



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SPRING Conference



Join Soroptimist members from near and far for an energizing weekend filled with uplifting speakers, hands-on workshops, and plenty of time to celebrate the amazing work we're doing together.

- ✓ Share Ideas - Get Inspired
- ✓ Learn and Grow with Us
- ✓ Shape the Future of Soroptimist



MAY 15-17, 2026



CROWNE PLAZA
Annapolis, MD

LEARN MORE



Register today!
<https://tinyurl.com/cecrspring26>



Soroptimist International of the Americas Central East Coast Region



CALL TO CONFERENCE

The 2026 Spring Conference of Soroptimist International of the Americas Central East Coast Region is hereby called to meet on May 11 (virtually), May 15-17 (in person) for the purpose of transacting such business as may be on the agenda and may properly come before the Conference.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from Governor Robin Davis.....	2
Conference Registration & Meal Options.....	3
Soroptimist “Hive-Five” Form	5
Friday Boat Tour Optional Event.....	6
Hotel Registration & Room Rates.....	7
Volunteer Project Signup.....	8
What to Bring and What to Wear.....	9
Important Documents	10
Standing Rules and Procedures of Conference.....	11
Information for Delegates.....	12
Preliminary Agenda.....	13
Speaker Biographies	18
Club Forms	
o Club Credentials Form.....	19
o President’s Processional Form	20
o Celebration of Life Form.....	21
o Club Sales/Raffle Table Form.....	22
o She Dreams Big Award Nomination Form	23
o We Dream Big Nomination Form	24
Activities and Attractions in Annapolis.....	25

Soroptimist International of the Americas® Central East Coast Region

OFFICERS

Governor
Robin S. Davis
SI/Woodbridge, VA

Governor-Elect
Deborah Mackes
SI/Manassas, VA

Secretary
Heather Jankovich
SI/Williamsburg, VA

Treasurer
Linda McCann
SI/Salisbury, MD

Board Member
Kerri Ardner
SI/Fairfax, VA

Board Member
Cathy Brinsfield
SI/Salisbury, MD

Immediate Past Governor
Roxanne Aaron
SI/Raleigh, NC

March 31, 2026

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the Soroptimist Central East Coast Region's 8th Annual Spring Conference—Charting Our Course—taking place May 15-17 in Annapolis, Maryland.

As we gather in this vibrant waterfront setting, we are reminded of the power of shared direction and purpose. Much like skilled navigators, each of us plays a vital role in helping to chart the course for our organization's future. Together, our collective leadership, vision, and commitment guide us forward in advancing our mission and expanding our impact.

Spring Conference offers a meaningful opportunity to connect, collaborate, and set our course ahead. Through shared ideas and experiences, we will navigate new opportunities, strengthen our networks, and inspire one another to lead with confidence and clarity. You will leave energized, equipped, and ready to steer toward even greater success in your clubs and communities.

I encourage you to register today and secure your place at this inspiring and impactful event. Early registration ensures you won't miss out on valuable sessions, meaningful connections, and the opportunity to help shape the future of our region. Gather your fellow club members and make plans to join us in Annapolis.

Let us come together to learn, lead, and chart the course—together.

I look forward to seeing you in Annapolis!

Warm regards,

Governor Robin

Robin S. Davis
2024-2026 Governor
Member, SI/Woodbridge, VA

sororobin@gmail.com
703-980-6647





**2026 CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM**

(Use one form per registrant; duplicate form as necessary)

Registration Deadlines: Early Bird: postmarked by May 1 Deadline: postmarked after May 1

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE SAME PRICE AT: tinyurl.com/CECRspringreg

Soroptimist International of: _____

Name of registrant: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Type of Registration (check one):

- President
- President Alternate
- Delegate
- Club Member
- Guest (Saturday Evening Banquet Only)
- Registered Guest (Non-member, attends all programs and meals– must pay registration fee)

Have you been a member 30 years or more? Yes No

Member less than 1 year? Yes No Is this your first CECR spring conference? Yes No

Do you have special dietary needs? Yes No If yes, please describe: _____

REGISTER ONLINE AT: tinyurl.com/CECRspringreg

Includes AV, materials, and meals for Friday Dinner; Saturday Lunch and Dinner (Breakfast is included with hotel)

- (\$320) Early Bird Registration Fee – postmarked by May 1
- (\$35) Friday Afternoon Optional Event (Annapolis Boat Tour)
- (\$370) Registration Fee – postmarked after May 1
- (\$15) “Hive-Five” Ad in the Program

Grand Total enclosed: \$ _____ (make check payable to: Central East Coast Region)

Robin Davis, Spring Conference Chair, 3704 Valley Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302

I am looking for:

- a roommate for Spring Conference
- a volunteer opportunity at Spring Conference
- a ride to Spring Conference
- none of the above
- someone to ride with me to Spring conference

Registration and Refund Policy: Refunds on conference registration will be honored only due to emergency situations. All other requests for refunds must be received in writing by the Conference Chair no later than May 1. Refunds will be provided upon approval by the CECR Governor and CECR Treasurer.

