

Fall
2006

Southern Accent

News from Soroptimist of the Americas Southern Region

Governor's Message: Five Months and 900 Incredible Miles



The first five months of the new biennium are behind us. July 1, 2006 seems like yesterday. Having traveled 900 miles and visiting four district meetings has encouraged me as to the state of the Southern Region. The Soroptimist spirit of friendship, enthusiasm and contribution to the community is alive and well.

Governor's Round Table

July started with twenty-eight new Governor's for the 2006-2008 biennium gathering for the Governor's Round Table in Philadelphia, PA for two days of intense knowledge building. We soon found that keeping up with the changes in Federation and International would be a challenge. Joining us, prior to convention for training and orientation, were our three Renaissance Chairs, Membership (Mary Jo Horton), Fundraising (Judi Rosentreter), and Public Awareness (Hilda Zofrea), as well as our Emerging Leader, President Terri Tudico. We thank them for traveling at their own expense and their dedication to the Southern Region goals.

SIA Convention

Thirty-four Southern Region members attended the 39th Biennial SIA Convention. Traditional costumes, music of the city, Federation officers in traditional costume and a visit from Benjamin Franklin, opened the friendship dinner. Eighteen Countries in the Federation were highlighted and the exchange of friendships began. Awards luncheons, tour of SIA Headquarters, and the Laurel Society reception added to the excitement. Meetings included updates on the Renaissance Campaign, Project Independence, workshops and SIA bylaws and resolutions. Exceptional and well-informed speakers continually graced the stage.

Past Governor Voncile Rayner received honors for Southern Region Clubs 2005 participation in the Women's Opportunity Award, Founders Pennies donations, Annual Club Award, and bronze level contributions to the Club Campaign.

Entertainment depicting the cultural diversity of Philadelphia was outstanding. Thursday evening, the oldest restaurant in the city, "Bookbinders" was the gathering place for twenty-four members. Together we celebrated the new biennium with good food, and entertainment. Friday evening was "Philly Steak" Duck Tour of the city by land and sea. We will all remember quacking. It was an extra treat for me to share my hometown of Philadelphia with so many.

An elaborate presentation invited us to the 2008 convention in Taipei, Taiwan. The recognition banquet, speeches from outgoing President Jean Barth and incoming President Tes Choa, concluded another outstanding SIA Convention.

August Southern Region 2006-2008 Board Meeting

Your effective SR Board met for three days in Plantation, Florida to set their goals for the biennium. The most important change was the motion to appoint Director Caroline Faegly as District Three/Four Director for the remainder of the biennium. We thank Director Caroline for accepting this responsibility and the board pledged to assist her as needed.

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Governor Elect's Message: Making A Difference



For me, it all began eleven years ago when my friend invited me to a SI/ Stuart meeting. She told me it was a great way to meet some wonderful, smart women. I did. Each year my circle of wonderful, smart women gets larger and larger; starting with the board members on the club level to everyone I have worked with on Southern Region Board and clubs and even the Federation members I've met at meetings. I am very proud to be a part of this great organization of ours, Soroptimist International. This fall I had the opportunity to attend all four of our District meetings and share with you how we are "Making a Difference" on the international level.

I want to thank Governor Connie and the District Directors for giving me the opportunity to get to know you all and share with you. It was both interesting and fun.

I was asked to facilitate the District III meeting. I spent several weeks in the south and was welcomed by all the clubs in District III and enjoyed the hospitality of

SI/Tuscaloosa. Governor Connie and I even received the key to the city of Tuscaloosa. At this meeting we learned how Soroptimists "step up" when needed. Caroline Feagley did so in accepting the District III as well as District IV Directorship. Theresa Carrington also stepped up and spoke to us about our Programs and "Recognizing One Woman at a Time". She reviewed SIA's four major programs (Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson, Making a Difference and Grants). Ramona Blankenship gave us an update on the Southern Region Fundraising. We learned how all the clubs are "Making a Difference, One Woman at a Time". The Saturday of Service Luncheon, Bosom Buddies Celebration of Life (SI/ Atlanta, GA), Katrina Disaster Help (SI/ Columbus, MS), Trash to Treasure (SI/ Tuscaloosa, AL), S.T.A.R. (SI/ Montgomery, AL) are just some of the worthwhile projects they reported on.

