region Membership!!

I am honored to be part of this amazing Region! A few things we have going on recently are a number of membership inquiries.

SIA used to send out membership requests from the website to the region chair only and it was up to the chair to send you, the Clubs, these requests. Recently though, you may have noticed something new! Automatically, the requests are now sent to the nearest Soroptimist Club in the area the prospective member resides! We would love to hear from you if you've gotten a request that has turned into a member, or even a volunteer that isn't quite ready to commit to a full member yet!

I am always available to help you out regarding membership opportunities and would love to hear from you with updates!

Also, although we have a few Clubs in the region that are struggling with numbers, we are hopeful that with some new recent membership requests, we'll be able to pull those Clubs out of their low membership status positions.

Membership tip: Make sure your prospective or new members know their value!! - I have seen firsthand how women grow from joining this organization. From being able to speak in front of a group where they once were petrified, to taking positions in Clubs further educating them about Soroptimist, and empowering them to become board members within their own Clubs! Engage your "newbies" and encourage them to sign up for a committee within your Club! Knowledge IS power!

Any time you have any questions regarding membership, recruitment or retention, please feel free to contact me at 786-255-8580, or via email at [simplemynd29@aol.com](mailto:simplemynd29@aol.com). I hope to hear from you soon!

### **Upcoming Dates of Interest:**

- November 1—Soroptimist Celebrating Success Applications Due
- November 9—Southern Region Presidents' Conference Call
- November 15—Live Your Dream Application Deadline
- November 15—IRS Form 990 Filing Deadline
- November 25—International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- November 25—Soroptimist Workplace Campaign Against Domestic Violence
- November 29—Giving Tuesday
- December 2—International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 10—Human Rights Day—SI December 10th Appeal
- January 1—*Best for Women* Spring Issue Deadline
- January 11—National Day for Human Trafficking Awareness





## *Program—Laurie Connor*

I would like to thank our wonderful Southern Region Board and Conference Chair for a great Southern Region District Meeting in Coral Gables. We had a great time hearing about the great things everyone is doing at the local club level. It is very exciting to be the Region Program Chair and I want to share a quick update on dates for the Live Your Dream as this is upon us and is open until November 15, 2016. Due to Federation by February 15. We have received almost 60 applications from Federation for our Region that are considered the At Large applications. The Ruby Award is regional only for a woman in your community that has enriched the lives of women and girls. The Dream it Be it Program has been implemented in many clubs and as The Region Chair I have become less daunted by the curriculum as well as hearing some great success stories that I now understand how imperative it is that we all strive to put it into action. I am happy to report that participation in Dream it Be it is at 81% participation now. A big thanks to all of you!

Keep in mind as you plan your programs for this year and next that we encourage all of these programs, but we would like to see one hundred percent participation once again next year in the Live Your Dream Award and let me know if I can provide any assistance in the area of programs. Enjoy your holidays!



## *Live Your Dream—DeForrest Ingram*

Ladies, your S I of Americas has put together a great "Live Your Dream" Club Participation Toolkit for all of us. As your Regional Chairperson for Live Your Dream, I have found it to be an invaluable resource for information on Live Your Dream questions. Just go to SIA website and click on the Live Your Dream For Members Only section. I do hope that each club has already checked the online applications and your are beginning to receive local ones from your area. Please feel free to call me (334-546-3882) or email [dfingram@gmail.com](mailto:dfingram@gmail.com). My address is DeForrest Ingram, 103 Foxhall Road, Pike Road, AL 36064. Several Clubs awarded more than one winner. And another thing to consider is helping recipients in other ways than just money. This depends on the recipients needs and circumstances. Interviews will help determine this. Hope each club participates this year to make an impact on a woman's life in your area.



## *Dream It, Be It—Marsha McGrath*

Greetings to you as I embark on my second term as your chair for DIBI! The new information I have for you may help you become involved in this exciting and important program for teenaged girls. Please take a look at the changes and consider making a difference in your communities.

The DIBI program had great success in its first biennium. 408 clubs (7 in SR) participated with 432 or 34% actively engaged. 8,634 girls participated (97 in SR). Clubs acquired 115 new members (1 in SR) as a result of the program, so recruitment is an extra benefit. 90% of participants feel more confident about their future success, while 87% feel more prepared to pursue their career goals. Let's double our numbers in the next biennium.

Nora Blumenstein, Program Manager, shared new exciting information with the Regional Chairs last month. She encouraged clubs that feel overwhelmed with the new girl program to **start small** with as few as five to eight girls. If your club already works with a group of girls, for example, select the seniors to participate. Provide information from as few as **three segments** of the curriculum tailoring the program to your club's ability. Clubs at District I and II echoed this idea as they encouraged clubs to participate by thinking of their girls' needs and the clubs' comfort in presenting. Clubs should provide program consistency by using the SIA materials, the curriculum, DIBI name and logo, and provide the program to high school level girls.