SPRING CONFERENCE MENUS



Have a dietary restriction? Please make sure to note it on your registration or contact Governor Robin at sororobin@gmail.com

REGISTER TODAY AT: tinyurl.com/cecrspring26

Please note: A hot breakfast is included with your hotel room rate (for two people/night).

Friday Dinner Buffet

- Traditional Caesar salad
- Caprese salad
- Chicken saltimbocca
- Marsala braised short ribs
- Roasted potato medley
- Roasted Vegetables
- Garlic Breadsticks
- Tiramisu
- Regular & Decaf Coffee, Tea & Iced Tea

Saturday Lunch

- Spinach Salad
- Chicken Piccata, dusted in seasoned flour then pan seared with lemon caper beurre blanc served with roasted potatoes and steamed broccoli
- Warm Rolls & Butter
- Chocolate torte
- Regular & Decaf Coffee, Tea & Iced Tea

Saturday Dinner Buffet

- Fresh field salad
- Choice of:
 - Sirloin Steak, 10oz. seared sirloin with sauteed onion, mushroom and garlic butter
 - Vegetable Tortellini with a vegan red pepper coulis
 - Chicken Annapolitan, chicken topped with crab imperial and lemon butter sauce
- Rice Pilaf
- Green bean Almondine
- Chef's dessert trio
- Warm Rolls & Butter
- Regular & Decaf Coffee, Tea & Iced Tea

“HIVE-FIVE” IN OUR PROGRAM



This year we are offering an opportunity for KUDOS to recognize your club members and events! Take this opportunity to give a shout out to a member, supporter or recipient.

Tell your members or supporters how wonderful they are by sending KUDOS to Someone Special!

- Honor Someone Who Made a Difference
- Thank an Outgoing President
- Congratulate an Incoming President
- Announce a Club Event
- Recognize Live Your Dream Award Recipient
- Highlight Member who Achieved a Personal Goal
- Welcome New Members
- The Sky is the Limit!

Size: 150 characters for \$15

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/CECRhive5> to add your kudos today!

Payment can be made either by:

- credit card using the CECR website (form includes content to be published)
- Zelle by using cecregion@gmail.com and writing “kudos” in the memo and then sending your content to Robin Davis at sororobin@gmail.com
- or you can send a check payable to CECR Spring Conference to:
Robin Davis, CECR Spring Conference, 3704 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302 and emailing your content to sororobin@gmail.com

All Kudos content artwork payments must be received no later than **May 1**.

FRIDAY BOAT TOUR

CHART A COURSE WITH SOROPTIMIST

Step aboard the classic Harbor Queen for a narrated cruise of the Annapolis Harbor and the banks of the U.S. Naval Academy. Hear the history of the Naval Academy, Annapolis' role as a historic seaport, the region's waterways, and catch a glimpse of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This cruise is an Annapolis tradition and fun for the whole family.

TOUR FEE **\$35.00** /PERSON



SET SAIL WITH US

MAY 15, 2:30–4:30 PM

DEPART FROM 1 PRINCE GEORGE ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM AT
[TINYURL.COM/CECRSPRING26](https://tinyurl.com/CECRSPRING26)



HOTEL INFORMATION



Crowne Plaza Annapolis by IHG
173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD, 21401
Tel: 540-291-2121

Perfectly positioned just minutes from historic downtown Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy, Crowne Plaza Annapolis offers a seamless blend of business and leisure. Our modern, refreshed hotel places you near Chesapeake Bay and a short drive from BWI Airport, with the best of the area within easy reach. Explore the lively City Dock, tour the Maryland State House, or enjoy the region's celebrated seafood and waterfront experiences.

Designed for both focus and relaxation, our guestrooms and suites feature premium bedding, complimentary Wi-Fi, and thoughtful details throughout. Whether you're traveling for work or a weekend getaway, you'll enjoy a central location just 30 minutes from Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.

