

March, 2009

In This Issue

- Message from Governor Nidia
- Message from Governor-Elect Priscilla Tatarsky
- District News
- UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons
- Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals: "Promote gender equality and empower women"
- Want Ads

District Meetings

- District I October 23-24, Coral Gables FL,
- District II October 16-17, Holiday Isles FL,
- District III October 9-10, Columbus GA,
- District IV October 2-3, Music City TN.

July 7-10, 2010
The 41st Biennial
Convention is at the
Hilton in San Francisco,
California

"Leadership to Recruit, Retain, Re-member"

One of the best ways to cope with economic stress is to keep active and connected to friends and social circles. We are looking forward to building a "bridge over troubled waters" by gathering with you all in Huntsville to "Be the Difference" and reach for the stars. The host club has worked very hard to make sure that you attend the best conference ever. We understand the difficult times, but we encourage you all to attend. It should be an escape and it will be fun for all who go. By now, each club should have made arrangements to have at least their 3 delegates in attendance at this coming conference. We hope to educate, inspire and motivate and I know your delegates will return home with a renewed energy for Soroptimist and the work we do. Soroptimist International is truly a wonderful and fun organization.

We look forward to your attendance. Don't forget opening will be on Friday and we are hoping to have you share in our exciting NEW format with fun and business. Presidents have the agenda. Make Huntsville your destination. There are proposals, nominees for the nominating committee and Governor's Service Awards to be voted on. Please make sure your club is represented with the voting delegates you are entitled. Attend the region conference to voice your vote

A great teacher once said, "If you want to be happy, do happy things." In troubling times, it is important to seek out opportunities to be happy; to be re-enthused and re-energized. Attending Region Conference is just such an opportunity. We hope to see you there.

In The Soroptimist Spirit,
Governor Nidia



Governor Nidia Bernstiel

Newsletter Editor

joyce.jones1022@gmail.com



Historic Huntsville, AL Awaits!

April 23-26, 2009

Huntsville, AL
for the
83rd Southern Region Conference

Fly Me to the Moon!

The Countdown to Launch Continues!

www.huntsville.org

Membership



We are winding down on our club years and looking forward to the region conference in Huntsville. This is a great opportunity to show your new members the "bigger picture" of Soroptimist and use the networking and training provided to re-energize our not-so-new members. I hope to see a lot of you there.

I am encouraged with the lists of new members I have seen for our clubs. We still have a ways to go for 100% clubs in good standing but we are closer than ever.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard to ensure our clubs a good membership base. For those that have new members make sure all your paperwork has been completed. Form 5008 should be sent to federation and a copy to region for you to get credit for your efforts. Remember, a prize and special recognition will be waiting at conference for the club that wins the membership gain award.

Please take a moment at your next meeting and evaluate your club's membership goals. Has each member shared her story with a prospective member? Has your club attained four new members? Does your club have a 90% retention rate? Have you held a membership drive this year? There is still time to accomplish these goals and be a true Renaissance Club of the Southern Region.

See you in Huntsville!

Priscilla Tatarsky

Southern Region Governor-Elect

Renaissance Membership Chair

STRONG WOMAN VERSUS A WOMAN OF STRENGTH



A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape, but a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape.

A strong woman is not afraid of anything, but a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of fear.

A strong woman will not let anyone get the best of her, but a woman of strength gives the best of herself to everyone.

A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future, but a woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be God's blessings and capitalizes on them.

A strong woman walks sure-footed, but a woman of strength knows God will catch her when she falls.

A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face, but a woman of strength wears grace.

A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey, but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong.

District 1

Dear Soroptimist Friends,

Our Boca club would like to thank you for visiting our website over the past year. Your interest and involvement in our Soroptimist activities is greatly appreciated!

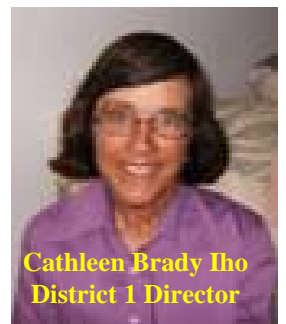
In fact, we keep track of these things. Since July of 2008, we have averaged 1,500 visitors per month at our website, <http://www.soroptimist4women.org>.

Our all-time peak for 2008 was this past November. We had 2,500 visitors in that one month! We attribute this interest to three Soroptimist activities: a bounce in community curiosity just after our "Women of Distinction" event in October, 2008, a huge community interest in our call for applicants for our Violet Richardson Award, and for our Women's Opportunity Award.

Our '08-'09 winners have been selected for both the "VRA" and "WOA"...and will be announced at a special press event coming up on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. More details on this in future e-mail "event notices" from Soroptimist of Boca and, of course, on our website!

