

**Minutes of the Soroptimist International of the Americas**  
**108th South Atlantic Region Spring Conference**  
**April 28 - 30, 2017**  
**Staunton, Virginia**

**Friday, April 28, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. - A Dream is A Wish Your Heart Makes Dinner Event**

- Governor Amy Harman, SI Hampton Roads welcomed attendees to the 108th Region Conference at 7 p.m. She noted the 2016-2018 biennium theme is “Working Together to Stand Out.”
- Governor Amy discussed the Agenda for the weekend and emphasized the Soroptimist mission as well as the fun aspects of the weekend.
- Governor Amy announced the Inaugural Conference Fellowship, given to a first-time Spring Conference attendee. The awardee will receive reimbursement of her Conference fee, her meal plan and 1/2 of her hotel room bill for two nights. The first recipient is Melora McVicker of SI Woodbridge. During the Conference, she will be posting on social media, especially the Region’s Facebook page.
- Pat Witt of SI Mid-Atlantic Online explained the club’s service project being organized at Conference: a good drive. The book drive being held during Conference will benefit middle school girls who participate in the PAGE project (Partnership for Appalachian Girls’ Education) located in Western North Carolina. She described the work of PAGE and how SIMAO is working with them to support the summer reading program. She thanked those present for donating books and Barnes & Noble gift cards to the effort.
- Governor Amy announced the fundraising efforts of clubs in the Region at this weekend’s Conference. She asked those present to support these clubs by purchasing event tickets, raffle tickets and 50/50 drawings this weekend.
- Treasurer Connie Morris, SI Kent & Queen Anne’s Counties, explained this weekend’s Bead Raffle.
- Region Fundraising Chair, Ginny Dempsey, SI Woodbridge, presented information about the Laurel Society and the Laurel Lottery Board. She encouraged members to support the Laurel Society and reminded members to purchase a chance on the Lottery Board from Board Member Betty Ann O’Brien, SI Raleigh during the Conference.
- Board Member Betty Ann O’Brien, SI Raleigh gave the evening inspiration. Dinner was served, with tables asked to talk about membership and fundraising matters (a list of discussion points was placed on each table).
- After dinner, Governor Amy invited everyone in costume of a real or fictional heroine to come forward and introduce themselves and explain why they chose the heroine they are dressed as. After everyone had spoken, the judges announced the winners. Governor Amy thanked all who participated.
- Governor Amy asked members to share any discussions had at the dinner table regarding membership and fundraising ideas and challenges.

- Governor Amy made closing remarks, thanked everyone for coming and made several announcements regarding Conference materials and activities.

### **Saturday, April 29, 2017**

#### **8:30 a.m. - Business Session**

- Governor Amy declared the Business Session at the 108th Conference of the South Atlantic Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas in Session at 8:30 a.m.
- Board Member Sparkle Raymond, SI Woodbridge presented the flags of the South Atlantic Region:
  - Wendy Bramble, SI Kent and Queen Anne Counties presenting the flag of Maryland
  - Pam Sinclair, SI Raleigh presenting the flag of North Carolina
  - Teri Pritchett, SI Woodbridge presenting the flag of South Carolina
  - Myrtis Bratham, SI Upper Montgomery County presenting the flag of Virginia
  - Jamilah Dalton, SI Manassas presenting the flag of West Virginia
- Board Member Sparkle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Governor Amy presented the head table and asked each to stand when their name was called:
  - Sparkle Raymond, Region Board Member, SI Woodbridge VA
  - Betty Ann O'Brien, Region Board Member, SI Raleigh NC
  - Connie Morris, Region Board Treasurer, SI Kent and Queen Anne Counties MD
  - Kelly Pierce, Region Board Secretary, SI Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties MD
  - LouAnne Hunnicutt, Parliamentarian, SI Mid-Atlantic Online
  - Deborah Mackes, Governor-Elect, SI Woodbridge VA
  - Heidi McNamar, SIA Board Member and Federation Visitor
  - Amy Harman, Region Governor, SI Hampton Roads VA
- Governor Amy recognized Past-Governors present and thanked them for their service, leadership and mentoring on behalf of the South Atlantic Region:
  - Betty Roberts, SI Mid-Atlantic Online, Past SAR Governor
  - Betty Nester, SI Williamsburg, Past SAR Governor
  - LouAnne Hunnicutt, SI Mid-Atlantic Online, Past SIA Board Member and Past SAR Governor
  - Warie Brock, SI Montgomery County, Past SAR Governor
  - Gayle Griffith, SI Cumberland, Past SAR Governor
  - Louise Skinner, SI Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, Past SIA Board Member and Past SAR Governor
  - Willie Mae McCracken, SI Williamsburg, Past SAR Governor
  - Robin Davis, SI Alexandria, Past SAR Governor
- Board Secretary Kelly Pierce, SI Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties presented the official greetings from Elizabeth Lucas, Executive Director & CEO, SIA and RoseMary Reid, 2016-2017 SIA President. Both letters of greetings were included in Conference materials given to each attendee.
- Cheryl Walter, SI Manassas provided the Morning Inspiration.
- Governor Amy reviewed Conference meeting and Delegate card process.