Stay energized with 24/7 access to our Fitness Center and unwind in the area's only indoor hotel pool. Host productive meetings in flexible event spaces, dine at Annapolis Bar & Grill, and enjoy complimentary parking, all designed to keep you comfortable, connected, and ready for what's next.

Central East Coast Region has secured a special group rate of \$179 per night, plus applicable taxes. The room rate includes two complimentary hot breakfasts (additional breakfasts may be added). Reservations must be made by **April 17** to receive the special rate.

To make your reservations call 800-2-CROWNE (800-227-6963) and identify yourself as being with the "Soroptimist Spring Conference" or group code "SSC OR" or visit <https://tinyurl.com/cecr26hotel>.

SOROPTIMIST CENTRAL EAST COAST
REGION VOLUNTEER PROJECT

EMPOWERMENT BAGS

**SUPPORT CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION'S
BIG GOAL ACCELERATOR PROGRAM IN
SUPPORT OF WOMEN IN ANNAPOLIS**

Join us in giving back during this year's CECR Spring Conference! In support of our host community, we are collecting donations to assemble care bags filled with essential personal care items for women in need.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Bag packing will take place as part of the Friday, May 15 evening dinner, and will serve as a fun, hands-on team activity to kick off the weekend.

How You Can Help:

- Sign up to donate an item from the list and bring it with you to the conference.
- Not attending? You can still contribute! Simply arrange for a fellow club member to deliver your donated item.
- Prefer to give financially? Cash donations are welcome and will be used to purchase additional needed items and fill any gaps from the list.

VISIT:
[TINYURL.COM/CECR26BGAP](https://tinyurl.com/CECR26BGAP)

WHAT TO BRING & WHAT TO WEAR



What to Bring to Spring Conference:

- Bring a carry-all for conference materials, snacks, water, and all the ‘goodies’ you will purchase
- Conference attendees will receive a program with their registration packet
- Bring a note pad/computer/iPad to take notes during session
- Items for our volunteer event on Friday evening (see coordinating flyer)
- Your Soroptimist pin
- New members or members who never have attended Spring Conference
- Lots of cash for raffles and sales tables
- Soroptimist spirit & enthusiasm

Conference Attire at Spring Conference:

Banquet rooms tend to run cold; please bring a wrap or sweater.

- Friday Day: Business Casual (don’t forget a sweater to wear on the boat!)
- Friday Evening: Business Casual
- Saturday Day: Business Casual
- Saturday Evening: Garden Party attire
- Sunday Morning: Soroptimist logo wear

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS



All documents referenced below are available for download on the CECR Website: tinyurl.com/cecrspring26

Registration Information:

- Register for Conference at: tinyurl.com/CECRspringreg
- Conference Menus available at: tinyurl.com/CECRmenus26
- Hotel information and reservations: tinyurl.com/26cecrhotel
- Friday Boat Tour Information: tinyurl.com/CECR26springboat
- Volunteer Event Sign up: supplies needed - tinyurl.com/CECR26BGAP
- Other Activities and Attractions: tinyurl.com/cecr26sights

Club Intent to Participate & Conference Activity Forms: All forms are due by May 1

- **Delegate Credentials Form** - Your club must complete this form for your delegates to participate in voting at the Spring Conference (one form per Club): tinyurl.com/CECR26cred
- **Club Presidents Processional Form** (tinyurl.com/CECRprez) – Each club completes this form to identify whether their 2025-2026 Club President will participate.
- **Program ‘Hive Five’ Flyer** (<https://tinyurl.com/CECRhives>)– Use this new opportunity for giving a “hive-five” to recognize your club members, events, award recipients, and supporters.
- **Celebration of Life Form** (tinyurl.com/CECRmemorial)– Celebrate the lives of members who have passed since the 2025 Spring Conference. Don’t forget a photograph and personal information.
- **Raffle/Sales Table Form** (tinyurl.com/CECR26table) – Clubs may sell items and/or fundraise from the attendees at Conference. By completing this form, clubs will secure a space to display their wares during conference. If a drawing is to be held, please plan to have it drawn on Saturday evening.
- **We Dream Big/BJ Cook Governor’s Award Application Form** (tinyurl.com/CECRdreambig) – has your club accomplished amazing things this year? Of course it has! Apply today for a chance to win \$300 towards your Dream Programs.
- **She Dreams Big Award Application Form** (tinyurl.com/CECRshedreams) - Have your unsung she-roes recognized and sponsored to attend the Soroptimist Leadership Roundtable in June and join our new “Bee Collective” Forum.

