



2013
FOUNDER REGION
Soroptimist International of the Americas
Thirty-seventh Annual Region Conference



Conference Proceedings

San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA
May 3, 4, 5



“Share the Light of Soroptimist Service”
Dona Gaddis Wolf, Governor

Thirty-seventh Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The thirty-seventh annual Founder Region Conference was held May 3, 4 and 5, 2013 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, California.

Friday, May 3, 2013

Registration opened at 9:00 am on Friday, May 3, 2013.

The Trade Fair opened at 9:00 am.

Doors were open at 10:00 am to the Ballroom.

Governor Dona Gaddis Wolf welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference session "Issues Facing Women in the Military" at 10:00 am; she thanked everyone for investing valuable time in their Soroptimist journey. She asked that all electronic devices be silenced. She introduced the Platform Party - Legislative Advocacy Committee members and the panelists.

Governor Dona thanked Legislative Advocacy Chair Gwen Johnson and each committee member for their effort in putting the program together. Chair Gwen introduced each featured panelist who shared their experiences in the military. In the audience was Gwen's daughter-in-law who is a Marine Corp Gunnery Sergeant.

At 12:00 pm, the "Legislative Awareness" luncheon was held in the Ballroom, presented by the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Governor Dona presented the Platform Party and introduced our Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Cheri Fleming and SIA Fundraising Council member Suzanne Sullivan. Inspiration was provided by Legislative Awareness Committee District III member Carol Smith, and the Welcome by Legislative Awareness Committee District V member Patti Dutton. Governor Dona turned the microphone over to Chair Gwen who introduced guest speaker Mary Baker, LCSW spoke about "What Happens When a Woman Leaves the Military." Announcements were presented by Conference Coordinator Mary Ann Redden.

Governor Dona announced that there were envelopes with tickets inside on each table for a raffle. The tickets were \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards shipping the donations from the clubs to the women in the military serving in Afghanistan.

Governor Dona commented on the program and asked the audience to show appreciation to the panel participants, keynote speaker and the Legislative committee for the program. Members were encouraged to attend the workshops and have their participation card signed for a chance to win \$250 towards the Laurel Society.

Governor Dona announced that \$705.00 was raised from the table drawing.

Members were encouraged to attend the leadership workshops and have their participation card signed for a chance to win \$250 towards the Laurel Society.

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Workshop	Participants	Session Leader	Location
<i>Lead to Succeed (Session 1)</i>	Presidents	District Directors	Salon G/H
<i>It Will All Add Up (Session 1)</i>	Treasurers	Pam Parker	Pleasanton Room
<i>Minutes and More</i>	Secretaries	Charlene Stamps	Danville Room
<i>Ready, Willing and Able</i>	Vice-Presidents/ President-elect	Bobbi Enderlin	Salon F
<i>Soroptimist 101</i>	All welcome	Cheri Fleming	Salon D/E

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Workshop	Participants	Session Leader	Location
<i>Lead to Succeed (Session 2)</i>	Presidents	District Directors	Salon G/H
<i>It Will All Add Up (Session 2)</i>	Treasurers	Pam Parker	Pleasanton Room
<i>History of Founder Region Fellowship</i>	All welcome	Del Nickerson & Dion Weaver	Danville Room
<i>Membership</i>	All Welcome	Gina Moore	Salon F
<i>Threads for Teens 2013 Tour</i>	All welcome	Allyson Ahlstrom	Salon D/E

Members returned back to the ballroom from the workshops at 3:45 pm.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements.

Governor Dona introduced Region Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier who held a Delegates Briefing followed by Timekeepers and Pages instructions.

Recessed at 4:30 pm

Governor Dona declared the thirty-seventh annual conference of Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas in session at 6:30 pm.

The presentation of colors was provided by the Crane Ridge 4H Club, an all-female group from Livermore. They led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

In an effort to demonstrate Increased Collective Impact, Governor Dona asked that all members join together to sing the National Anthem.

Governor Dona introduced Madeleine Melo, founder and board member of the Jere Melo Foundation in Fort Bragg, CA, who provided the Community Welcome on behalf of the six hostess clubs Mendocino County. Governor Dona also introduced District VI Fellowship Director Judy Lee who gave the inspiration and District II Fellowship Director Lenore Colarusso, who gave the welcome on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Dona introduced the platform party and Fundraising Council member Suzanne Sullivan who joined us for the entire weekend.

Governor Dona announced that there is an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a raffle. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00; the lucky winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards Founder Region Fellowship.

Governor Dona turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Linda Sue Hansen who called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm; she introduced past Fellowship Presidents who were in attendance. President Linda welcomed everyone to the Fellowship dinner, "Shining the Light on Education." She also announced that \$60,000.00 will be awarded to the recipients.

Fellowship District V Director Grace Sharples, Secretary, announced that the minutes of the previous meeting were in the 2012 Conference Proceedings and that any corrections or additions should be directed to the secretary during the conference.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Bonnie Silveria, District III who stated that the balance in all accounts as of April 30, 2013 is \$548,682.77. The report will be placed on file for review.

Fellowship Directors from each district gave a brief report and presented certificates and pins to all new fellows. The Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fellow was given to two Fellowship Directors, who are not yet Fellows – Harriette Minear, District IV and Grace Sharples, District V.

Fellowship District I Director Carolyn Bolton introduced recipient Irenka Dominguez-Pareto whose field of study is Education, at the University of California, Berkeley. Irenka shared information about her studies and future plans. Irenka received a \$10,000.00 award.

Fellowship District II Director Lenore Colarusso introduced Elizabeth Carlisle, whose field of study is Geography at University of California, Berkeley. Elizabeth shared information about her studies and future plans. Elizabeth received a \$10,000.00 award.