- Governor Amy asked all first-time Conference attendees to come to the front of the room. Each gave their name, club name and number of years as a member of Soroptimist. Each was presented with a gift.
- Governor Amy invited those present who have been members for more than 30 years to come to the front of the room. They each introduced themselves, gave their club name and number of years as a Soroptimist member. Governor-Elect Deb announced that the women represent 497 years of service as Soroptimists and thanked them.
- Louise Skinner, SI Kent and Queen Anne's Counties gave the Preliminary Credentials Report.  
Clubs in Region (21); Clubs with Registered Delegates (15)  
Region Officers (4); Board Members (2); Club Presidents (15); Club Delegates (28)  
Voting Total 49  
Federation Visitor (1); Parliamentarian (1); Non-Voting Members (14); Registered Guests (4);  
Executive Director (0); Federation HQ Staff (1)  
Grand Total (70)
- Governor Amy stated, "There are 15 clubs with 28 voting delegates, which constitutes a quorum and we will proceed with the business of the Region." There was a motion, which was seconded, to adopt the Credentials Report. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.
- Parliamentarian LouAnne Hunnicutt read the standing rules as distributed in the Call to Conference. Governor-Elect Deb made a motion, which was seconded, to adopt the standing rules as printed in the Call to Conference. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.
- Secretary Kelly stated that the Call to Conference was emailed on March 2, 2017 to each club President in the South Atlantic Region, 45 day in advance of the Conference. She made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Official Call to Conference. The motion was seconded; there was no further discussion. The motion carried.
- Treasurer Connie moved that the Conference Agenda be adopted, plus any modifications as may be necessary to carry out the business of the Region. The motion was seconded; there was no further discussion. The motion carried.
- Secretary Kelly stated that the minutes of the 107th Region Conference were prepared by SAR's then-Secretary Connie Skinner Morris and that those minutes were included in this year's Call to Conference. She noted that those minutes were approved by a committee comprised of three members, who were introduced during this session: Beverly Moore, SI Frostburg; Cari Corey, Si Talbot County; and Betty Nester, SI Williamsburg.
- Governor Amy thanked the three members from last year and announced the three members who have volunteered to serve on the committee to review the minutes of this year's 108th Region Conference. They are: Warie Brock, SI Montgomery County; Mary Dunivan, SI Woodbridge; and Helen VanPelt, SI Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties.
- Louise Skinner presented the First Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Clubs in Region (21); Clubs with Registered Delegates (15)

Region Officers (4); Board Members (2); Club Presidents (15); Club Delegates (28)

Voting Total 49

Federation Visitor (1); Parliamentarian (1); Non-Voting Members (16); Registered Guests (4);

Executive Director (0); Federation HQ Staff (1)

Grand Total (72)