Information for Club Delegates:

Each club in good standing selects three representatives (delegates) to vote on the club’s behalf during the Spring Conference. Delegates should review the Reports for Business Sessions (see below) with their clubs for guidance on voting.

- **Club Delegate Responsibilities** - Delegates are an extremely important part of the administration of our region. All conference delegates should download this summary of delegate responsibilities, including tasks to complete before, during, and after the conference. tinyurl.com/CECR26rules
- **Delegate Credentials Form** - Your club must complete this form for your delegates to participate in voting at the Spring Conference. Fill out the form (one form per Club): tinyurl.com/CECR26cred
- Reports for Business Session (keep watching the Spring Conference Page for additional details): Club presidents should present this information to their members so delegates will be prepared to vote on the decisions of their club. Delegates are strongly encouraged to attend but all are invited to the Delegates Caucus on May 11 via Zoom. Registration available at: tinyurl.com/cecr26caucus
 - Proposed 2026-2028 CECR Officers Candidate Resumes
 - 2025 Spring Conference Minutes –taken by the CECR Secretary and reviewed by three volunteers
 - 2024-2026 CECR Treasurers Report
 - 2026-2028 CECR Proposed Budget



STANDING RULES & PROCEDURES

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION

REGION PROCEDURES

R-12

- D. The voting members of Conference shall be the members of the Region Board and the accredited delegates of each club in good standing.
- E. A club shall be deemed in good standing if all requirements of the Federation Bylaws and Procedures as well as all procedures established by the Region Conference and Region Board have been met at the time its delegates register.
- F. Delegates:
 - (1) The delegates of each club shall be the President and two (2) active members.
 - (2) A delegate may represent only the club in which the delegate's membership is held.

STANDING RULES FOR REGION CONFERENCE

- 1. All voting delegates shall be seated together in front seats promptly at the beginning of each session.
- 2. The Agenda, as adopted, shall be the order of the day.
- 3. Changes in the Agenda may be made only by majority vote of the Conference.
- 4. After addressing the Chair and being recognized each delegate shall clearly state her name and name of her club.
- 5. A voting member may speak twice upon a subject and only for two minutes. Other members may speak once upon a subject for two minutes only.
- 6. Both delegates and non-voting members shall be allowed the privilege of the floor but precedence shall be accorded delegates.
- 7. No conference discussion may be released for publicity unless first approved by the Public Relations Committee.
- 8. All motions of any length must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at the time they are made. Forms are available.
- 9. All reports shall be in writing and a copy handed to the Region Secretary at the time the report is given to the Conference.

INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION

The elected delegates should have a working knowledge of Soroptimist Laws, Region Procedures, the objectives and ideals of the organization, and experience as a member of club committees or of the board. Understanding parliamentary procedure, ability to work with others, and a spirit of good will and understanding will help the delegate, the club, and the Conference Body.

The Club President, who is a delegate and who serves as the leader of the club's delegation should:

- Allocate time at a business meeting to discuss topics in the agenda, so that a majority opinion expressed by the club will serve as a guide to delegates.
- Arrange with other delegates for dividing topics of the report on Conference to be given to the club.
- Schedule time at a post-Conference club meeting, as soon as possible after Conference, for delegates to present their reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUB DELEGATES

Before Conference, each delegate should:

- Study the Call
- Be sure all reservations are sent in promptly
- Clarify financial responsibilities, according to club procedures
- Collect materials, etc. to take to Conference, including Soroptimist pin

During Conference, each delegate should:

- Register promptly
- Be on time to all sessions
- Attend all sessions
- Be prepared to write down important business proceedings and background information to report to the club
- Be familiar with and observe the Conference Standing Rules
- Participate in discussion and debate
- Vote with the club viewpoint in mind. If instructed by the club to vote a certain way, vote that way. If not instructed, use your best judgment, considering the best interests of your club and of all clubs in the Region.
- Be willing to accept an assignment from the Governor if asked.

After Conference, each delegate should prepare a report. Use the following outline to write your report:

- Action by Conference approving proposed changes in laws, the budget, or other matters presented to the voting body, and the reason for each action.
- Ideas for increasing club interest and support in attaining Soroptimist Goals.
- Summary of the workshops and committee presentations.
- The gist of speeches.
- A summary of proposals not approved by the Conference, and the reason for disapproval.
- Awards: who won them and why, hints for helping your club win next year.
- Your personal evaluation of the Conference.