As Chair for International Projects I gave an update on the December 10th Appeal and Project Independence. Soroptimist International's President Lynn Dunning's asks us to make a small sacrifice by contributing to these worthwhile projects. Just to review, this year's December 10th Appeal helps us commemorate United Nations Human Rights Day by donating our monies toward helping young girls in a very poor area of the world, Punjab Province in Pakistan. We are partnering

with Oxfam, an international relief organization. (Oxfam stands for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief.) This organization works toward changing attitudes in countries that condone violence against women. The main purpose of the appeal is to raise funds to educate the girls by training 40 teachers in women's issues and child-friendly teaching techniques, adding 24 classrooms, rehabilitate the schools and in the process raise awareness on the importance of equal access of education to both girls and boys. Please help these girls "Dare to Dream" of what they can become and contribute to this worthwhile project.

This is the last year of the current Quadrennial Project. In 2003 – 2007 during Lynn Dunning presidency, our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas proposed a project that partners Soroptimist International with Women for Women International, Project Independence: Women Survivors of War. The money raised helps women rebuild their lives following war & civil conflict, through Sponsorship, Renewing Life Skills and Income Generation Support. It costs \$330 in direct aid to sponsor a woman in this program. In July Soroptimist International went over the goal of 1200 women sponsored with Twelve hundred and six (1206) women involved in the skills and vocational training offered. Over 600 loans have been made to these women.

Emotional support is lent by as-

signing correspondents to each of the women in the program and twenty Southern Region members have become correspondents for one year. Our group started corresponding in June with a sister in Rwanda. My sister has written some beautiful letters and is so grateful that I take the time to correspond with her. She says "You showed me amazing love but I too love you though I have not seen you. I wish I could see you at least once. You helped me to come out of hopelessness, I had too much sorrow and the usual poverty....I am an orphan but I no longer bother because you took away my sorrow." I never thought that such a small thing as a letter would impact another person's life.

As of July 2006 over \$900,000 had been raised for Project Independence but there is a goal of 1.2 million and the deadline is next July. The Project Liaison is Dawn Marie Lemons and she will be our guest at the next Southern Region Conference. It would be so good to let her know how we have helped them reach their goals. Each of us can "Make a Difference" to these women. If you are looking for ideas for fundraising there are examples of projects on the website, WomenforWomenInternational.org. There is a Bazaar of articles the women have made and you may be purchase those you like. For more information on both these projects www.SoroptimistInternational.org, Login = member, PW = Cambridge, the SIA website Soroptimist.org

2006-2008 Southern Region Board

Governor

Connie T. Desko

Governor Elect

Nidia Bernstiel

Region Secretary

Deborah Hultquist

Region Treasurer

Sonja Y. Davis

District I Director

Elaine K. Hollander

District II Director

Betsi Lewis

District III/IV Director

Caroline Feagley

Parliamentarian

Sandra Baumann

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Leadership Training and District Meetings

Starting September 22 through October 14, 2006, we saw and heard the heart and soul of the Southern Region in action. Each weekend, Soroptimist in four cities joined on Friday afternoon for leadership training and their Saturday District Meeting. The venue began at 1 p.m., giving members time to arrive, and check into local hotels.

"Balancing Our Lives" and 21 Points of Leadership were covered and each club received a Club Guide Book as a gift from the Governor. We thank Past Federation and Past Governor Ann Decatrel for updating our Southern Region Bylaws. A question and answer session followed in every District. Each of the 125 attending members was tossed a Soroptimist International ball to remind them that we are members of the largest women's organization in the world.

I wish you all could have traveled with me to experience the dedication to our Soroptimist goals. The organization of each District meeting by our Governor Elect Nidia, our three Directors, Elaine, Betsi and Caroline was of the highest quality.

Thank you to our host clubs, Soroptimist International of Greater Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Tuscaloosa and Nashville. Congratulations on your organization, excellent choice of menu, door prizes and good old fashion hospitality.

Our host clubs next year will be:

District I, October 12-13, 2007 hosted by SI/St. Lucie; District II, October 5-6, 2007, hosted by SI/Tampa; District III, September 28-29, 2007, hosted by SI/Columbus, MS; District IV September 21-22, 2007, hosted by SI/ Music City.

