



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

North Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Special Edition ...

Dear Soroptimist,

Summer is here and it is a HOT one today. It is my absolute favorite season of the year. I love the heat and humidity, I turn on the A/C in the car and open the windows. I used to have a 1990 VW Cabriolet convertible, as a matter of fact I had the car for twenty years. On a warm night like tonight, I would put the top down and go for a ride, just to enjoy the warm air. Every time I did that, it was pure therapy—no worries, no problems and I felt ten years younger. It broke my heart when that car died (fire engine red with white interior and white soft top.) Then, I had grandchildren so I had to buy a responsible car, but the love of summer still stays with me.



SIA NAR Governor
Butsy McElroy

Since I last saw everyone at Spring Conference in April life has been busier than ever. The NAR Board has some updates and changes. First and foremost, congratulations **to District III Secretary, Phyllis Sampson**. Phyllis is getting married this August. We wish you and Paul all the best that life has to offer.

Then if you haven't received the information yet, you will very soon, regarding **the CHALLENGE PROGRAM**. I know firsthand how hard **Governor-Elect Tammy** worked on this program, and we hope to see all club members participate 100%. The REWARDS are all in your favor, so don't waste a perfect opportunity for your Club. Plus, it will encourage your members to remember we are a team, and to be successful we have to work as one.

District IV Director Betty Walters has resigned from her position. Rumor has it that Betty has decided to throw her hat in the ring and run as a Republican Candidate for President of the United States. JOKING!!!! But, actually, Betty, you would be a step above everyone else in that herd of candidates. We all wish you peace and happiness in your life. You are a very strong women, why don't you think about that Challenge! Since Betty's resignation, we had to make a few quick changes. Governor-Elect Tammy and I, in compliance with the NAR bylaws, moved Diane Savidge, formerly District IV Secretary, to the Director's Position, and President of SI of Synder (SUN) will step in as District IV Secretary. This will call for an Election at the Fall District Meeting.

We have a new Club, SI of Lancaster, PA. There are also two other clubs in the process of forming but are not official as of yet so we cannot mention areas. Very happy to report that SI Pittsburgh and SI Mammoth County will remain as active clubs. Thank you to District Director Betty Walters and District Director Peggy Gentile Van Meter for their assistance in guiding and assisting the Club Presidents. Unfortunately, SI Huntingdon, PA has made the decision to disband the Club for various reasons. I want to thank the members of SI Huntingdon for their service to women in their community and their service in the name of Soroptimist International of the North Atlantic Region.

On Saturday, August 15, the NAR Board is once again hosting our Leadership Seminar. This event is FREE to all members of North Atlantic Region Soroptimist International of the Americas. This is an extremely fun day. However, don't kid yourself, you will find a wealth of information and direction for leadership for all club and regional positions.

There is an informal get together on Friday night if you are planning on coming in early. Hotel rates are CHEAP; rates are cheap, not the Homewood Suites. There is an outside pool, Jacuzzi and fire pit at the Homewood Suites. Let me tell you, some great ideas were worked out in that Jacuzzi! Check the NAR website for all information. If you haven't registered online, stop reading and go register NOW!!!

OK, is everybody back from registering for the Leadership Seminar??? Great, now let me hold onto your attention for just a bit more.

Governor-Elect Tammy and I attended the Annual Governor's Round Table in Los Angeles. We had a wonderful time, AFTER we were dismissed from two grueling days of information presented to us by the SIA Board and the Administration Staff for SIA. There was a nice welcoming banquet on Saturday night, but after traveling from 4:30 in the morning East Coast time (and I was still in shock that my overweight luggage cost me \$200), we decided to call it an early night. Thank God we got a good night's sleep, because on Sunday we started at 9:00 AM sharp and worked through until 9:00 PM Sunday evening. They even went through things at lunch and dinner. Monday we started all over at 9:00 AM and did not finish until 5:00 PM. I was really looking forward to sitting down in silence and having a nice glass of wine. However, Tammy and I found out having drinks in LA is a bit expensive. I ordered two drinks on Saturday night, one for my wonderful Governor- Elect and one for myself. I put a \$20 bill on the bar. The very nice bartender said I did not have enough, so I put another \$20 on the bar. The bartender gave me \$4 change. I nicely said to him that I was not picking up the tab for everybody's drinks, he laughed and said \$18 per drink. Needless to say, you didn't have to worry about our good behavior!!!!

Seriously, it was intense, but we were introduced to new programs, new Clubs, new ideas and best of all a new relationship with Governors and Governor-Elects from around the world. We started our day on Sunday being presented with an updated "SIA Club Roadmap for Success in 2015-2016." I will have this on the NAR web site and everyone attending the Leadership Seminar will receive a copy. Past Governor Linda Nixon spoke about How to Manage Change. At NAR's Spring Conference this year, we discussed "Change" and how important and vital the need for Change is. Part of the change for the future of SIA will be the development of a "SMART Big Goal." SMART = Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound Goals. Each Club needs to talk about and submit suggestions for this Campaign. During September, October and November of this year you are being asked to discuss Change and submit your thoughts. Further instruction will be coming, but this Campaign will not be in effect until September 2021. In short, your ideals will shape the future.

North Atlantic Region Membership Chair Patti Yuengling is the Captain and has already set sail for the NAR MemberSHIP! (This is why you need to attend, Spring Conference!!!!) Our Boat was already in the Water and our MemberSHIP has already Sailed! Imitation is a form of Flattery, so Tammy and, I being a bit smug, sat and listened as we were told about the New SIA MemberSHIP program that will be launched on September 1, 2015. Patti has been doing an outstanding job as Membership Chair, and we look forward to additional ideas that the SIA is going to present. SO, be ready for a lot of new ideas and projects come September.

This sparked an idea between Tammy and me. The NAR Board works hard but we don't work WITH our Committee Chairs enough. Patti has a brilliant idea with her MemberSHIP campaign. Now, we want to hear from our other Committee chairwomen. We are inviting our Committee Chairs to the in-person September meeting. (If you are a Committee Chair, you will hear from me personally.) Communication and Teamwork ... that's our goal. This way, together, we are there for you and in turn each Club is there for Women and Girls.

Of course, more instructions will be coming forward on Live Your Dream and Dream It Be It. I encourage all Members, ALL MEMBERS, to give your best effort to attend Fall District Meetings. Our Conferences and Meetings are jammed packed with information on new programs, such as Dream It Be It.

I constantly told my children, "You Learn Something New Every day." The NAR Board works very hard to bring you informative ideas and speakers, all this to grow your mission. Think of it the same as your job. I am sure if you are a Teacher, there are courses you must keep up with, Accountants must keep up with new tax laws, Hairdressers must keep up with new styles. Soroptimist Women need to remember, the world does not revolve around YOU. Soroptimist

Women must make the World REVOLVE to Improve the Lives of Women and Girls.

Thank you so much for your attention. I look forward to seeing all of you at Leadership and Fall District Meetings. Dates and times are listed on the NAR website. It is amazing that one year of my term is over, and just like anything you enjoy doing, time will fly by so fast this year. My goal is still to visit all the Clubs in the Region. Beginning in September, Presidents should feel free to send me a date to visit your Club. I would really like to hear from West Virginia and our Western PA Clubs before the winter months. I really need to visit as many clubs as possible before January. Unfortunately, tax season eats up all my time from January to April. If you have a special date or meeting during that time, just call me, I will give it my best shot to be there for you.

Everyone enjoy the lazy days of summer, time for me to head back in the pool.

Love to all,

Governor Butsy