S O R O P T I M I S T[®]
Investing in Dreams

Spring Conference 2026: Charting Our Course

8th Conference of the Central East Coast Region | May 11 & May 15-17, 2026 | Annapolis, MD

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Monday, May 11

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

Friday, May 15

9:00 am – 11:00 am Central East Coast Region Board Meeting

2:30 - 4:30 pm Optional Event Excursion:
Annapolis Harbor & U.S. Naval Academy Boat Tour
Join us on the water for a 40-minute narrated cruise through historic Annapolis and along the storied banks of the U.S. Naval Academy. A cherished local tradition, this scenic tour offers a unique perspective on the area's rich history.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Waves of Change: Advocacy in Action Dinner**
Join us in giving back during this year's CECR Spring Conference! As part of the kick off to Spring Conference, we will be assembling care bags filled with essential personal care items for women in need as a meaningful way to support our host city. The evening will also highlight Clubs who received awards and how they have put their program funds to work this club year, showcasing the incredible impact our members are making in their communities.

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

Saturday, May 16

7:30 – 9:00 am Registration

6:00 am Breakfast available (on your own and included with your room rate)

8:30 - 10:00 am **Full Steam Ahead Business Session**

Welcoming Remarks

Robin Davis, Governor & Presiding Officer

Sue Riney, SIA President

Michelle Burnett, SIA Executive Director/CEO

Memorial Acknowledgement

Inspiration

Business Session

- *Recognition of New Attendees and Seasoned Members*
Jamilah Dalton, CECR Membership Chair
Member, SI/Manassas, VA
- *Credentials Report*
Deborah Mackes, CECR Governor-Elect
Member, SI/Manassas, VA
- *Secretary's Report/Approval of 2025 Spring Conference Minutes*
Heather Jankovich, CECR Secretary
Member, SI/Williamsburg, VA
- *Treasurer's Report and Budget*
Linda McCann, CECR Treasurer
Member, SI/Salisbury, MD
- *26-28 Nominating Committee Report and Elections*
Cathy Brinsfield, CECR Nominating Committee Chair
Member, SI/Salisbury, MD

Federation Visitor Keynote:

Transformation Through Leadership: Stories That Connect Us

This speech invites members to reflect on the impact of Soroptimist through the stories of women and girls whose lives have been changed by their clubs. The Official Visitor will guide the audience through a brief, shared reflection exercise, highlight how personal leadership sparks transformation, and celebrate the global unity of our mission. The message reinforces that every act of service—no matter how small or local—contributes to a larger movement empowering women and girls through education and opportunity.

Judi Dunnigan

Board Member, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Member, SI/San Diego, CA

10:15 am - 12:45 pm **On Board & On Mission Workshops**

Recognition/Public Awareness Pillar Session

Club Identity & Global Brand: How They Work Together

Take the opportunity to learn why consistent branding strengthens recognition, trust and impact across all levels of the organization. We'll also explore how individual clubs can express their unique identity while aligning with SIA's global brand.

Robin Davis, CECR Governor

Impact/Program Pillar:

Big Goal Accelerator Projects: Eligibility Deep Dive

This session will take a deep dive into the eligibility requirements for Big Goal Accelerator Projects by breaking down the requirements, clarifying frequently misunderstood elements, and demonstrate how clubs can adjust or enhance their projects to meet eligibility requirements.

Roxanne Aaron, CECR Program Chair

Member, SI/Raleigh, NC

Philanthropy/Fundraising Pillar Session

Evolving Trends: How to tap into new fundraising tactics

The world of fundraising is constantly evolving. Explore new trends and technologies to help your club fundraise effectively.

Cathy Brinsfield, CECR Co-Chair, Fundraising

Member, SI/Salisbury, MD

Virginia Dempsey, CECR Co-Chair, Fundraising

Member, SI/Woodbridge, VA

Engagement/Membership Pillar Session

Infusing JOY into Membership

While we're all united by our mission to empower women and girls through access to education, the demands of planning meetings, completing background checks for youth projects, or fundraising can sometimes overshadow the meaning and enjoyment of our work. This session will provide ideas for bringing more joy into your club's membership experience—for yourself and your fellow members.

Jamilah Dalton, CECR Membership Chair

Member, SI/Manassas, VA

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Beyond the Horizon:

Dreaming Bigger, 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.