- Governor Amy requested a motion that was seconded to accept the First Credentials report. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and the report adopted.
- Treasurer Connie presented the Treasurer's Report, which was provided to each delegate present at the start of the meeting. She reminded everyone present that club, region and SIA dues are due by July 1 each year, and noted that SIA dues are increasing again this year. Additionally, she requested Form 200 be completed and submitted to the region, even if there are no changes in the officers listed. Governor Amy said the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Governor Amy stated that the Violet Richardson Award is included in the biennium budget.
- Governor Amy discussed planning for the 2018-2020 biennium. She noted that Governor-Elect Deb Mackes will be installed at next year's Spring Conference. She described the three-person Region Nominating Committee, which will seek out nominations for Governor-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and two Board Members by December. Governor Amy has appointed Melora McVicker, SI Woodbridge as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Region Board has appointed Janet Knicely, SI Cumberland as their choice for the Nominating Committee. The third member of the Nominating Committee is elected by the membership at Spring Conference. Cheryl Walter was nominated by SI Manassas and is willing to serve on the Nominating Committee. Her nomination was included in the Call to Conference. Cheryl spoke briefly to the group. There were no nominations from the floor. Governor-Elect Deb made a motion, which was seconded, to dispense with a ballot election and the delegates present voted to elect Cheryl Walter to the Nominating Committee. There was no further discussion; the motion carried.

#### **9:25 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Break in session**

- Governor Amy introduced SIA Board Member and Federation Visitor Heidi McNamar, who took the podium to update Conference attendees on Federation initiatives.
- Governor Amy announced the end of the morning business session and invited members to move to the workshop offerings:
  - The MemberSHIP Has Sailed - but I May Have Left Someone at the Dock** (Are you having trouble recruiting members of different ages? How about diversifying your membership?) Presented by Nicole Simmons, Membership and Leadership Development Manager, SIA
  - Soroptimist: Planning for the Next 100 Years** (Did you know that our 100th anniversary is coming up in just a few years? How are we celebrating our first 100 years and what are the plans to continue to build Soroptimist into our second century?) Presented by Heidi McNamar, SIA Federation Director
  - "Dream It Be It" Style Workshop** Community participants joined Soroptimist volunteers in a workshop facilitated by Region Program Chair Jayme Gruden, SI Hampton Roads and Region DIBI Chair Johann Dretchen, SI Montgomery County.

#### **12:45 p.m. Break from workshops**

### **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Dream Awards Luncheon**

- Welcome by SAR Governor Amy Harman. Melissa Kelly, SI Talbot County gave the lunchtime inspiration.
- **Live Your Dream Award Presentation.** Patricia Byrd Pritchett, SI Williamsburg, and SAR Live Your Dream Award Chair introduced this year's honorees.
  - Mercy N. Wanyoike, Nominated by SI Manassas (\$5000)**
  - Misty M. Jackson, Nominated by SI Cumberland (\$3000)**
  - Shavone Aliyyah Walker, Nominated by SI Hampton Roads (\$1000)**
- **Violet Richardson Award Presentation.** Jayme Gruden, SI Hampton Roads, and SAR Program Chair presented this year's honoree Shanaz Khan, who was nominated by SI Mansssas. As the award was presented pre-conference in Manassas, VA, pictures and a video acceptance from the winner were shown.
- Governor Amy thanked the clubs in our Region for their participation in the Soroptimist Dream Programs and concluded with a quote from Henry David Thoreau: "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." She invited members to depart for the afternoon workshops.

### **7:00 p.m. - Saturday Evening: Dream Celebration Banquet**

- The evening began with the introduction of Region Past Governors, Board Members and the Federation Visitor.
- Governor Amy asked the Region's Conference Planning Committee members to stand and be recognized for their hard work in planning, organizing and running the event: Robin Davis, Louise Skinner, Ginny Dempsey, Deborah Mackes and Connie Morris.
- She then asked the Conference subcommittees and volunteers to stand and be recognized: members of SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties, SI Manassas, SI Woodbridge, SI Upper Montgomery County, SI Hampton Roads, SI Alexandria, and SI Woodbridge; as well as Mollie Flood, SI Alexandria; Sparkle Raymond, SI Woodbridge, Kelly Pierce, SI Prince George's & Anne Arundel Counties; and Melissa Kelly, SI Talbot County.
- The Region's current Committee Chairs that were present were then recognized:
  - Jayme Gruden, Program Chair, SI Hampson Roads
  - Ginny Dempsey, Fundraising/Club Giving Chair, SI Woodbridge
  - Pam Sinclair, SI Raleigh, Public Awareness Chair
  - Patricia Byrd Pritchett, SI Williamsburg, Live Your Dreams Award Chair
  - Cindy Swicegood, SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties, Celebrating Success Chair
  - Louse Skinner, SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties, Laws and Resolution Chair
  - LouAnne Hunnicutt, SI Mid-Atlantic Online, Parliamentarian
- Lori Ditchfield, SI Montgomery County, gave the evening's inspiration.
- Governor Amy recognized four clubs in the Region celebrating significant milestones: SI Cumberland, SI Raleigh, SI Pocomoke and SI Woodbridge.