More news from Boca Raton!

Our club held a social on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 from 5:30pm to



Cathleen Brady Iho
District 1 Director

Homestead inducts 2 new members - Pres. Denise with Evelyn & Becky



7:00pm at the Atrium office building in Boca Raton, FL.

Two experts, certified in long term care solutions, were there to explain "What Every Woman Needs to Know About Preparing for Her or Her Loved One's Care as They Age." Meryl Charnow and Joan Gould, both Soroptimists, spoke on this topic and were available to answer questions from the audience. In most families,

guess who gets stuck making arrangements for long term care? The women. Who ends up being the caregivers for the loved ones? The women. Let's face it and be prepared!

Maureen Burke and Cynthia Cummings co-chaired this social, and we are grateful for all of their volunteer time in setting up this event.

Sincerely,

Kim Champion

Soroptimist International of Boca Raton, Deerfield Beach, FL Club President

"ONE BOX AT A TIME"

Submitted by Sharon Singletary, SI Homestead



Martini's, Massages, and Manicures

This is a follow-up on the last article from SI Homestead regarding our club's fundraiser, "*Martini's, Massages and Manicures*" to raise money for care packages to send to

our deployed troops in Iraq. The second annual event was hosted by the club at a member's home on February 20, 2009 and was a huge success as was the first one.

Here are the members who attended and worked very hard to put on this very worthwhile and enjoyable event. Members, and their guests purchased tickets for the occasion which bought them a martini and a luxurious amenity, hence the title "Martini's, Massages, and Manicures". The event also included donated food, raffle items and door prizes as well as Massage Therapists, Manicurists and a "Martini Bartender" donating their time. It drew in more than 140 guests with 18 club members and raised more than \$4,500 with a net profit of approximately \$3000 for the troops deployed from Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB). The boxes cost \$65 each for supplies, but members say it is a small price to pay for the troops who are risking their lives everyday for our country.

The first round of boxes was sent to 18 men that requested "individual items" as well as 12 additional boxes for troops. The Club members plan to continue



raising funds to support HARB troops with creative care packages and also want to host a luncheon for the military wives in the community. "We are planning to raise funds with corporate sponsor donations as well and have already received \$1,985 to date says Debra Rusch, Project Chair." "Our goal is to collect enough money to eventually create 300 boxes to send to our deployed troops; some of whom have just returned from Iraq".

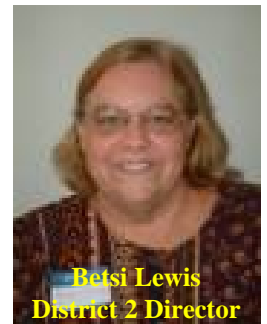


SI Greater Ft. Lauderdale Club President Paula Moore, new member Joanne Bressler (Uppity the Clown) Connie Desko, Sandra Baumann, and Barbara Moore joined in the holiday celebration to help entertain the women and children of the Susan B. Anthony recovery shelter holiday party.

Gifts were distributed to all the children as well as baskets created by the club for the shelter staff members.

District 2

CORRECTION TO FALL SOUTHERN ACCENT! How many times do you know you made an error the minute you hit the "send" key? Such was my mistake when I called the President of SI Largo/Mid-Pinellas Shirleen Miller when her real name is Shirleen Lackey. Many apologies to Shirleen from a red-faced District Director.



November 2nd found SI of Orlando holding a fundraiser and recruitment event. Co-Presidents Beth Herman and Maggie Shoemaker led the "High Tea" where guests were told about Soroptimism on a one to one basis. The goodies that went with the tea were outstanding, and all prepared by club members. Four members of the SI of Upper Pinellas club attended to show their support for a sister club in the district. Fundraising ideas included a silent auction, baskets for raffles, selling of magazine subscriptions (just in time for Christmas). The event was a resounding success with 3 new potential members and over \$600 raised for SIA programs.

SI of Holiday Isles also had a recruitment and fundraiser event in December 2008. This party was held at a local restaurant in St Pete Beach, FL where a \$20 donation would provide you with some wonderful appetizers, and beer and wine. There were over 50 guests in attendance, and President Cathy Sue Currant gave an informative short talk about Soroptimist and the wonderful programs that we support. Past Governor Doris Thompson was escorted to the party and while she is frail, she insisted on attending and not missing this club project. She looked great. Again those travelers from SI of Upper Pinellas attended to show their support. An interesting note is SI of Upper Pinellas found out about it through a social services bulletin board on the internet –



you never know what medium is going to reach what audience. Even though SI Holiday Isles was recruiting new members, SI of Upper Pinellas gained an interested potential member who actually lives in the same condominium complex as the club president.