On October 3, 1921, the Soroptimist Club of Alameda County was founded in Oakland, CA with 80-chartered members. As those women stepped up to the challenges of their day, so we must step up to the challenges of today. Become the best recruiter in your club and help the Southern Region grow, just as our founders did. Remember, working together we truly can "improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world!" ***"We Can Do It!"***

The holiday season is now upon us. I wish you all safe travel and happy times.

Southern Region Conference May 4-6, 2007

Holiday Inn Key Largo, Florida

Pool Side Rooms: \$149

Standard Rooms: \$129

www.holidayinnkeylargo.com

(304)451-2121 or (866)240-6311

Information from Homestead Club

e-mail keystosuccess07@aol.com



Southern Region Renaissance Membership Update

Mary-Jo Horton, 2006-2008 Renaissance Membership Chair



By now you've heard of Soroptimist International of the America's Renaissance Campaign. It is a five year – 2004 to 2009–Revitalization Campaign built around four specific areas, MEMBERSHIP being one of the four.

SIA's Renaissance Membership Goals

1) 50,000 members by 2009. As of May 2006, the current member number was 41,875. Three years remain to add another 8,125 members. Individual clubs

are asked to add *FOUR* new members each year to make this happen.

How can we, in Southern Region, help? By strengthening our individual club memberships so that every Southern Region club has a minimum of *TWENTY* members. More is certainly acceptable! That computes to 60 new members (net) in Southern Region during this biennium.

As women interested in affiliating with Soroptimist move into Southern Region locations, their names will be sent to nearby club presidents to pursue them as prospective new members.

and Z Generations who seek mission-focused projects, a flexible club environment and self gratification.

3) Chartering new clubs. We in Southern Region are challenged to make this happen – and we do have prospects! However, building existing club membership is the first and foremost goal.

Look for Renaissance Membership updates via e-mail to Club Presidents monthly and in each edition of Southern Accent. Reach me at mhorton@mmhs-fla.org, or phone 772-287-3937.

2) Lowering the member age to 58 or younger. This means we must explore how to meet the expectations of the X, Y

**SOUTHERN REGION
REVITALIZATION –
CAN DO/MUST DO!**

a reminder

LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS NEWS

Proposed amendments to Region ByLaws, or to Region Procedures related to financial matters, or any resolutions, which are to be considered at Region Conference in 2007, must be submitted at least 120 days prior to Conference (by January 3, 2007) to Laws and Procedures Chair,

Alicia Zachman, P.O. Box 9, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302 (See Form A - Procedures), copy to Governor and copy to Secretary.”

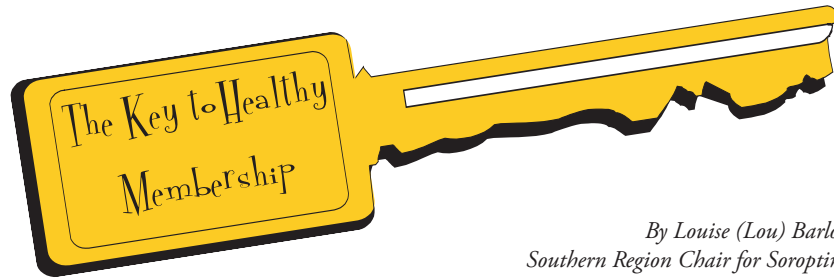


Governor Connie's
Three Wishes

Woman's Opportunity Award: 100% Club Participation in all 26 Clubs in the Southern Region

Founder's Pennies: 100% Club Participation - \$3.44 donation per member through May 31, 2007

Annual Club Campaign: Each club make SIA a priority when planning distribution of service funds. These donations provide the cash grants, brochures, applications and tools for club use of the federation administered programs. This is an investment in the OUR organization and shows support for the belief that we can all do more together than we can individually.



By Louise (Lou) Barlow,
Southern Region Chair for Soroptimist Orientation

“Wine on the Mountain” with SI/Huntsville

Cool wine and warm company make a hard-to-beat combination. Toss in a picture-perfect venue, and you’ve got a splendid party. All three came together at a “Wine on the Mountain” fundraiser hosted by SI/Huntsville at the beautiful Monte Sano Lodge.

