



Miss America 2005, Deidre Downs, Valerie Crooker Clemens and Art McMaster, Acting President and CEO

Local Leader Goes National

Valerie Crooker Clemens of Brunswick and Radnor, Pennsylvania, President of the State Board of Directors for the Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant, Inc., has been elected President of the National Association of the Miss America State Pageants for 2004-2005. Ms. Clemens replaced Robert Arnhy of California. She has served for the past three years as a member of the Board of Trustees representing the Eastern Region State Pageants. Ms. Clemens, held the title of Miss Maine 1980 and represented her home state of Maine at the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City. She has served as Producer and Executive Director during her more than twenty five years as a volunteer with the Miss America Program. She actively judges many local pageants and has served as judge for the Miss America State preliminaries in Texas, Hawaii, New York, Nebraska and numerous others throughout the United States.

A graduate of the University of Maine, with a degree in education, she was a founder of a drug and alcohol-free fund raiser for high school students and volunteers her time as a teacher and mentor of elementary school age students. In 1985, she founded a program called make a "Difference Day". This program showcases the local talent in her area, offering talent and special variety shows for children with learning disabilities and the elderly.

Crooker Clemens owned and operated "Valerie's...A Showcase of Fashion", a boutique located at Cook's Corner in Brunswick that specialized in fashion accessories, sportswear and classic eveningwear. Currently she is a fashion consultant and personal shopper for professional women.

Crooker Clemens, a graduate of Brunswick High School, is the daughter of Marion and the late Harry C. Crooker of Brunswick. She resides in Radnor, Pennsylvania with her husband, Al, and her two children; daughter, Connor and son, A.J.

This year's Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant will be held Saturday, June 4th at Crooker Theater in Brunswick. For more information about the Miss America Program go to www.missamerica.org on the Web. To learn more about the Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant, Inc. program go to www.missmaine.org or contact Executive Director Audrey Findlen at afindlen@maine.rr.com, for volunteer and scholarship opportunities in your area.

This Press Release provided by Patricia Crooker, Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant Board of Director's Treasurer. For more information call 725-6009.