Clubs are asked to provide compliance with SIA Working with Youth, reading specific materials for youth program providers. SIA continues to recommend InfoCubic for background checks, but will accept those required by local agencies. SIA requires this procedure for any programs where clubs work with minors. Club treasurers are charged with keeping background check results using Office 365 One Write and instructions are found in the SIA website under Guide to Office 365. More information about compliance will be provided after the next conference call in November. Please send any **questions** your club has to me at my email address [keykey34698@yahoo.com](mailto:keykey34698@yahoo.com) by **November 2** or call me at 727-386-2134.

The transmittal form on which clubs report their DIBI project(s) **changes** this month, October, and clubs are asked to wait until the new form is available to submit any project results. I will forward it as soon as I receive it. Your DIBI committee chair or team member submits this form to me **one month after completion of the project** (no longer in February). A separate transmittal form is required per program. Evaluation forms should include all projects and are still due to Nora Blumenstein at SIA HQ electronically by June 15 each year.

More help is on the way from SIA HQ during the 2016-17 year, such as a PowerPoint presentation for use with the curriculum, PowerPoint career overview, a one page information sheet to distribute to prospective community partners and a dream collage with positive quotes and images.



If you were unable to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> SIA convention to see the SI Tampa Teen Achievers skit, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb6WqXakjvI&feature=youtu.be>

**SI Tampa Dream It, Be It participants at SIA convention in Orlando.**

## *Soroptimists Celebrating Success—Angie Krumenacher*

### **Bragging!**

Every club has something to brag about. Whether it is about an increase in *membership*, the wonderful *programs* your club was involved with, how you raised money in exciting *fundraising* events or how you let everyone know the good work your club does through your *public awareness* channels. Southern Region is no different! Soroptimists Celebrating Success awards recognizes outstanding club projects that help improve the lives of women and girls through programs within the community.

This year, Southern Region has received several entries and will select a finalist in each of the four pillar areas, including *membership, programs, fundraising and public awareness*. These entries will be judged by a committee from the South Atlantic Region and will be announced at our Southern Region Conference in April 2017.

Since our deadline has closed for this year, start thinking about the great work you do in your club and begin bragging before next year's deadline July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Good luck to all clubs!



### *Ruby Lee Minar Soroptimist Memorial Fund Nancy Kitchens, President*

Since the Southern Region established this program in 1997, six women have been assisted in getting their graduate degrees with interest-free loans from our Southern Region. Five of these loans have been paid back in full, and one is currently being paid off. **Thanks to your help in getting the word out, this year the RLM Board has already reviewed and approved two new loan applications of exceptional young women who need our help getting their graduate degrees.** That's a great start, but we could be doing even more - we have sufficient funds for another four loans!

Do you know someone who is trying to get a graduate degree and could use some funding assistance? The Ruby Lee Minar Soroptimist Memorial Fund, Inc. provides interest-free loans to women graduate students. It's available to legal residents of the states/territories of the Southern Region who are NOT a Soroptimist and NOT related to a RLM Board or Southern Region Board member.

Do your past Live Your Dream recipients need help getting their graduate degrees? Help them fill out an application!

Provide the Dean of Women's Studies at your local college with the information you got at your District Meeting, or download electronic copies from:

<http://soroptimistsr.org/rlm-project/>

## Club News

### SI Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach

The Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach Club of Soroptimist International was honored to have 30 Nominees be part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards ceremony. This event is the culmination of much hard work by the WOD Committee and the incredible support of our Honorary Chair, Terry Fedele.



The Women of distinction Breakfast is a tradition that pays homage to women who are outstanding role models. We are delighted that so many community members will get to know these nominees and their impressive efforts: These leader are raising the bar, and their Nominators likewise deserve kudos for recognizing these champions' actions.

As co-Presidents, we hope this program inspires to celebrate the “Women of Distinction” in your own lives and further engage in community service. Advocacy for women and girls is the core mission of Soroptimist International; human trafficking awareness/prevention is another.

Saint Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things. But all of us can do small things with great love.”

*Heidi Schaeffer MD and Mariela Montgomery*

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### SI Pompano Beach

Soroptimist International of Pompano Beach held their annual SOLT meeting at the beautiful home of our Historian, Judy Sullivan, on September 28, 2016. At the meeting we inducted three new members. From left to right we have, Dana Aliaga, Membership Chairperson, and new members, Becky Walzak, Pamela Sargent, and Beverly Payton.

We now have 51 members!