Patrons enjoyed national and international wines hand-picked by a trio of Huntsville distributors. In addition, there was food, music, a silent auction and raffle that raised over \$9,200 for Crisis Services of North Alabama, an agency that operates a 24-hour crisis hotline, an emergency response and shelter program for victims of domestic abuse, and a rape response program.

In 2004, SIA rolled out the Renaissance Campaign, a major revitalization campaign with goals in membership, fundraising, public awareness and programs. One way for clubs to fulfill the campaign’s goals is to reconsider the way they recruit and retain members.

Focusing on Soroptimist’s mission can be a powerful recruitment and retention tool. Marketing research validated the attractiveness of our mission to modern business and professional women, and clubs have proven that year after year they can recruit new members.

Could your club use a few more hands to ensure the success of your club and its projects? The following suggestions may be the key for some of the ways to recruit and retain members.

1. Ask women who are not members to help with your next service project. Tell them what your club is trying to achieve and ask for their assistance. Try to involve them in making a difference through their contribution of time, money or in-kind goods or services. Even the busiest woman will rarely refuse to help out when asked for something specific. If she cannot honor your request, chances are good that you will receive a donation

or an offer to help in the future. You may also have “planted the seeds” for an invitation to membership.

2. Once a woman has been asked to join, immediate involvement in a meaningful project is a must. This approach will make a huge difference in your ability to recruit and retain today’s time-deprived and pressured professional women. Let her know that the time she has to devote to the club will be valued and appreciated by the club and time well spent on her part.

3. Assess your club’s program and fundraising goals. Are there lots of projects with too little impact? Are you continuing to do the same projects because “we have always done it that way?” Are you conducting fundraisers with specific goals in mind, or are you raising money and then deciding what to do with it?

4. Conduct an annual appraisal of the frequency, location and length of meetings. Try something different if your attendance is low, or if the meetings just don’t seem to be very different or fun anymore.

5. Create special events. Invitations to social events such as a wine and cheese reception can be one recruitment strategy, but it

shouldn’t be the only one. Too often clubs rely on one annual recruitment event and forget the membership is an ongoing concern in a vibrant club.

“immediate involvement in a meaningful project is a must!”

6. Is your club flexible? Family and work demands vary greatly in this fast paced world. Cultivate a supportive, friendly, flexible environment within your club. Maintain an atmosphere in which people with different needs, personalities and interests work together as a team to accomplish common goals.

You are part of an organization whose members, through their international connections and outreach, desire to make a real difference in the lives of women and girls. Renaissance members and clubs are committed to trying new approaches to membership recruitment and retention. Flexibility, self-evaluation and engaging, mission-focused projects are the key to a happy and healthy membership.

District News

DISTRICT I MEETING



Elaine Hollander, District Director



Sixty-three Soroptimists attended the District I Meeting hosted by SI/Ft. Lauderdale, including all 11 presidents of District One. We were fortunate to have all four Renaissance Chairpersons speak, explain their roles and answer questions.

Governor Connie reported on the Philadelphia Convention and shared photographs, and Governor-Elect Nidia make a power point presentation about International Projects. This presentation was followed by Cynthia Cummings accepting nominations for the Ruby Lee Minor Director

Following a luncheon and a very impactful presentation by a guest speaker on protecting against "Cyber Spooks" based on her personal experience, six clubs made presentations for the Governor's Service Award. SI/Naples' Butterfly Project for the Pace Center was selected to represent District I at the Southern Region Conference.

To end the meeting, four club presidents served on a panel to discuss their "best practices" including fund-raising, membership growth, projects and programming. It was a very informative and helpful meeting, and SI/Fort Lauderdale did a beautiful job making us feel welcome and comfortable.



District News

DISTRICT II MEETING

“Reaching Out to the World” in Orlando, FL October 6-7, 2006

Submitted by Betsi Lewis, District II Director



District II members and guests raise a toast to Soroptimist International of Orlando, Holiday Isles and Tampa as they jointly celebrate their 50th birthdays.

This was a special District meeting as three (yes three!) of the six clubs in District II celebrated the 50th anniversary of their chartering this year. The clubs honored were Orlando, Holiday Isles and Tampa. What a remarkable achievement!