SI of Upper Pinellas held their annual "Women Honoring Women" luncheon on February 21. This event is in its 31st year and honors women in the community who have made a difference by their work, be it paid or volunteer.



Over 100 guests attended and there was heavy competitive bidding on the beautiful baskets that were made to raffle. The club will be hosting a dinner in May to honor the 2 winners of the Women's Opportunity Award, the Violet Richardson Award winner and the agency for which she volunteers, and the winner of the Making a Difference for Women award.

On a sad note, I must report that SI of Upper Pinellas President Mary Louise Scussel passed away on February 16th after a short battle with cancer. Many of you will remember her from the Key Largo Conference and the Clearwater Conference as "Jose Gaspar's woman." She loved her large family and had been a member of Soroptimist for many, many years.

On November 22nd, SI of Tampa held an informational meeting with the goal of starting a new club in Brooksville, FL. Governor Nidia Bernstiel, Past Governor June Wallace, Southern Region Secretary Diana Miller, District Director II Betsi Lewis joined SI Tampa President Marsha McKenna and Vice President Lorraine Lundy in explaining the history and an overview about the Soroptimist organization. There were about 10 ladies who attended with many of them filling out application forms right on the spot. SI Tampa continues to work closely with the ladies of Brooksville in hopes of chartering a new club in the fall.

District 3



Helen Wilson
District 3 Director

SI Columbus, GA has been busy planning for their annual Fashion Show & Silent Auction on Saturday, March 7th at 11:00 AM at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center. This is the major fundraiser for the year. The profits from this year's event will be donated to their identifying project for 2009, the Women's Breast Cancer Support Fund through the West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, in addition to our other current projects including Cusseta Road Elementary School (Partner In Education), scholarships for the annual Women's Opportunity Award, a college scholarship for a young Ukrainian woman, in addition to the funding of other SI sponsored projects.

SI Atlanta is having the Annual Live Your Dream Awards Luncheon, Saturday, 7 March 2009. The special guest speaker is Francina Pace founder of champions medal foundation and Crossing the Jordan. The exceptional women in the community will be honored. Violet Richardson Award winner is Lindsey Paoletto. Women's Opportunity Awards to Rosatta Harris, first place



Recruitment & Retention

and Katonya Drammeh, runner up. Making a difference for Women Awards go to Katherine Bryant and Aurea McGarry.

SI of Montgomery had a very successful fashion show. The Championship Gift Drive, which benefited the elderly in local nursing homes, and the Deputy Sheriff's Children's Gift Drive continues to grow and be successful. This is possible with the help of the membership, Kohl's, local businesses including Stonehenge Art Gallery and Sandra Realtors, and individual volunteers. Two more businesses, Tomatino's/Cafe' Louisa and Al's Flowers, have asked to participate in 2009 making it possible to expand this endeavor to include more facilities. The awards luncheon was very well attended. The January program meeting featuring Pastor Vincent Rosato and his wife Mary discussing their work with the Friendship Mission, which assists the homeless and is located on the Mobile Highway, was most informative. These fine people are in the process of getting a homeless women shelter which will be a first for Montgomery. The club is busy planning their Spring raffle, auction, and "Spring fling" get together.

District 4

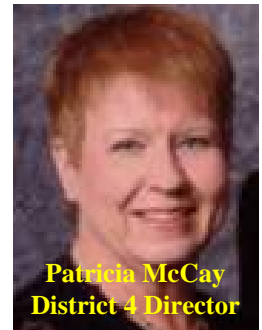
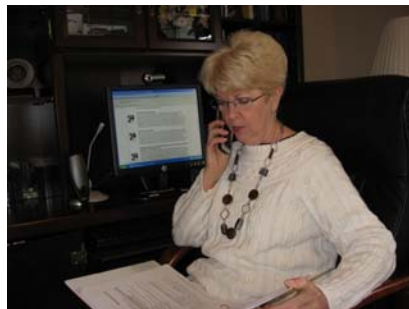
SI/Music City members with their different jobs

Candyee Goode Daycare Exec. Director



Detective Sheba Cantrell

President Diana English
and fellow property managers



Karen Karpinski Volunteer Coordinator

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

Millie Grammer,
the accountant



Shelley Hubbel, 2nd Grade Teacher!



UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

On 12 February 2009, Academy Award-winning American actress Mira Sorvino was named as Goodwill Ambassador to combat human trafficking for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In her remarks, Ms. Sorvino highlighted that on the 200th anniversary of the birth of former United States President Abraham Lincoln who led the emancipation of slaves in his country, there was an urgent need for human trafficking to be relabeled as slavery so “people can’t tune out the human suffering.” Not being called slavery, she emphasized, “helps to keep us in denial” about the true nature of human trafficking.