Terri Craig, *Presiding*
CECR Live Your Dream Chair
Member, SI/Raleigh, NC

2:45 - 4:00 pm

Deep Dive Workshop:

Full Sail Ahead with Direction, Alignment & Growth

This interactive strategy session will take a deeper look at the opportunities and challenges shaping membership across our region. Together, we will examine recruitment trends, retention realities, and engagement practices that are working at the club level. Participants will reflect on the full membership journey—from first connection to long-term leadership—and identify practical strategies to strengthen each stage.

Through guided discussion and collaborative planning, attendees will leave with clear priorities, actionable next steps, and renewed confidence in leading membership growth. Anchored in our mission and aligned with regional goals, this workshop is designed to help us move forward with clarity, intention, and momentum—because when we strengthen membership, we strengthen our impact.

Jackie Schrauger
Director, Membership
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

5:30 – 6:15 pm

Anchored in Impact: A Laurel Society Reception

(invite only – Society Members)

Together, we recognize the remarkable contributions of our members and reaffirm our commitment to creating transformative opportunities for women and girls worldwide.

6:00 – 6:30 pm

General Reception (cash bar)

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Bright Futures in Bloom —

A Garden Party & Installation Celebration

Surrounded by blooms and the spirit of possibility, we will celebrate the dedication of our members who make that work possible. The highlight of the evening will be the installation of our incoming officers — a meaningful ceremony symbolizing renewal, growth, and our continued commitment to advancing education, leadership, and opportunity for

women and girls. As new leaders take root and step forward, we honor the foundation laid by those who have served and look ahead to a new biennium of purpose and progress. We invite you to gather, connect, and toast to a bright future in bloom.

- Installation of 2026-2028 CECR Officers
- Club Anniversaries Celebration
- Presentation of the “We Dream Big” Betty Jean “B.J.” Cook CECR Governor’s Trophy
- Raffle Announcements

Sunday, May 17

6:00 am Breakfast available (on your own and included with your room rate)

9:00 – 11:00 am **Tides of Transformation Closing Session**
Finish up your time at Conference with a celebration of all our accomplishments for the year – be sure to attend as many Club Awards and individual recognition programs will be featured.

Federation Visitor Workshop:

Building a Culture of Transformational Leadership: Inspiring Impact
Get ready to gain a deeper understanding of transformative leadership and how it aligns with the values of SIA. Through reflection and practical examples, attendees will identify their personal strengths, uncover paradigm shifts that build confidence and resilience, and explore strategies to overcome common barriers. The session will highlight practical, everyday actions to create meaningful impact and strengthen our collective power.

Judi Dunnigan

Board Member, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Presentation of Awards:

- “She Dreams Big” Club Award
- Bennie G. Mendelson Recruitment Award
- Dream It, Be It Awards

Closing Announcements

- 2026 Leadership Round Table
- 49th Annual Convention
- 2026 Fall Meeting
- 2027 Spring Conference

11:00 am **Adjourn**

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



SPRING CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Judi Dunnigan

Board Member

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. Member, SI/San Diego, CA

Judi has been a Soroptimist for 27 years and has served in many leadership capacities in her club, Soroptimist International of San Diego, as well as Desert Coast Region as District III Director, Parliamentarian, Governor-Elect and Governor. Currently she is serving as a Board Member of Soroptimist International of the Americas and is the SIA board liaison to the Federation Fundraising Council. Together with Susan “Sam”

Buchenau, she is coordinator of the Soroptimist San Diego County Live Your Dream Collaborative. Judi has a passion for the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards and has spent many years mentoring and developing special relationships with award recipients, which she describes as a beautiful blessing in her life.

Judi is a health care professional with nearly 40 years’ experience in various aspects of the health care industry including direct patient care, business services, marketing and facility operations. Currently employed with Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers in San Diego, she is the Facility and Planning Operations Manager where she oversees all daily clinic activities, building management, and new clinic and facility development. Judi is a member of the CARE Advisory Board at Grossmont Community College as well as the president of her church congregation, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. When not working or volunteering, she enjoys traveling to just about anywhere and taking many photographs along the way.



Jackie Schrauger

Director, Membership

**Soroptimist International of the Americas
Philadelphia, PA**

Jackie Schrauger has been the Membership Director at Soroptimist International of the Americas since June 2025 and is responsible for the membership department’s execution of our strategic direction and tactics, retaining and growing our membership, and supporting our region chairs. Prior to that, she was SIA’s Program Director since April 2019 and has been working in education and education-aligned nonprofits for over a decade.

