



7TH CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION

AGENDA

Monday, April 28

7:00 – 9:00 PM Central East Coast Region Delegates Meeting
Via Zoom

Friday, May 2

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Central East Coast Region Board Meeting
Monroe

12:00 - 4:00 pm Optional Event – Lunch, Natural Bridge and Hike or Wine/Brewery Tasting

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration
Small Lobby

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Dinner with Campfire Smores at the Firepits**
Jefferson I/II

9:00-11:00 pm **Hospitality Suite**
Join us to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Saturday, May 3

7:30 – 9:00 am Registration
Small Lobby

8:00 - 10:00 am Breakfast & Business Session
Jefferson II/III

In Memorial Presentation

Inspiration

Business Session

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Formation of 26-28 Nominating Committee

Presentation:

Club Bylaws Checkup

SIA is starting a multi-year project to help clubs modernize and update their bylaws. Get ahead of the curve with forming your own plan to update your club's bylaws and procedures that reflect current and future needs to administer the club effectively.

Lisa Mangiafico

Senior Director of Information Services
Soroptimist International of the Americas
Philadelphia, PA

Federation Visitor Keynote:

Embracing Change, Celebrating Success, and Committing to Inclusivity: A Call to Action for Soroptimists

This interactive speech emphasizes the importance of three key actions: embracing change, celebrating successes, and committing to inclusivity. It concludes with a call to action, the speaker invites all members to commit to these shared values, envisioning a supportive community that empowers women and girls to achieve their dreams.

Peggy Van Meter

Board Member
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.
Member, SI/Cumberland County, NJ

10:15 - 11:15 am
Monroe & Madison

Workshops

Impact/Program Pillar:

Reaching the Big Goal Together: Best Practices

Your club is motivated to achieve the necessary Big Goal increases so we can hit our 2031 Big Goal, but you're not quite sure how. This presentation will share an overview of best practices to increase your reach through the Dream Programs and Big Goal Accelerator Projects and feature successful club and region projects.

Engagement/Membership Pillar Session

Combating the Great Membership Decline

Like most service club organizations, membership is declining in Soroptimist. During this session, briefly share why you think membership is declining. Then, learn some strategies on how to grow and retain members.

11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Federation Visitor Workshop:**

Jefferson II/III

Thriving Through Change

Navigating change is crucial for our organization's success. This presentation explores how to thrive in the face of evolving circumstances, drawing on insights from personal experience(s) and individual change management principles.

Peggy Van Meter

Board Member

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Washington Hall

Live Your Dream Program Luncheon

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards are cash awards given to motivated women who are the primary financial supporters of their families. The recipients of the awards seek to improve their lives by gaining additional skills, training, or education, but do not have the resources to do so. These cash awards are meant to offset any costs associated with the recipient's efforts to attain higher education, including tuition, books, supplies, childcare, or transportation costs.

2:45-3:45 pm

Monroe & Madison

Workshops

Philanthropy/Fundraising Pillar Session

Building Your Fundraising Confidence: Overcoming Your Fear of the Ask

Whether you are new to fundraising, a seasoned fundraiser, or want to keep up with current strategies, this presentation will provide helpful tools for success. Learn some best practices for donor relationship building, engaging potential donors in local initiatives and confidently making the ask.

Recognition/Public Awareness Pillar Session

Creating an Effective Club Website: From Vision to Launch

Building a club website doesn't have to be daunting. Discover key steps for creating a professional, impactful and user-friendly website. From forming a committee and selecting tools to designing a homepage and maintaining security, learn how to craft a site that aligns with your club's goals and SIA brand while staying manageable and budget-friendly. Plus, this session includes some interactive fun to help you kick off your web-building journey!

5:30 – 6:15 pm

Namaste Spot
and

Laurel Society Reception (invite only – Society Members)

Together, we recognize the remarkable contributions of our members

reaffirm our commitment to creating transformative opportunities for women and girls worldwide.

6:00 – 6:30 pm

Jefferson II/III

General Reception (cash bar)

6:30 – 8:00 pm
Jefferson II/III

Denim and Diamonds Dinner

- Club Anniversaries Celebration
- Presentation of the “We Dream Big” Betty Jean “B.J.” Cook CECR Governor’s Trophy
- Raffle Announcements

8:30 pm
*Natural Bridge
State Park*

Spring Night Sky Program

Join park rangers for an exploration of our night sky at this International Dark Sky Park! Look through a telescope and take in the silhouette of the star-lit Blue Ridge Mountains.

