

Delegates and Presidents Meeting

May 1, 2023

via ZOOM

The Annual Spring Conference Delegates and Presidents was conducted by Zoom and recorded.

Governor Roxanne Aaron welcomed the conference delegates and declared Central East Coast Region's 5th Spring Conference to be in session on 5/1/23 at 7 PM.

Governor Roxanne presented the CECR Board Members, the CECR Parliamentarian, and the CECR's SIA Federation Visitor.

Vivian Wolezesky, SIA Federation Director, and CECR Spring Conference Federation visitor from SI Monroe, MI, Midwest Region

Roxanne Aaron, Governor, SI/Wake Forest, NC

Robin Davis, Governor-Elect, SI/Woodbridge, VA

Carolyn Skowron, Treasurer, SI/Raleigh, NC

Ginny Dempsey, Board Member, SI/ Woodbridge, VA

Wilma Jenkins-Flythe, Board Member, SI/Wake Forest, NC

Paulette Evans, Parliamentarian, SI/Wake Forest

Deb Mackes, Bylaws and Resolutions Chair, SI/Manassas, Acting Secretary

Governor Roxanne stated that region procedures allow for the appointment of a parliamentarian to oversee the conference and to keep the meetings flowing in an orderly manner.

Governor Roxanne announced that Paulette Evans, SI/Wake Forest has been appointed as Parliamentarian to assist with keeping the Conference in order.

Paulette stated that Standing Rules are included in the Call to Conference. A link to the document would be available in the Zoom chat.

Governor Roxanne requested Governor-Elect Robin provide a Preliminary Credentials Report.

Robin stated that 11 out of 17 Clubs in the Region are represented are on the call. For the purpose of quorum there are 11 out of 17 Clubs constitutes quorum.

Governor Roxanne asked Deb Mackes to present the Official Call to Conference.

Deb announced that in accordance with the Region Bylaws, the Official Call to Conference was emailed to all members of the Region who have a valid email address on record with SIA and also to CECR guests on March 17. This was 30 days in advance of the Conference. Deb announced that we would dispense with the reading of the Official Call to Conference, and that a link to the document would be available in the Zoom chat.

Governor Roxanne asked that Deb present the Minutes of CECR's 4th Spring Conference.

Deb announced that the Minutes of CECR 4th Spring Conference were prepared and included in the Call to Conference and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Deb stated that the Minutes of CECR's 4th Spring Conference would be put on the consent agenda. The Consent Agenda will be voted on for approval at Conference on Saturday morning.

Deb stated the names of the three club members who agreed to serve as a committee to approve the minutes of the 5th CECR Conference would be: Pat Lynch, SI/Raleigh, Mary Harrison, SI/Woodbridge, and Debbie Blair, SI/Upper Montgomery County.

Governor Roxanne asked Treasurer Carolyn Skowron to present CECR's Financial Report.

Treasurer Carolyn reported that the Region is financially solvent. The Financial Report is included in the Call to Conference and a link to this documentation was made available in the Zoom chat for all to reference.

Treasurer Carolyn asked that the Financial Report be included in the Consent Agenda for approval during the business meeting at Spring Conference on Saturday morning, so it can be filed for audit.

In addition to presenting the financials, Treasurer Carolyn also reminded attendees of club financial obligations.

Region dues (\$25.00 per club member) are due to be paid 7/1/23 to Treasurer Carolyn, and can be paid by check, credit card, or a link on the website, and the needed information would be on the invoice that will be sent to all club treasurers

SIA Federation dues are also due to be paid by 7/1/23 to SIA.

The breakdown of SIA member dues will be shared with club treasurers when Treasurer Carolyn receives the information from SIA.

Form 200 should be submitted to Treasurer Carolyn when dues are submitted even if there are no changes in the listed officers. In addition to the names of club presidents and treasurers, Form 200 should also include the names and contact information for LYD chairs and club DIBI chairs.

Nominating Committee

Governor Roxanne shared the candidates for the Nominating Committee for the 2024-2026 Biennium who must be voted on at Spring Conference. Governor Roxanne announced the three candidates and read their bios: Kerry Ardner SI/Fairfax, Kathy Brinsfield SI/Salisbury, and Patricia Green SI/Montgomery County. This information is also included in the Call to Conference. Governor Roxanne asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none at this time.

