

## **Memories from Pat Simpson**

### **MEMORIES OF SIA CONVENTION 2016**

One of my fondest memories in Soroptimist was in 2016 when ten Soroptimists from SI Peterborough travelled to Orlando Florida for the SIA Convention. Julaine Palmer, Jane Crane, Joyce Fee, Eileen Stanbury, Julie Bell, Dianne Hutchison, Tanna Edwards, Elizabeth Kitchen, Sheryl Hopkins & I enjoyed a week at a condo unit arranged by Sheryl. It was a special time as RoseMary Reid, a former Eastern Canada Governor & longtime member of SI Peterborough was inducted as the new President of SIA for 2017-2018, an honour rarely bestowed on any member. We all travelled to & from the condo to the convention headquarters at Walt Disney World's Dolphin Hotel by our very capable chauffeurs Tanna & Julaine. One day Tanna spent \$60.00 going in & out of the parking lot because they had no in & out privileges! We spent most of the time together eating at various restaurants & even cooking dinner one evening for the whole group. It was very hot in the daytime so swimming in the pool occurred most nights after 10 p.m. My roommate Eileen & I had a smaller "suite" adjoining one of the bigger condos.

We were kept very busy for the first 4 to 5 days attending meetings & learning a lot about the many projects SIA is involved with. We did manage to get in a little shopping on the second last day. Although we were at Walt Disney World every day, we had no time to actually visit the site so that will have to be reserved for another time.

RoseMary surprised us with a special gift, a glass hummingbird, as a memento of our time at convention & as a thank you for supporting her on this very special occasion. We were all so very proud of RoseMary & all her accomplishments!!

Lots of fun, laughter & friendship occurred throughout the week. Of course there are always a few glitches that happen. On the first night we arrived in Florida we forgot Eileen at Walgreen's Drug Store because we thought we had everyone & only got concerned when we got back to the condo & she wasn't with us. We quickly retraced our steps & found her standing outside patiently waiting for one of us to pick her up. She recalls it slightly differently but we were very concerned until we contacted her! All in all a good time was had by all & was a very worthwhile & educational experience!