Jackie graduated with her B.A. in Government from Smith College in 2011 and M.S. in Nonprofit Leadership from University of Pennsylvania in 2018. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband Joe and rescue beagle Lottie.

CREDENTIALS FORM



Each Club in good standing (who has paid all dues and the mandatory conference fee) is entitled to a total of three (3) voting members:

- two Delegates and
- either President or President Alternate.

These are the only people who will be allowed to vote on region matters. The President/President Alternate and Delegates **MUST** be available to attend the Delegate Meeting on 5/11 @ 7PM via Zoom and the Business Session on 5/16 @ 9 AM in Annapolis, MD.

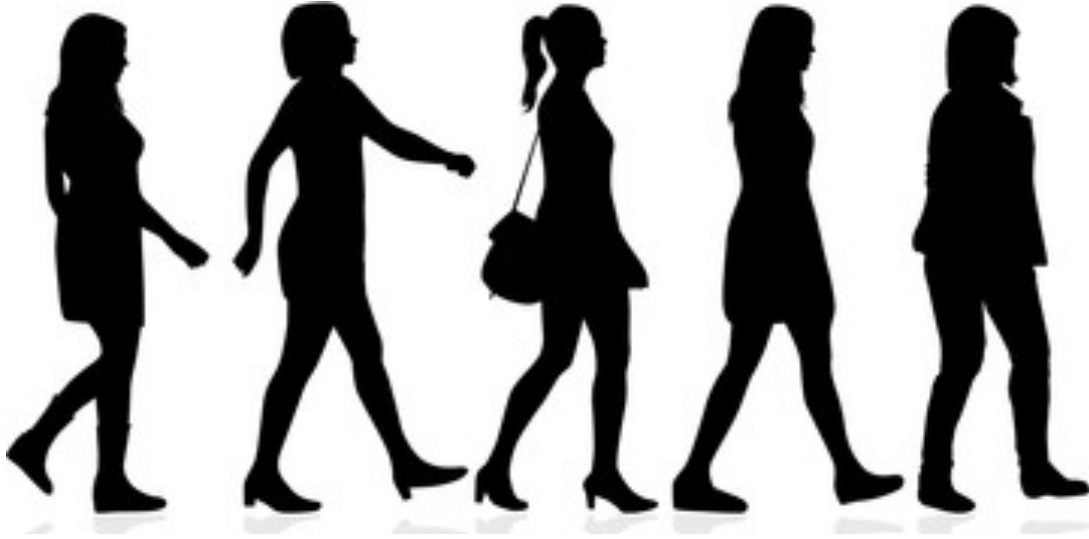
Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/CECR26cred> and fill out the form.

Please have all of your Delegates register for the Delegate Meeting on May 11 at 7 PM via Zoom at:
tinyurl.com/cecr26caucus

Upon arrival at Spring Conference, a valid Delegate Card will be issued to each delegate at registration.



PRESIDENTS PROCESSION



2025-2026 Club Presidents are invited to participate in the President's Processional at the opening of the Saturday Business Session. The line-up for the procession will be at 9:00 AM sharp outside the Main Banquet Hall.

If your Club President will be participating in the processional, please visit tinyurl.com/CECRprez to complete online.



If a Soroptimist member of your club has passed away within the past year (April 2025-April 2026), please complete this form and return it to the address listed below. Forms are due **May 1**.

An online version of this form is available at: tinyurl.com/CECRmemorial

Name of Deceased Member: _____
*Please provide a picture if possible.

Club Name: _____
*If a member of more than one club, list other club(s)

Date of Death: _____
* Include copy of obituary, if available

Joined Soroptimist: _____ (year) Number of years as a member: _____

Charter Member? Yes No

Occupation: _____

Club Offices Held: _____

Club Activities: _____

Community Involvement: _____

Biographical Information:

Honors and Awards: _____

Return form by May 1
Robin Davis
CECR Public Awareness Chair
3704 Valley Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22302
sororobin@gmail.com



CLUB SALES/RAFFLE REGISTRATION

2026 CENTRAL EAST COAST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE

If your club would like to have a table at this year's Spring Conference for club fundraising fill out this form online at: tinyurl.com/cecr26table

**NOTE: Clubs will be responsible for securing their items.
Please respond no later than May 1**

SHE DREAMS BIG APPLICATION



The 'She Dreams Big' 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.