The Nominating Committee will seek leads and nominations of potential candidates for five (5) CECR positions open for the 2024-2026 Biennium:

Governor-elect (1 position)

Secretary (1 position)

Treasurer (1 position)

Board Member-at-large (2 positions)

The 6th member of the CECR 2004-2006 Board, which is Governor-elect Robin Davis, SI/Woodbridge, VA, who was pre-elected and will automatically move to the position of CECR's 2024-2026 Governor.

Governor Roxanne asked, Deb Mackes of SI/Manassas, CECR Bylaws and Resolutions Chair, to explain the highlights of the proposed amendments to the bylaws and resolutions and the rationale for the changes.

Deb explained the proposals are intended to update Region Bylaws to coincide with SIA and are included in the Call to Conference. A copy of the Bylaws was sent to all Clubs with a request for input. Highlights of the proposed changes include:

Officers

Article 4.2 To be eligible for election to office, to include candidates who have served on their Club Board as President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Board Director. A candidate who served as President of their Club would have preference.

Article 4.3 The Governor and Governor-Elect may hold office only for one term consecutively.

Article 4.4 In the case of a vacancy in the office of Governor, when the Governor-Elect automatically becomes the Governor to complete the unexpired term, A new Governor-Elect shall be solicited from the Region membership and the Region Board shall serve as the Nominating Committee. An election for the Governor-Elect shall take place within 90 days of the vacancy.

Elections

Article 5.2 If an emergency prevents holding of a conference, the CECR Board and the Nominating Committee shall determine the procedure for election of officers by mail or electronic means, conforming as nearly as possible to requirements of the Bylaws of the CECR.

Finance

Article 9.4 In the event of an emergency or disaster, the CECR Board may, by a two-thirds vote, waive, postpone, or reduce the CECR obligations of the club or clubs affected.

Governor Roxanne asked Governor-elect Robin Davis, SI/Woodbridge for a few words about Spring Conference in North Carolina. Robin shared highlights planned for Spring Conference to include a trolley ride through downtown Asheville, Embracing Dreams Dessert Social, networking activities, and some surprises, generating excitement for the upcoming conference.

Governor Roxanne asked if there were any further items to be discussed. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Governor Roxanne thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and said she looked forward to seeing everyone in person on Saturday, May 6.

Minutes of Central East Coast Region 5th Spring Conference

May 5, 6, 2023 and May 7, 2023

Biltmore Hilton, Asheville, NC

Friday, May 5, 2023

The Region began Spring Conference with an optional Trolley Ride through Asheville and a Dessert Social. This is the first in-person conference in three years due to the pandemic.

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Following the parade of current CECR Club Presidents and CECR Board of Directors, Governor Roxanne Aaron called the Conference called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests to the in-person Spring Conference.

Governor Roxanne presented the head table:

Vivian Wolezesky, SIA Federation Director, and CECR Spring Conference Federation visitor from SI/Monroe, MI, Midwest Region

Roxanne Aaron, Governor, SI/Wake Forest, NC

Robin Davis, Governor-Elect, SI/Woodbridge, VA

Heather Jankovich, Secretary, SI/Williamsburg, VA

Carolyn Skowron, Treasurer, SI/Raleigh, NC

Paulette Evans, Parliamentarian, SI/Wake Forest

Wilma Jenkins-Flythe, Board Member, SI/Wake Forest, NC

Ginny Dempsey, Board Member, SI Woodbridge, VA

Governor Roxanne also recognized Kim Roney, the City of Asheville Councilwoman and Kymberlie Adams, SIA Headquarters Staff who were present for the business meeting. Governor Roxanne then asked Secretary Heather Jankovich to present official greetings. Secretary Heather summarized greetings from Michelle Burnett, Executive Director/CEO and Stephanie Smith, 2022-2023 SIA President.

Tara Ayers, President of SI/Wake Forest provided the inspiration for the day. President Tara shared The Starfish Story.

Board Member Jamilah Dalton asked that all those attending this year's spring conference as a first-time spring conference attendee come forward and be recognized. First-timers were presented with a gift and learned the privileges associated therewith.

Board Member Jamilah then asked Soroptimists with 30 or more years of membership to come forward. Each woman shared her name, club affiliation, and years of membership. After each member received a

token of appreciation. Treasurer Carolyn then came to the podium and shared the total years of service of these seasoned attendees which was 440 years!

