



North Atlantic Region Bulletin

Fall 2011 • Volume XXIV No. 1

Fall meetings to address issues most important to clubs

Hello, Soroptimists! It gives me great pleasure to invite you to this year's Fall District Meeting. I am very excited by the program that we have planned.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the planning at our last Spring Conference. I know that you will find your efforts reflected in this year's agenda. We heard you, and here is what we are doing to meet the needs that you shared with us.

First off, you want to know what is going on in the Region and the Federation. To that end we will start with sharing news from the SI Convention, from SIA, and from across the Region. This is an exciting year as we will be holding elections at Spring Conference, and are reviewing our bylaws to make sure that they are well positioned to meet our needs. Also, we had a great showing at the SI Convention in Montreal, and we are asking everyone that was there to share some of their experiences. And, of course, we will share all the other news that we have.

The biggest burning issue you identified is membership. An historical review of membership has shown us that in addition to finding new members, we really need to focus on retaining the members that we have. One of the most important ways we do this is through new member orientation. We have created a workshop to facilitate sharing on this topic, and we are asking everyone to bring examples of what they do to help new members learn about Soroptimist, feel like they are part of the club, and become contributing, long-term members. This workshop is all about learning from each other, so please, bring your new member orientation materials and ideas to share with the other clubs.

Finally, our last workshop is about an issue we all wrestle with ~ change. Federation Visitor Shirley talked about it at Spring Conference, and it is probably one of the most requested topics everywhere these days. So

we've planned another workshop for everyone to share. We will learn from each other, which is the best learning there is. What changes has your club faced, and how have you managed them? What changes are ahead for your club, and what can you do to help them be successful? I know that when we all put our minds together, we can solve any problem.

Those are our main agenda topics, and I hope that you are as excited about them as I am. Thank you again to everyone who shared your ideas on what to include. And in addition to all of this, you will have the opportunity to meet and work with friends, old and new, engage in informative conversation, networking and brainstorming with other amazing women. We will encourage, educate, enlighten and entertain you for the day, and send you back to your clubs rejuvenated, with an on-going commitment to the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls.

Your host clubs & meeting chairs have worked hard to provide a setting that will be enjoyable and conducive to learning and sharing.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings I am able to attend, and of hearing of the others. My best wishes to all of you for another successful club year!

Governor Donna



If I only had a brain ...
I'd attend the fall
district meeting.

Mark your calendars

Fall District Meetings 2011

District I

SI Fulton County • October 29

District II

SI Toms River • October 15

District III

SI Phoenixville • October 8

District IV

SI Hanover • October 29

2012 84th NAR Spring Conference

Albany NY • April 27-29, 2012

SIA 42nd Biennial Convention

Honolulu, Hawaii • July 18-21, 2012

Fall District Meetings 2012

District I

SI Suburban Essex • TBD

District II

TBD

District III

TBD

District IV

SI Fayette • TBD

2013 85th NAR Spring Conference

Atlantic City, NJ • April 26-28, 2013

Just a reminder:

The NAR Domestic Violence *Peace Begins at Home* grant applications will be due **December 1, 2011**. A copy of the application and instructions has been sent to all Club emails. Any questions may be sent to your District Director or to Governor-Elect Deb Cook (Deborah_R_Cook@hughes.net).

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NAR 2011 FALL DISTRICT MEETING

District I • SI Fulton County • October 29

District II • SI Toms River • October 15

District III • SI Phoenixville • October 8

District IV • SI Hanover • October 29

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Call to Order, <i>District Director</i> Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance, <i>Host Club</i> Greetings, <i>Host Club President</i> Introduction of VIPs, <i>District Director</i> Recognition of First Time Attendees, <i>District Director</i> 1 st Credentials Report, <i>District Vice-Chair</i> Adoption of Agenda, <i>District Director</i>
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Region Updates SI Convention Recap , <i>NAR attendees</i> Bylaws Revisions Update , <i>Committee member</i> 2011 Region Elections , <i>Committee member</i> Region News , <i>NAR Board member</i>
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	BREAK
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	General Session Workshop, <i>all members</i> New Member Education
11:45 – 12:00 p.m.	Networking Time Meet a New Soroptimist for Lunch , <i>all members</i>
12:00- 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon Attendance Awards, <i>District Secretary</i> Women's Opportunity Award District Recognition, <i>District Director</i>
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	General Session Workshop, <i>all members</i> Embracing Change
2:30 – 2:50 p.m.	Director's Overview and Q&A, <i>District Director</i>
2:50 – 2:55 p.m.	Final Credentials Report, <i>District Vice Chair</i>
2:55 – 3:00 p.m.	Pitch for Spring Conference 2012, <i>District Secretary</i> Announcements/Acknowledgments, <i>District Secretary/Host Club</i>
3:00 p.m.	Soroptimist Pledge/Adjournment

At Fall District Meetings

Governors to share Round-table discussions

Governor Donna Butchko and Governor-Elect Deb Cook attended this year's Governors Round Table, held August 24-25 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting, which included the 28 SIA governors and their successors, focused on membership trends, conducting effective conferences and meetings, retention of members and clubs, and methods to strengthen the Soroptimist "brand."