HOW TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE

Only members in good standing of Central East Coast Region clubs may be nominated. Each club may nominate as many as two Soroptimists by completing this nomination form. Do not attach any supporting materials; instead make the case that your nominee deserves this award in your responses to the questions.

Submit the completed nomination form by May 1 online at tinyurl.com/CECRshedreams or to Governor Robin by emailing it to sororobin@gmail.com

The Soroptimist(s) selected will be honored as a recipient of the 2026 She DREAMS BIG AWARD at Spring Conference.

CRITERIA

To receive consideration for this award, the nominee should epitomize the values of Soroptimist, service spirit, goodwill, ethics and professionalism by:

- a significant level of involvement in club projects.
- using her abilities to develop or improve the Dream Programs or other club programs or services that significantly advance the mission of Soroptimist.
- a commitment to fostering growth and development of women and girls through her guidance and professional skills.
- May not hold an officer position in Soroptimist (at the Club, Region, Federation or International levels) but is a force for good in Club programs and projects.
- No Soroptimist may be honored posthumously

THOSE SELECTED

- Will be honored at the 2026 Spring Conference
- Will be sponsored by the Region to attend Soroptimist Leadership Roundtable on June 23 (virtual)
- Will join others in a "Bee Collective" of Region Members to discuss Soroptimist issues.

APPLICATION

If submitting by email - please include a photo of the nominee with this application and the following:

- Club submitting nomination
- Name of person being nominated
- General biography: How long has the candidate been a Soroptimist? What officer or leadership positions has she served?
- Describe why this Soroptimist is being nominated:
 - How has she epitomized the values of Soroptimist through service spirit, goodwill, ethics and professionalism?
 - How has she demonstrated a significant level of involvement in club projects?
 - How has she demonstrated leadership by using her abilities to develop or improve the Dream Programs or club programs and services that significantly advance the mission of Soroptimist?
 - How has she demonstrated commitment to fostering growth and development of women and girls through her guidance and professional skills?



**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CLUB AWARDS PROGRAM
aka the Betty Jean B.J. Cook Governor's Trophy**

Club Submitting Application:

Contact Person and Email:

Return this application to the Region by May 1.

Fill out this form online at: tinyurl.com/CECRdreambig or email sororobin@gmail.com

Please answer the two questions below, add additional pages if needed:

1. Describe the creative strategies your club implemented to recruit new members this past club year? How many new members were recruited? Does your club have a recruitment plan? Please share that plan with the region. How were your members engaged in the recruitment of new members?

2. Describe what creative strategies did your club implement to retain current members this past club year? Will all your members renew their membership? Does your club have a retention plan? Please share that plan with the region. How were your members engaged in the retention of members in the club?

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS



Find out more at: <https://tinyurl.com/cecr26sights>

Annapolis offers a rich mix of maritime history and waterfront charm. Top activities include touring the U.S. Naval Academy, sailing the Chesapeake Bay, and strolling around Ego Alley at City Dock. Enjoy historic sites, unique local shops in downtown Annapolis, and fresh seafood at dockside restaurants like Pusser's or McGarvey's.

Top Attractions & Sightseeing

U.S. Naval Academy: Tour the grounds, visit the USNA Museum, and see the Chapel and John Paul Jones Crypt.

Ego Alley & City Dock: Watch boats navigate this narrow waterway, walk the historic waterfront, and visit the Market House.

Historic Sites: Tour the Maryland State House (oldest in continuous use), the William Paca House and Garden, or take a historic ghost tour.

Annapolis Maritime Museum: Learn about the city's maritime history and the Chesapeake Bay

Water Activities & Boating

Sailing Tours: Take a ride on a classic schooner like the Woodwind.

Boat Tours: Enjoy a scenic cruise on the Chesapeake Bay or a guided harbor tour.

Kayaking/Paddleboarding: Rent boats at Truxtun Park or Quiet Waters Park.

Parks & Outdoors

Quiet Waters Park: Features walking paths, South River views, and seasonal ice skating.

Sandy Point State Park: Offers a beach for swimming, fishing, and views of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse.

Dining & Shopping

Downtown Shopping: Explore boutiques, galleries, and shops in the historic district or check out the Annapolis Mall, directly across the street from the Hotel!

Dining & Pubs: Enjoy crab cakes at local favorites like Chick & Ruth's Deli, or grab a cocktail at a speakeasy.

Amish Market: Visit the Pennsylvania Dutch Farmer's Market (Thursday-Saturday) for local food and treats.