Program Chair, Ginny Dempsey, introduced Kim Roney, the City of Asheville Councilwoman. Ms Roney presented a proclamation from the Mayor of Asheville welcoming Soroptimists to the city. Governor Roxanne then presented Ms Roney with a gift.

Governor-Elect Robin presented the preliminary and secondary credentials reports. It was moved and seconded that the credentials reports be adopted.

Governor Roxanne announced her appointment of Paulette Evans, SI/Wake Forest to serve as the parliamentarian for spring conference.

Board Member Wilma moved that the agenda for Spring Conference be approved, with any modifications as may be needed to carry out the business of the region. The motion was seconded and approved.

Secretary Heather presented the items on the Consent Agenda for voting by delegates. She explained the consent agenda process discussed in the Delegates Meeting on May 1st via ZOOM. The Consent Agenda streamlines meeting procedures by collecting routine, non-controversial items into a group whereby all are passed as a single motion and vote. The intention is for this new procedure to allow additional time for workshops and presentations.

Included in this year's Consent Agenda are the Minutes of the 2022 Spring Conference and the Region financial reports. Additionally, Kerri Ardner of SI/Fairfax has been nominated to join Cathy Brinsfield of SI/Salisbury (appointed by Governor Roxanne) and Patricia Green of SI/Montgomery County (appointed by the CECR Board) on the CECR Nominating Committee for the next biennium in which Governor-Elect Robin will serve the Region as Governor.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the Consent Agenda to be accepted. Governor Roxanne congratulated and introduced the Nominating Committee. Governor Roxanne appointed Kerri Ardner as the nominating committee chair.

Governor Roxanne further announced and introduced the members who agreed to serve as the committee to approve the minutes of the 5th Regional Conference: Pat Lynch, SI/Raleigh, Mary Harrison, SI/Woodbridge, and Debbie Blair, SI/Upper Montgomery County.

Parliamentarian Paulette moved to adopt the changes to the CECR Bylaws as presented at the CECR Caucus on May 1. The motion was seconded and approved.

Board Member Wilma introduced Federation Guest, Vivian. Federation Guest Vivian gave the Federation Report and allowed time for a question-and-answer session.

Following an explanation of the process of the workshops, Governor Roxanne adjourned the meeting for attendees to attend workshops.

- Inspiration "Speed Dating"
Attendees discussed their projects and programs with our Region Chairs Membership, Program, Fundraising, and Public Awareness as well as reviewed Federation's presentations.

- Building an Inclusive Environment: Remaining Conscious with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
Embracing, welcoming, and including all members will help SIA to grow and remain relevant.

Following the Workshops, the attendees had the afternoon to explore Asheville.

Saturday, May 6, 2023 7 PM

Governor Roxanne called the continuation of the 5th Spring Conference at the Awards Dinner. The theme of the evening was A Century of Making Dreams Come True: An Anniversary Celebration. Governor Roxanne welcomed everyone and shared the Anniversary Quilt made with squares from all 17 clubs represented on display.

Governor Roxanne introduced a Celebration of Success Memorial Video honoring CECR members who passed away in the past year.

Barbara McMillan SI/Greenville, SC

Deborah Keller SI/Talbot

Audrey Moore SI/Manassas

Marlene Shank SI/Hagerstown

Peggy Christian SI/Kent and Queen Anne Counties

Club Milestones

Governor Roxanne invited CECR Dream It Be It Chair, Johann Dretchen to recognize clubs celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Clubs recognized and celebrated for club milestones were:

SI/Williamsburg- 75 years

SI//Woodbridge- 45 years

SI/Raleigh- 35 years

SI/Upper Montgomery- 60 years

Governor-elect Robin provided an inspirational message.

Governor-elect Robin then invited everyone to enjoy their dinner and fellowship. Attendees had a final opportunity to purchase raffle tickets, Laurel Society lottery tickets, and keys to the Region Treasure Chest fundraiser.

Live Your Dream Awards Presentations

Governor Roxanne invited Live Your Dream Chair, Terri Craig SI/Raleigh, to share information about the program and announce the winners of the CECR Live Your Dreams Awards.

Terri explained that 16 of our 17 Clubs participated in the LYD Program. In 2023, our Clubs awarded a total of \$56,300 to 45 deserving women. This was a 25% increase in the number of awards and 24% increase in dollars awarded compared to 2022.