The date above coincided with the release of a new UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons showing that, on the plus side, the number of countries implementing the international agreement that addresses trafficking in persons has doubled. Of the 155 countries that were surveyed, over 60 per cent had enacted laws following a special UN protocol to fight human trafficking adopted in 2003. On the other hand, many governments still resist enforcement, and nearly half of all nations have yet to bring a single perpetrator of the scourge to justice.

The new UNODC study sadly reports that only one victim out of every 100 trafficking cases is rescued, and that at present there are 22,500 cases of people being recovered worldwide. However, the study does not come up with a worldwide number of trafficking victims, due to lack of reliable statistics that go to the core of the problem. While the most common manifestation of trafficking is sexual exploitation (accounting for 80 per cent of the phenomenon), other activities such as forced labour in mines, factories, sweatshops or domestic servitude, as well as child soldiers, are less frequently detected.

Globalization is singled out as facilitating movement of people and commodities around the world, and no country is immune from this epidemic. Additionally, given the current financial crisis, the report concludes by saying “With economic



hardship in the Third World, it is more likely that a greater number of people are going to be more vulnerable than they were.”

Margaret McCaffery, UN Chair

Gov Nidia inducted Ada Aldana and Judy Wolfson in picture with President Maggie (UN Chair).



Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals: “Promote gender equality and empower women”



On 25 September 2008, the UN held a High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was a special informal event bringing together a broad coalition of Heads of State, as well as leaders of the private sector and civil society, which included Bill Gates and P.M. Gordon Brown of the UK. They came to rally around the call to action to slash poverty, hunger, disease and other socio-economic ills by 2015. At the end of the day, UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon announced an estimated \$16 billion in new commitments to meet the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including some \$1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than \$4.5 billion for education and \$3 billion to combat malaria.

The new commitments are remarkable because it comes against food, climate and financial crises which are impeding advances in meeting the internationally agreed anti-poverty targets.

Mr. Ban has called for a summit on the MDGs in 2010 to further assess the delivery of the commitments undertaken.

Margaret McCaffery , UN Chair



Help Wanted

Contact Governor Nidia If you are interested in any of these below.

Website Manager:

We need someone to manage the information that goes on our website A Soroptimist is needed for feeding the correct information and checking it as soon as it's added to our website should a change be needed. We hope to have someone outside building/changing the site who knows the Dreamweaver CS3 program. SR would be paying them to have better control getting things done instantly. Please contact current Website Manager Voncile Rayner - voncile4@aol.com

Newsletter Chair:

Contact Joyce Jones for more information. (joyce.jones1022@gmail.com)
The newsletter chair, appointed by the governor, shall receive news and information from clubs and regions; edit and publish Southern Accent and distribute to club presidents, board members, region committee chairs, Past Governors, federation headquarters and other region Governors.

Checklist

- Publish a newsletter a minimum of three times a year. With as many pages as deemed necessary by the Governor.
 - Encourage club committee chairs to submit information.
 - Excerpt pertinent information from club bulletins, when received.
 - Publish Governor's message.
 - Publish compilation report.
 - Publish request for invitation for conference location.
 - Publish notice to clubs to file amendments to bylaws, procedures or resolutions.
 - Publish notice of amendments to procedures by Board other than at conference.
-

Nominating Committee Members:

The Nominating Committee Chair is Cynthia Cummings from the Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach Club.

ARTICLE VIII

Selection of Nominating Committee

8.01 The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the chair and one member from each District. The Governor shall appoint the Chair. Each District Member shall be elected at a Region Conference in the first year of the biennium. Only Region delegates, Region officers and District officers from Clubs within each District may vote for the Nominating Committee member representing their respective Districts. The Region Board shall fill a vacancy on the Nominating Committee. A chair replacement may be made from any District; a committee member replacement shall be from the District where the vacancy occurred.

8.02 Members of the Nominating Committee shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are appointed or elected.

Checklist

- Invite each club to suggest names of members for consideration by the nominating committee on or before October 1 of the year preceding the convention.
- Receive names from clubs together with a short statement of their qualifications on or before November 15. (See Form B)
- Contact all persons whose names were submitted and other Soroptimists to ascertain willingness to serve in office if nominated and elected.
- Request resumes from members agreeing to be nominated. (See Form C)
- Send a camera-ready copy of the qualifications of each member named to the Secretary to be included with the Call to Conference at least 45 days before the conference, which immediately precedes the Federation convention. (See Form C)
- Present the report at region conference at least two hours before the time set for opening of the polls.

Please contact Cynthia or your District Director if you wish to serve on this committee and nominate the leaders for the next biennium.

More
More



Conference Federation Guest
Dr. Judith Strong