The Leadership Seminar, *Relax and Pause*, followed. This working session was led by Glenn Tecker, author of *The Will to Govern Well*. Mr. Tecker noted that Soroptimist has a "Representative Governance Model" and stressed three components necessary for effective decision making in non-profit organizations: strategic thinking, dialogue before deliberation and knowledge-based decision making. The lecture was followed by break-out sessions centered around the four Renaissance areas (programs, fundraising, membership and public awareness).

To hear more about the practical outcomes of these sessions plan to attend your Fall District Meeting.



Governor Donna Butchko and Governor-elect Deb Cook

Drive a dream car for a year ...



How would you like to have a one-year lease on a luxury car for only \$50? Or win \$10,000? The SIA Board and Fundraising Council have arranged for the winner of Soroptimist Drive For Dreams to do just that. For details, please see your district or region fundraising chairperson or go to: www.Soroptimist.org/Drive4Dreams.html to learn more! (And remember, all proceeds go to support Soroptimist programs).

Zhang Qiyi receives NAR Ethel F. Lord Fellowship

The recipient of the NAR Ethel F. Lord Fellowship for 2010-11 is Zhang Qiyi. A native of the People's Republic of China, Qiyi is pursuing a Master of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh with special emphasis on dementia and end of life issues. Ms. Zhang intends to remain in the Pittsburgh area, where she has finished a field internship at Lemington Social Service.

The Fellowship is named for Soroptimist Ethel F. Lord, a past NAR Governor, SIA and SI president. The grant, in the amount of \$5000, is given to a postgraduate student in gerontology. The student must be attending an accredited university in one of the five states covered by the NAR.

Club news ...

Time to share ... what is your club doing?

Send project updates (with pictures, if possible) for inclusion in the next Bulletin.

Tell us about your members ... has a member been recognized for her work in club, community, or profession?

Did you have a successful fundraiser? Do you need help in order to have a successful fundraiser? Send us a note!

Email your stories, pictures, questions or requests to: Bulletin editor Cindy Breen, atlas@shol.com, or mail to 421 W. Patriot St., Somerset, PA 15501.



The North Atlantic Region had good attendance at the quadrennial Soroptimist International Conference, held during July 2011 in Montreal, Canada. The session included input from many prominent Canadian women representing a variety of professions as well as reports on the status of women and Soroptimist projects around the world.

A recap of the SI convention will be part of NAR Fall District Meetings (FDM), so for more information, be sure to attend your FDM!

Did you know ...

SI Kenya clubs improve the environmental quality of life for women and girls by providing a water-recycling rain barrel, LED light and a fireless cooker (to eliminate the use of smoky kerosene lamps and wood fires) ~ all for about \$250 per family! (This was a **2011 SI Best Practice Project**).

As a result of **Project Sierra**, a collaborative effort between Soroptimist and Hope and Homes for Children, over 200 families with more than 700 children have graduated from active program support to self-sufficiency.

Eighty percent of the world's diseases are directly related to unsafe water and sanitation. However, through SI Europe's **Soroptimists go for Water** over two million Euros have been raised to begin combatting these problems.

There are 68 Soroptimist Clubs in Latin America with 1411 members.

Seventy-five percent of all SIA Soroptimist Clubs participated in the Women's Opportunity Award with 15 regions reporting 100% participation. NAR had 77% participation (41 of 53 clubs.)

Clubs across SIGBI mark International Literacy Day by raising awareness of issues surrounding literacy, raising funds or donating books to schools that need them. A look through the programme reporting database reveals a wide variety of ways in which they do this. These include holding play and poetry readings, book stalls, book swaps, poster competitions, donating books, service projects in school such as listening to children read and encouraging (mentoring) older girls to continue with their studies.

More on literacy ... according to UNESCO statistics two-thirds of the 796 million illiterate adults are women and more than half of the 67.4 million children not in school are girls.

Who's Who ... a handy reference of your ...

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Inaugural NAR leadership workshop provides valuable training, information

The inaugural NAR leadership workshop was held September 10, 2011 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Forty presidents, presidents-elect and prospective club leaders participated in these sessions: *Conflict Management* led by Past Governor (PG) Wanda Price; *Fiscal Responsibility* presented by Soroptimist Vickie Grosso, and *Enhancing Club Experience through Appreciative*

Inquiry led by PG Diane Thompson. PG Marie Kennedy presented the last workshop entitled *Moving the Club Forward with Strategic Planning*. The sessions were interactive and covered topics important to effective club leadership. Judging from the level of participation and questions, the workshop was a resounding success!



SALES SPACE RESERVATION FORM

Display and sales space will be available at District Meeting for clubs and NAR committees. Your club can sell items, display information about club projects or network with other Soroptimists. Sales are permitted during non-session time. Space is limited! All reservations are contingent upon NAR BOARD approval. All spaces will include a 6 or 8-foot table unless other arrangements are made. The fee is **\$15.00**. Please make check payable to: **ETHEL F. LORD FELLOWSHIP FUND** and mail check and this form to: Kathy Oldenburg, 251 Washington Street, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

**RESERVATION APPLICATION FOR SALES/DISPLAY SPACE
(FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM)**

Soroptimist International of: _____ District No. _____

Club President's / Committee Chair's Name: _____

Club President's / Committee Chair's Address: _____

Telephone: Business (____) _____ - _____ Home (____) _____ - _____

Description of all items to be sold or displayed: _____