Each Club submitted its top recipient to the Region for consideration of an additional award. The Region granted a total of \$12,000 to 6 LYD Award recipients across the Region. These women were recognized at Spring Conference with two of four \$1,000 CECR LYD Award recipients sharing their story via video.

Our top recipients, Shashawna and Erica, joined us in person at the conference. They shared a little more of their stories and how much the award meant to them. They each thanked Soroptimist for the opportunity to continue their education and achieve their dreams. Shashawna received \$3,000 and Erica received \$5,000.

She Dreams Big Award

Following the presentation of the Live Your Dream Awards, Governor Roxanne presented the new award 'She Dreams Big' Award. The Award recognizes a Soroptimist member whose actions contribute significantly to the greater good or mission of Soroptimist, at her club, region and federation and international levels. For the inaugural year the following Soroptimists were recognized for their contributions:

- Debbie Blair SI/Upper Montgomery County MD
- Kathy Shultz SI/Upper Montgomery County MD
- Mary Harrison SI/Woodbridge VA
- Sonali Ghosh SI/Woodbridge VA
- Sharita Harkness SI/Raleigh NC
- Vicki Chantel SI/Manassas VA
- June Wallace SI/Mid-Atlantic Online
- Paulette Evans SI/Wake Forest
- Marianne Breneman SI/Raleigh

After the presentation of the Awards, Governor-Elect Robin asked that those that were drawing for raffle prizes during Spring Conference do so. Governor Roxanne then closed the evening and wished everyone a good night.

Sunday, May 6, 2023

Governor Roxanne called the final session of the 5th Spring Conference to order. Governor Roxanne thanked the Conference Planning Committee, subcommittees, and volunteers for all their work to make the conference come together.

Celebrating Success Awards

Governor Roxanne invited Heather Jankovich, CECR's Celebrating Success Chair, to present the Celebrating Success Club Winners. Celebrating Success awards allow clubs to share their success in each of four pillars: Fundraising, Public Awareness, Membership and Programs. Governor Roxanne announced the winning Clubs:

- Fundraising: SI/Raleigh
- Public Awareness: SI/Upper Montgomery
- Programs: SI/Upper Montgomery
- Membership: SI/Hagerstown

Certificates were awarded to Clubs who submitted entries for Celebrating Success:

- Membership: SI/Frostburg and SI/Upper Montgomery
- Fundraising: SI/Frostburg, SI/Havre de Grace, SI/Prince George & Wake Forest, SI/Woodbridge
- Public Awareness: SI/Kent and Queen Anne Counties
- Programs: SI/Frostburg

Secretary Heather announced that the Celebrating Success award has been put on hold for the 2023 program year by SIA to revamp the program.

We Dream Big Award

Governor Roxanne presented the We Dream Big Award, which this year is also the B.J. Cook CECR Governor's Trophy. This award recognizes those clubs who have been creative in recruiting new members and in keeping their club members engaged and excited about being members of Soroptimist: SI/Woodbridge, SI/Manassas and SI/Upper Montgomery County. Each Club was presented with \$300 to be used toward their future membership programs.

Governor Roxanne announced that a webinar with these clubs will be forthcoming so all clubs can learn from their success.

Governor Roxanne invited Treasurer Carolyn to present the award to the club having the largest net increase in members from April 1, 2022 to March 28, 2023. The award went to SI/Hagerstown. Since no members were present, Treasurer Carolyn will mail the certificate and check for \$100 towards the Club's Dream Program to the Club president.

The runner up Club, receiving a certificate, was SI/Havre de Grace.

Announcements:

Treasurer Carolyn announced that in coming weeks, all Club presidents and treasurers will receive information and the dues amounts and deadlines for the next Club year. Treasurer Carolyn reminded everyone that Club dues need to be sent to the Region and SIA by 07/02/23.

Additionally, Form 200 listing new officers is also due by July 1. Officers need to be submitted regardless if there are no changes.

Governor Roxanne thanked everyone for attending CECR's 2023 Spring Conference.

Governor Roxanne invited all attendees to stand and join her in saying the Soroptimist Pledge

The 5th CECR Spring Conference was adjourned on Sunday, May 6, 2023 at 12:15 p.m.