

# Connections

*"I am a part of all that I have met."*

Alfred Tennyson

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conference Update	2
Annual Awards Luncheon	2
Good Search	2
President's Parley	2



Liz Abel

For many of you Liz Abel is a name you've seen in our Roster but a member you may know little about.

Liz is a tax attorney for Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne and has been a member of Soroptimist since 1988.

Liz was born in Waco, TX but as the daughter of an Army artillery officer, has lived all over the world. Her family settled in Huntsville in 1974. Liz is a graduate of Grissom High School, completed

## Member Spotlight

her undergraduate at UAH and her Juris Doctorate at Cumberland School of Law. Initially inspired by the character Joyce Davenport of Hill Street Blues, Liz wanted to be a defense lawyer but economic considerations led her to tax law ☺.

Liz has served on many local boards including Huntsville Hospital Foundation, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Foundation, WEDC Foundation and the Committee of 100. She

currently serves on the boards of Kids to Love Foundation and the new Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County. In addition, she is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church and is a member and treasurer of the Huntsville Delta Zeta alumnae chapter.

Liz will be presenting the Women's Opportunity Award at our upcoming luncheon. If you've not met Liz, please take a moment to introduce yourself!



Angela Drensek



**Soroptimist International of Huntsville**  
P. O. Box 18861  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
[www.soroptimisthsv.org](http://www.soroptimisthsv.org)

What can you say about the accomplishments of our VP of Programs, Angela Drensek? More than what we have room for, I can assure you!

Angela is one of those rare individuals who simply runs in a higher gear than most people. Her ability is surpassed only by her enthusiasm. One can immediately sense her joy of life because it is written all over her face. We are all very familiar with the endless contributions she makes to our club but how familiar are you with

her other interests?

Angela founded and coached the Madison Academy team that competed in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League statewide competition. This also involved teaching the kids robotics as an afterschool program. She is also a member-mom, along with her son Ralphie, of the Tennessee Valley LEGO Train Club doing 2-3 displays per year. Angela is also very involved with

the Early Works Museum, the Huntsville Amateur Hockey Association, dabbles in AKC Agility Training with her West Highland Terrier, Bailey, and professional cake decorating! And – she somehow finds time to work as a Test Engineer for Gray Research.

Most important of all, Angela is a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

Thank you, Angela, for all that you do and all that you are.

**DO YOU GOOD SEARCH?**

You may be surprised to learn it's possible to raise money for SIA with only a click of your mouse.

The next time you need to find information, use GOODSEARCH- a YAHOO powered search engine. Download the GoodSearch toolbar from [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). SIA receives 1¢ for each search with Soroptimist listed as the user's favorite charity.

Recently, GoodSearch has partnered with hundreds of online retailers through GoodShop.

When you shop a percentage of your total purchase will be donated to Soroptimist. For the donation to be processed you must go to [www.goodsearch.com/goodshop](http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop) and click through to your favorite stores.

Soroptimist members have raised more than \$1,300 for SIA through GoodSearch/Good Shop since 2006. Help us reach our goal to raise \$1,200 this year.

Ask your friends and family to join you in being part of this innovative way of showing support for the SIA mission. The pennies will add up! – *Lou Barlow*

## Southern Region Conference Update

In just a few short weeks, our club will be hosting the 83<sup>rd</sup> Southern Region Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel, April 23-26.

Caroline has been behind the scenes diligently working her magic getting invocation speakers for Conference. She always gets the most amazing women to speak to us!

And I am thrilled to announce that Paige has secured our Keynote Speaker for Saturday's (April 25) Awards Luncheon. Robin Henderson, Associate Director of Marshall Space Flight Center, will tell us about some of the obstacles she has faced in her career in the male dominated space industry. And as always, Dixie is

planning the most amazing decorations for all the activities of this busy week for us.

The phrase "It Takes a Village" takes on much more meaning when planning a project of this magnitude. Every planning session we have held has reminded me of what a wonderful "village" our club really is!  
– *Pat McCay* –

## Annual Awards Luncheon

The mailing labels have been printed and affixed. The invitations are now in the mail awaiting delivery to the almost 100 invitees to our Awards Luncheon, March 25 at the Huntsville Country Club.

Liz Hurley will again be our emcee for this celebration of our Violet Richardson, Women's Opportunity and Women

Making a Difference Award recipients.

Dixie is once more planning beautiful flowers to decorate the tables as Terri T. and I work on the last minute details of chairing this event.

This particular project is near and dear to my heart. It was one of the first committees I chaired as a

new club member. It remains, for me at least, a time of reflection and reminder of all that our club does in our community and the many lives we have touched along the way.

Please be sure to put March 25 on your calendar. This is one event you will not want to miss! – *Pat McCay*

## President's Parley

When I first heard the word Soroptimist, I have to admit that I thought it the strangest word I had heard in a while! I have since come to learn that it is one of the most beautiful words in our language. This one word is so very full of meaning and purpose and promise that I am a much better and happier person

since I embraced it. I challenge each and every one of you to take a few moments and reflect on just what that one word, Soroptimist, truly means to you and just how it has changed your life. In closing I share with you a quote from Leo Rosten: "*The purpose of life is not to be happy- but to matter, to be*

*productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.*"

This is what being a Soroptimist means to me.  
– *Judy*

**Announcement**  
Donna Haddox welcomes her 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild, Bailey Ellen, born January 23, 2009. Congratulations!