Friday afternoon, Governor Connie had a wonderful session on “What Makes a Good Leader?” She also prepared an excellent club notebook to assist each club with their organization.

Over 20 Soroptimists attended this session.

Friday night SI/Orlando hosted a fantastic celebration for the Golden Anniversary Clubs. There was champagne, cake, fruit, cheese and lots of other goodies. Helen Bailey, a former member of SI/Orlando and now a Soroptimist in Ohio, came to the meeting to assist in this celebration.

The theme was “Reaching Out to the World” and we were lucky to have Past Governor and Renaissance Membership Chair Mary Jo Horton, SI/Stuart, speak on recruiting and retaining club members. Then, Governor-Elect Nidia Berstiel, SI/Stuart, gave a wonderful presentation on Project Independence, Founders’ Pennies, December 10th appeal, and other international service projects. She was followed by Claudia Scott, a new Soroptimist, who did an extremely entertaining talk on Women for Women, an international organization that SI partners with to help women from war torn countries. In fact, Claudia originally learned of Soroptimist through Women for Women.

Susan Kimeria, SI/Orlando and formerly of SI/Kenya, came dressed in native clothing and talked about her personal experiences helping rescue Soroptimists

and other women and children from Rwanda when the genocide began there, an incredible story that made this atrocity very real for everyone in the room.

Diana Miller, SI/Tampa, did some wonderful research on the United Nations and its relationship with SI. Betsi Lewis made a short presentation, and Diana had some very interesting hand-outs explaining this partnership.

Darlene Kalada, SI/Largo/Mid-Pinellas, spoke about Friendship Links and the importance of everyone remembering that we are part of a world-wide organization. She has made some wonderful friends in Japan through the Friendship link program.

Whew! That was just the morning session!

After lunch, Governor Connie gave a recap of the Soroptimist Convention in Philadelphia. Gail Pletcher, SI/Holiday Isles, reported on the District II Service Project, whereby each club donates money to help a newly formed club in another country begin their Women’s Opportunity Award program. SI/Holiday Isles chose the Philippines for their emerging club, but has yet to hear of the results. SI/Lake County will continue the program this year.

SI/Orlando did an outstanding job as hosts for the District II meeting. Kudos to this club!!



District II Director Betsi Lewis celebrates at the District II 50th birthday party.

District News

DISTRICT III AND IV MEETINGS

Submitted by Caroline Feagley, District III/IV Director

As the seasons change once again from a very hot summer to a crisp Autumn, so did the workings of the Southern Region of Soroptimist. Sometimes change is planned and well thought out and implemented according to a planned schedule of events. And then there are unexpected changes. Both are accepted and successful.

But as variety is the spice of life, so is the organization of our Southern Region.

We started our biennium with

Four Districts each represented by a District Director. Well, times have truly changed and we now have 3 District Directors. It was made apparent at the Southern Region Board meeting that due to the resignation of the District III Director that it was time to regroup. The Southern Region Board suggested making the region more evenly distributed. It was suggested that District IV Director would assume the District III for the remainder of the biennium. I accepted this additional responsibility because I thought it was the right thing to do. One never knows where your path will take you. If you're dedicated to the service you serve, you accept responsibility bestowed upon you. I had a feeling of incompetence,



and am I really prepared for this. As the time has passed I feel this is as natural as waking up. Summer has changed to Autumn and so are our plans to build the best

Region in the Americas.

With the help and cooperation of all club presidents and their club members we can be the best District III and IV in the history of this region.

. With your continued help and cooperation we can make these transitions the best for the Southern Region.. May we grow together in spirit, activities and friendships.

Both District III and IV District Meetings were most professional and inspiring. I am always humbled and in awe of all the work

we all do to improve the lives of women and children.

As Governor Connie and I traveled almost 800 miles within 10 days to participate in two District Meetings and visit two clubs, Columbus, Ms.(my what a well kept secret) and Huntsville our time together was inspiring and invigorating. And for Dear Governor Connie it was somewhat of a learning experience. First we introduced her to Kudzu. And second we indoctrinated her into the priorities of setting future District III and IV Meeting dates. Number one priority is the SEC football schedule. I don't think she's yet to recover from that. Hahahaha!