*Fonnie K Gill*  
*Publicity Chairperson*



## SI Davie

### Summer “Fun” raiser

After returning from Soroptimist International of the America’s convention in Orlando, SI Davie got to work putting the final touches to our annual “Golfing Fore Good” golf tournament. For the past 22 years, we have had one major fundraiser, which supports and funds the women and children in our community.

Golf tournaments are proven fundraisers and a lot of hard work and teamwork is needed to make them successful. The entire membership came together to solicit ads for our memento golf booklet, obtain golf teams, sponsors, goodie bag items for our golfers, gifts for our silent auction, and the raffle basket items. Our golf chair found the perfect golf course, and set the price for the teams and sponsors.

The day of the event members worked the registration table, distributed goodie bags, sold raffle tickets for chances on our baskets, made sure all the golfers had their continental breakfast, sold mulligans, acted as hole monitors and provided the golfers with sponsored drink refreshments throughout the tournament.

Once the tournament was concluded, a sponsored lunch was prepared by the country club. Donated items for our silent auction were made available for the golfers’ bid, sports memorabilia was also introduced to bid. Throughout lunch, members sold more raffle tickets and golfers still had a chance to bid on silent auction items and sports memorabilia.

Soroptimist International of Davie has sponsored many scholarships for women through our Live Your Dream Award, and for young women and their charity through Violet Richardson Award. We also have our local projects, Project Stable, Hope Outreach, PACE Center for Girls, Relay for Life, Davie Elementary, Old Davie School, Human Trafficking Awareness, and our annual SIA Club Giving.

Imagine, having FUN while “Golfing Fore Good”, raising money for the women and children in our community.

*Angie Krumenacher, President*



## SI St Lucie

### "Purses of Love Project"



Soroptimist of St. Lucie has adopted Pace Center for Teens as our Signature project. Several members along with President Ruth hosted a purses of love celebration . There were 37 teens present. We were welcomed with love, and the teens were so grateful for their purses. The beautiful smiles on their faces and their hugs showed love. We were so happy as we encouraged them to strive for the highest. We truly enjoyed ourselves as we made a difference in their life.



*Ruth Davis, President*

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## SI Tampa

### Plant Sale



From SI Tampa, we had our bi-annual plant sale this weekend, October 8th and 9th at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. We attend this event twice a year in April and October. It is one of our biggest fundraisers. We use the monies from these events to fund our Live Your Dream scholarships.



*Rosetta Peacock, President*

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## SI Pinellas County

### Human Trafficking Workshop



Soroptimist of Pinellas County held a Human Trafficking Workshop at the East Clearwater Library on July 7<sup>th</sup> for the teen volunteer program. This library branch serves our growing Hispanic community so the presentation materials were in both Spanish

and English. There was a good turnout of about 25 people, but what surprised me were the number of men (brothers, husbands, sons) that attended the event. A short video was presented that explained how easily a girl can be tricked into being trafficked. There were a lot of wide eyes after the video. We plan on doing another one in January.



*Betsi Lewis, President*

## SI Homestead



With the installation of our new board in July, we installed a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation President, Danielle Zimmerman. Since July, we have installed 2 more members. (2016-2018 Board pic attached),



In August, we hosted the Southern Region Board Meeting and had a fabulous dinner meeting our new board. (picture attached with SR Board and SI Homestead).



In September, a few members volunteered with Farm Share and distributed food to families in need. In November, we will be having our 2<sup>nd</sup> Passion for Purses Boutique Fundraiser. We will also be donating full Thanksgiving meals to over 50 Migrant families.

Since July, we have donated 4 more Baskets of Care to women with life altering illnesses to let them know that we are there for them. (Basket recipient picture attached) Although we would love for this project to see an end, we will always continue to donate Baskets with items such as Lotions, coloring books, magazines, gift cards, meal delivery and Miracle Fruit to help those that are undergoing Chemo Therapy.



Oh, we also have 2 new Grandmothers in our Club- Coy Pena and Patty Accursio!

*Danielle Zimmerman, President*

## SI Music City Nashville

SI Music City Nashville started the summer with a bang with our first summer social on June 25th at the home of Nancy Los. Members bought appetizers, wine, and guests as we relaxed in the poolside gardens. There was a brief presentation on what our club does followed by the installations of the 2016-2017 officers by District Director Karen.



Several of our guests joined us at our next meeting featuring actress, author and philanthropist Jennifer O'Neill. Her Hope and Healing at Hillenglade in Nashville supports military warriors and their families. Among her many topics she speaks about, Teen Suicide Prevention and her work at Hillenglade were the subjects at our meeting.

Our ongoing project, "Operation Birthday" supplies everything necessary to celebrate a birthday for the survivors of human trafficking. The Birthday Box contains party supplies to have on hand and we deliver a cake for each birthday.



*Priscilla Tatarsky, President*