- Following dinner, Governor Amy gave the State of the Region Address, followed by presentation of club participation certificates and recognition of membership milestones.
- Governor Amy and Treasurer Connie announced the winner of the Bead Raffle, and other club raffles were drawn and announced.
- Those present were invited to attend the Celebration of Life Service at 8:15 a.m. Sunday morning, and the Awards Brunch, which would follow at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

**8:15 a.m. Celebration of Life Memorial Service** honoring deceased SAR members:

Carole Grala Celler, SI Upper Montgomery County  
 Sabrina Harrell, SI Woodbridge  
 Agnes "Connie" Keating Godwin, SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties  
 Diane Cecilia Fuller Robinette, SI Washington, DC  
 June Curtis Krollman, SI Williamsburg  
 Harriette V. Marshburn, SI Montgomery County  
 Eiko Narita, SI Washington, DC  
 Ann Wilmer Moon, SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties  
 Hazel Eby, SI Woodbridge

**9:00 a.m. Dreams Do Come True Awards Brunch**

- Governor Amy welcomed everyone to the 2016-2017 Club Awards Brunch. She began by thanking the Conference Planning committee, subcommittees and volunteers for their planning and implementation of the weekend's events.
- Betty Nester, SI Williamsburg, gave the morning's inspiration.

- Cindy Swicegood, SAR Celebrating Success Chair, reminded club members that the awards are given for the prior year's efforts in each of the four pillars as established by Federation, and that applications/nominations are due by July 1, 2017 for the prior club year programs and activities. The Region winners then advance to the Federation level for judging. The **2017 SAR Celebrating Success Award winners** are:

<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>SI Manassas</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>SI Kent &amp; Queen Anne's Counties</b>
<b>Program (joint project for DIBI)</b>	<b>SI Alexandria, SI Manassas, SI Mid-Atlantic Online, SI Raleigh, and SI Woodbridge</b>
<b>Public Awareness</b>	<b>SI Raleigh</b>

- The B.J. Cook Governor's Trophy is a Region award presented to the club who shows the community that Soroptimist is the "best for women." Five clubs submitted materials for consideration and all five were successful, hard working and true to the mission. They were Kent & Queen Anne's Counties, Manassas, Mid-Atlantic Online, Raleigh and Woodbridge. Governor Amy chose SI Raleigh as the first runner up, and named **SI Kent & Queen Anne's Counties as the recipient of the Governor's Trophy.**

- Treasurer Connie Morris presented this year's Recruitment Bowl to the club with the largest net growth in membership from April 1, 2016 through April 23, 2017. The **2017 Recruitment Bowl went to SI Accomack.**
- Robin Davis presented the **2017 Bennie Mendelson Award to SI Cumberland** who had the highest percent of members attend Spring Conference.
- Ginny Dempsey gave reminder remarks about the Laurel Society and Laurel Legacy.
- Governor Amy asked those present to complete the Conference Evaluation forms before leaving. She also reminded clubs that Group Communication Calls will be scheduled in August and she encouraged club participation.
- Fall Meetings were announced by Governor Amy:
  - September 27 Greensboro, NC
  - October 7 Hagerstown, MD
  - October 14 Easton, MD
- Governor-Elect Deb Mackes invited all present to attend the 2018 Spring Conference which will be held in Fredericksburg, VA.
- SIA Federation Director Heidi mentioned the 2018 Convention in Japan and led the group in the Soroptimist Pledge.
- Governor Amy adjourned the 2017 Spring Conference at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly L. Pierce, Secretary  
South Atlantic Region