Sunday, May 4

8:30 – 11:00 am
Jefferson II/III

Bee’s Knees Recognition Brunch

Presentation of Awards:

- “She Dreams Big” Club Award
- Bennie G. Mendelson Recruitment Award

Closing Announcements

- 2025 Leadership Round Table
- 49th Annual Convention
- 2026 Spring Conference

11:00 am

Adjourn

11:30 am – 1:00 PM Central East Coast Region Board Meeting

2025 Spring Conference Speakers



Peggy Van Meter
Board Member
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.
Member, SI/Cumberland County, NJ

Peggy Gentile-Van Meter served a two-year term as Governor of the North Atlantic Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas 2018-2020. After her term as governor, she stayed active in various roles as a Soroptimist member. Peggy continued as chair for the North Atlantic Region's Remembrance Committee, administrator for their website, and Face Book page. She was a committee member for the SIA Big Dream Campaign. Her trip to Ireland for the SI Convention was an amazing experience and one she holds such wonderful memories of. Peggy was asked to serve on the SIA 2024 Convention Committee. During that time, she was also a part of the first Leadership Program and graduated at the SIA Convention. Peggy was elected to the SIA Board for the 2024-2026 term.

Peggy has always been an advocate for human rights. Her experience as an educator has given her insights on the importance of educating the public about the dangers and spread of human trafficking. She has spoken about this horrible worldwide travesty in classrooms and workshops. Domestic Violence Education and Awareness is also very important to Peggy, and she has often given presentations about this. She participates in many community education projects and events. Since joining Soroptimist in 2006, she has held several board positions at the regional level, including Governor-Elect, District Director, and District Secretary and is also a member of Soroptimist International of Cumberland County, NJ where she was honored in 2015 with SICC's Soroptimist of the Year award for her hard work and dedication. Peggy is very proud to be a contributing member of the SIA Laurel Society. Peggy is also a member of Lions International and a past committee member of South Jersey Holocaust Coalition. Peggy graduated from Cumberland County College in 1976, Glassboro State (Rowan University) in 1978 and earned her Master's in Holocaust & Genocide Education from Stockton University in 2001. Peggy has given several presentations on Women and the Holocaust. Peggy's other honors include induction into Cumberland County's Women's Hall of Fame (2011), Cumberland Regional High School Teacher of the Year (2006/2007), and Cumberland County Leadership Award (2004). Prior to retiring in 2012, Peggy taught history for more than 34 years at Cumberland Regional High School. Additionally, from 2006-2017 she served as adjunct History professor at Cumberland County College. When not doing Soroptimist work, she enjoys traveling, reading, volunteering and spending time with her family. Peggy has been married for 48 years and lives in a small rural farming community in Stow Creek, New Jersey. She has two children, Timothy and Jessica. Both are settled close by on the family farm. Peggy's four grandchildren are the sparks that light up her life.



Lisa Mangiafico
Associate Senior Director Records and Risk
Management
Soroptimist International of the Americas
Philadelphia, PA

Lisa Mangiafico is the Associate Senior Director Records and Risk Management at SIA headquarters. She was hired by SIA as our archivist and records manager in 1993, in anticipation of the organization's 75th anniversary in 1996 to create our federation archives. Since then, Lisa has taken on several roles at headquarters and has recently taken on risk management as one of the operational areas she oversees, in addition to records, and governance. Prior to joining SIA's staff, she worked for the General Federation of Women's Clubs as the coordinator of the Women's History and Resource Center in Washington, DC.

Lisa has graduate degrees in history and library/information science. She is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, serving as its presiding officer from 2003 to 2005, among numerous appointed and elected board positions. Lisa is also a long-time member of the Society of American Archivists and was elected to its board for 2013-2016. In 2020, Lisa was inducted as a Fellow of the society. She currently serves as Board Member of the Society of American Archivists Foundation, where she had also served as President. Lisa served on the New Jersey State Historical Records Advisory Board from 2004-2017 and is a member of the Cherry Hill Historical Commission.