AS the frost is truly on the pumpkins tonight, we prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday. This year I am truly blessed to lead, inspire or follow all the clubs in District III and IV. May you all have reason to be thankful family and friends this holiday season.

SI/Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach Celebrates Women

SI/Boca Raton-Deerfield Beach 33rd Annual Women of Distinction Breakfast held on Wednesday, October 18th, 2006. Pictured is Governor Connie with President Maureen Burke and member and sponsor of the event Elizabeth Wilsman. Over 300 people attended the Awards Ceremony.





SI/Montgomery Makes a Summer Splash



SI/Montgomery and STAR (Standing Together Against Rape), a part of the Lighthouse Counseling Center, has teamed up for the STAR Summer Splash service project since 2003. Pictured left to right are: Assistant Director of the Lighthouse Counseling Center Teresa Houser, Executive Director Candyce DeKruyff, and Board Member Ceil Champion enjoy the success of the STAR Summer Splash. Mrs. Champion is immediate past President of Soroptimist International of Montgomery—a sponsor of the event—and the Splash’s co-creator.

SI/Largo Productive and Impressive First Year

Submitted by June Wallace

SI/Largo has reason to be proud of their hard work and accomplishments for their first year. They held their first Women’s Opportunity Award Luncheon on March 8, 2006. Through some impressive Public Relations work the club was selected for a “Bay News 9 Everyday Heroes” award. The 5 minute segment was taped at the cooking class and aired several times during the daytime and evening local news reports.

The club has also supported the Pinellas Village projects through many different means. A monthly collection at meetings of personal items has offered continuous support. SI/Largo also provided seven Life Skills/Parenting Classes over 6 months, including a 4 hour cooking class.

“It’s Your Birthday” Party was given September 23rd, 2005 and was a joint venture between 3 Pinellas County Soroptimist Clubs. SI/Largo furnished approximately 100 wrapped Birthday Gifts, SI/Upper Pinellas decorated the Community Room and SI/Holiday Isles brought many additional wrapped gifts and helped serve and clean up. All the residents were treated to a great Italian dinner paid for by two Soroptimists who were celebrating milestone Birthdays.

“Secret Santa” came on December 14th. Each child got to select from a huge array of gifts which was then boxed, wrapped, decorated and identified with a label created by the child. The children also had their picture taken with Santa.

On Earth Day, April 22nd, Home Depot donated a tractor

trailer load of mulch, a truck load of rubber mulch, tools, garden gloves, trash bags and the labor of several of their associates who worked with residents and Soroptimists to spruce up the long neglected landscaping at Pinellas Village. Soroptimist members also worked with the young children to create their own potted plants, painting flower pots and filling them with gravel, soil, and seeds. SI/Largo members fed this crowd of Earth Day workers a hot dog luncheon and lots of water and cold drinks.

The club has also jumped into their second year with as much vigor and excitement as they did their first. In October the club supported The Soroptimist’s Public Awareness Campaign Against Domestic Violence by passing out bookmarks that list symptoms to raise awareness.

One side of the bookmark has a smiley face and says, “Loves Me ... Makes me feel safe. Listens to me. Values my opinions.” The flip side has a frowny face and says, “Loves me not” and “is jealous, is possessive, tries to control me.” SI/Largo has printed 25,000 bookmarks (5,000 in Spanish) and is a tool they have put into many hands through a campaign that includes a partnership with the Largo Police Department,

In addition to the bookmarks, the group gave a domestic violence presentation to the Largo Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 14. In acknowledgment of Nov. 25, International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, the group placed small “hotline cards” in women’s bathrooms and other areas that detailed how to get assistance if one is in a domestic and violent situation.

Statement on Violence Against Women

Lynn Dunning, President of Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International supports the findings of a report issued by the United Nations Secretary General's Office defining all violence against women as a violation of human rights. The report, entitled "In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women," concludes that violence against women "persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights" and urges States to protect women from violence, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide justice and assistance to victims.

"We applaud the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to draw attention to the plight of women and girls subjected to violence both within and outside of the home, through the issuance of this comprehensive report," stated Soroptimist International President Lynn Dunning. "I hope that it will serve as a guide for activities commemorating the UN International Day to End Violence Against Women on 25 November 2006.

In recognition of the UN Secretary General's report, Soroptimist International calls upon its clubs and members to utilize the principles of "awareness, advocacy and action" to urge governments locally and globally to help create and sustain environments where women can live free from gender-based violence through the implementation of international legal norms, standards and policies.

Soroptimist International believes that violence of any kind is intolerable and in particular condemns the use and/or threat of all violence against women. Acts of violence endanger women physically, mentally, emotionally and economically, perpetuating and reinforcing unjustifiable inequalities in all aspects of women's lives.

Soroptimist International recognizes education as the key to the prevention of violence, and urges the provision of appropriate programmes for victims and potential victims; of legal enforcement systems and the education of the media in order to address human rights protection, provision of resources and personal responsibility.



Soroptimist International Convention Best Practice Award for 2007



At the July 2007 Soroptimist International convention in Glasgow, each federation addressing the provision of clean water and sanitation will be honored as A Lasting Legacy. SI President Lynn Dunning and Immediate Past President Joan Cromer have selected this topic for the SI Convention best practice award. The project can be current, new or recently completed. Clubs interested in applying for the Lasting Legacy award should send a program focus report and narrative, in English, to SIA head-

quarters by March 1, 2007. The SIA board of directors will select the top three projects to send to Soroptimist International for final selection by the SI President, Immediate Past President, President-elect and Programme Director. One project will be chosen from each federation as a Best Practice and the winning clubs will present their project, in English, at the SI convention in Glasgow. For more information about the award, please contact program@soroptimist.org. For more information about the Glasgow convention, please visit the SI web site at <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/>.



Jane Hoffman Emerging Leader Award

This award was designed to enable Soroptimist to identify and nurture leadership skills in a group of women who have demonstrated a commitment to the Soroptimist mission but have not yet held a leadership position beyond the club level. Candidates shall be active club members for less than five years who have not pursued leadership opportunities beyond the club. Applications can be found in the library in the member's only section of the web site and should be mailed directly to SIA headquarters on or before February 15th, 2007 with a copy to your Governor. A Soroptimist Emerging Leaders Forum will be held in Philadelphia on August 23rd, 2007.



Member-2-Member Marketplace

SIA has announced the availability of a new membership benefit for Soroptimists, the Member-2-Member Marketplace. The marketplace is an online directory located in the members-only section of <http://www.soroptimist.org/> that is intended to connect members with other members, creating a virtual marketplace of what is best for women.

The Member-2-Member Marketplace provides Soroptimist members with a unique, low-cost way

to create an Internet presence by giving them an entry point from the Soroptimist website to their home page or email account. The \$99 fee entitles members to a 12-month listing that includes email and/or website address and a 25-word business description. Members who choose not to post a listing can support the marketplace – and other Soroptimists – by making it a frequent stop during their Internet visits.

For more information on this

new benefit, visit the members-only section of <http://www.soroptimist.org/>. There are no listings in the directory now, but SIA is hoping marketing efforts will soon change that. During the pilot stage, activity within the marketplace will be monitored, including total listings, revenue, and usage, to determine if and when adjustments need to be made, such as enabling online submission of forms and offering different display options for the directory.

New from Project Independence

Submitted by Governor Elect Nidia

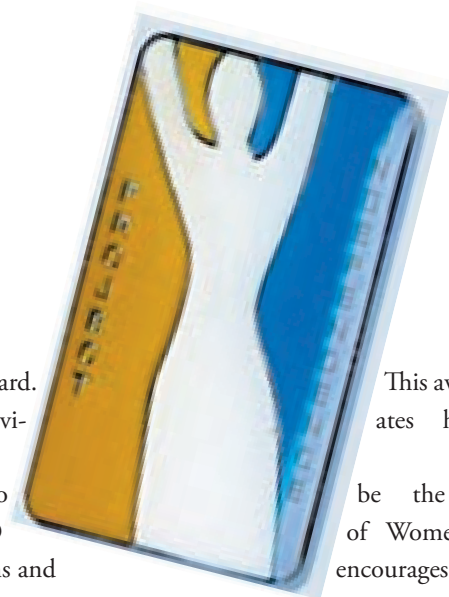
Women for Women International has received the 2006 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award, presented each year by the Hilton Foundation to an organization that "significantly alleviates suffering". The prize is worth 1.5 million.

"We are incredibly proud and grateful to receive the Hilton Humanitarian Prize, and to women's organization recognized with this honor," said Zainab Salbi, President and CEO Women International. "It reinforces our vision that stronger women build stronger nations and work harder to bring the voices and concerns of the women we serve to the forefront."

Book Release

"The Other Side of War", the second book from Zainab Salbi, founder and CEO of Women for Women International, has been released. "Women's Stories of Survival & Hope" takes the readers into the heart of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Congo, Rwanda and Sudan to tell you stories of the women who daily reclaim the lives of their families and communities from the ashes of conflict.

Zainab's first book, a memoir titled "Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam", was released in August. An excerpt from the book hints at the story, "Barely 11 years old when her father was chosen to serve as Saddam Hussein's personal pilot, Zainab and her family were often forced to spend weekends with Saddam where he watched their every move. Her mother eventually sent Zainab to America for an arranged marriage, but the marriage that was intended to save her turned out to be another world of tyranny and abuse. Zainab started over. She forged a new identity as a champion of women survivors of war and founded Women for Women International." This book is now out in paperback and can be purchased through www.WomenforWomen.org.



This award is presented each year by the Hilton Foundation to an organization that "significantly alleviates suffering". The prize is worth 1.5 million. "We are incredibly proud and grateful to receive the Hilton Humanitarian Prize, and to women's organization recognized with this honor," said Zainab Salbi, President and CEO Women International. "It reinforces our vision that stronger women build stronger nations and work harder to bring the voices and concerns of the women we serve to the forefront."



Women's Opportunity Award News

Last year 1,052 women lived their dream by increasing their education or job skills so they can provide a better life for themselves and their families. We are currently reaching for 100% club participation in helping at least one woman in the Southern Region for the 2006-2007 club year.

Two New Ideas for Clubs

One, consider soliciting in-kind donations for your Women's Opportunity Award recipients. Money is not the only thing these women need. Computers, books, groceries, daycare and hair cuts are a much needed gift. Second, Ask a local business to sponsor an award.

Most tools are available in the library of the member's only section of the web site, including a public awareness speech and a full color poster that can be personalized and printed. If your club has not received any applications, contact our Southern Region Chair, Cathy Iho, at tennisiho@adelphia.net or by phone (561) 798-2318 for an at-large application.

Good Luck and remember this is our signature program and we need to honor as many women as possible.

Club Vote

Proposed Amendments to the Federation Bylaws and Resolutions mail ballots are due at SIA headquarters by Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Clubs need to carefully consider the proposals and then cast a ballot representing the will of the majority of the voting members of the club. If you have any questions regarding the mailing, please contact Governor Connie at connidesko@aol.com.



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

18th Soroptimist International Convention 2007

July 29 – August 2, 2007 - Glasgow, Scotland

“Unity of Purpose; Diversity in Action”

A very warm invitation has been extended by International President Lynn Dunning 2005-2007, to join her for the International Convention. Glasgow is a wonderful city with superb shopping,

a wide variety of cultural and arts centers and of course stunning countryside within easy access. The Governor will be happy to send you a booklet or you will find all information at www.si-convention.org. We encourage every member to attend this fascinating experience.

Laurel Society

Quilt

After visiting four District Meetings the Laurel Society Quilt (donated by Gayle Buening of the SI/Davie) is full and we have started a second round. Winners will be drawn at Spring Conference in Key Largo in May 2007.

SI/Greater Ft. Lauderdale celebrated their 60th Anniversary Party at their October meeting. SI/Coral Gables will celebrate their 60th Anniversary Party on June 16, 2007

Congratulations

Due To...

SI/Greater Ft. Lauderdale celebrated their 60th Anniversary at a party during their October meeting.

SI/Coral Gables will celebrate their 60th Anniversary Party on June 16, 2007.

New Quadrennial

Project

The new Quadrennial Project for 2007-2011 was approved by the SI Board of Directors at their August meeting in Windsor, England. It is “Project Sierra - A Family and a Future” Partners with Hope and Homes for Children in Sierra Leone.