Fellowship District III Director Bonnie Silveria introduced recipient Jennifer Lawson whose field of study is Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley. Jennifer shared information about her studies and future plans. Jennifer received a \$10,000.00 award.

Fellowship District IV Director Harriette Minear introduced recipient Gina Anne Jibrin whose field of study is Education at University of California, Berkeley. Gina shared information about her studies and future plans. Gina received a \$10,000.00 award.

Fellowship District V Director Grace Sharples introduced recipient Michelle Galloway whose field of study is Nuclear Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Michelle shared information about her studies and future plans. Michelle received a \$10,000.00 award.

Fellowship District VI Director Judy Lee introduced a video about recipient Andrea Maile Alona whose field of study is Education at the University of Hawaii. Andrea was unable to attend our conference. Andrea received a \$10,000.00 award.

President Linda Sue gave closing remarks and adjourned the Fellowship meeting at 9:00 pm.

Governor Dona thanked Fellowship President Linda Sue and her directors for picking such worthy recipients.

Governor Dona congratulated the recipients and new fellows. She thanked the membership for their support of the Founder Region Fellowship program and announced that \$1,023.00 was raised from the table drawing. She thanked the hostess clubs for sponsoring this evening's event.

Governor Dona reminded members that we have additional workshops schedule for 8:00 am on Saturday and encouraged everyone to participate in these workshops.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements.

Governor Dona announced that we are in recess until 9:00 am Saturday morning when we convene the Founder Region Business Meeting.

Saturday, May 4, 2013

The Founder Region Business Meeting convened at 9:05 am Saturday morning.

Governor Dona asked that all cell phones be turned off, identified the delegate area, and asked that those who were not delegates to move from the area and introduced the platform party.

Governor Dona introduced Credentials Chair Tess Albin-Smith who gave the first credentials report.

Clubs in Founder Region	55	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	1	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	54	Club Delegates	137	
Total Voting Clubs	52	Total Delegates	147	Quorum: 74

Chair Tess moved the adoption of the credentials report. The first credentials report was adopted by a majority vote.

Secretary Charlene read the Conference Standing Rules and moved their adoption. The standing rules were adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Secretary Charlene read the corrections to the conference program;

Page 2 – Governor’s Steward – Laura Dickerson, from SI Antioch replaced Linda Bradbrook, SI Mendocino-Sonoma Coast.

Page 6 – Typo in Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef, the last named was spelled Klingekhoefer in the first line of her bio.

Page 15 – “Soroptimist Civility” – Typo in Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef, the last name was spelled Klingekhoefer.

Page 16 – The Inspiration was given by Allyne Brown, SI Ukiah and the Welcome was given by Mary Kay Hoffman, President, SI Fort Bragg.

Page 26 – Our Rich History – omission of Past Governor Catherine Burns name and bio: she served as SIA Federation Vice President from 1980-1982.

Secretary Charlene moved the adoption of the Official Program as corrected and subject to changes that may be necessary to expedite the business of the conference. The Official Program was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor Dona acknowledged the pages and stewards for the conference.

Governor Dona recognized the First Time attendees, who stood and received the Fireworks applause. They were recognized by the teal colored ribbon on their badges.

Governor Dona mentioned that Soroptimist is changing, and we are all a part of the transition team. She shared the four pillars of success that will lead the way as we increase our collective impact: Program, Membership, Public Awareness, and Fundraising. The first to speak was Public Awareness Chair Sylvia Crafton, who spoke on the Live Your Dream initiative and branding to increase the image of Soroptimist.

Before Nominating Committee Chair Gloria Soderbery gave her report, Governor Dona made the delegates aware of the position of the microphones on the floor. The microphone monitors were Paige Rankin, Dee Thompson and Linda Davis.

Governor Dona introduced Nominations Chair Gloria to give the Nominating Committee report. The following names were submitted as nominees to the 2013-2015 Founder Region Nominating Committee:

District I

Holly Ito, SI San Ramon Valley

District II

Dorothy Buffington, SI Martinez

District III

Suzanne Clark, SI Vacaville

District IV

Sandra Frazer, SI Santa Rosa

District V

Marge Dimmick, SI Arcata

District VI

Sandra Simms, SI Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

Governor Dona read each nomination by office, asking if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none; the chair declared the nominations closed.

Governor Dona presented the candidates, instructing them that they had two minutes to speak. When they finished speaking, they were instructed to stand to the right of the platform and remain standing until all candidates had spoken.

Governor Dona announced that according to Article V, Section 5.2 Elections (a) of the region bylaws, "Voting shall be by ballot unless there is only one candidate for office; in such event voting shall be by voice vote." A voice vote was conducted, only delegates and region and district officers from clubs within each district voted for nominating committee member.

All candidates were declared the winner of their respective offices.

Since the election of the 2013-2015 Nominating Committee had been completed by voice vote, there was no need to appoint tellers or review the election procedures.

Credentials Chair Tess gave the second credentials report:

Clubs in Founder Region	55	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	1	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	54	Club Delegates	142	
Total Voting Clubs	53	Total Delegates	152	Quorum: 77

Chair Tess moved the adoption of the credentials report. The second credentials report was adopted by a majority vote.

Secretary Charlene stated that there were several letters of greeting, however, in the interest of time; she read the letter from SIA President Raquel Arreola Ruiz. Also, she announced the Findings Report for conference 2016. The following clubs agreed to serve as hostess: SI Waikiki, SI Central Oahu, SI Honolulu and SI Arcata from District V. Governor Dona stated that that's truly increased collective impact.

Governor Dona asked for a representative from the clubs to come forward and speak to the delegates; Shawnee Hammer, President, SI Honolulu spoke on behalf of the clubs stating that they were excited and honored to be the host clubs for 2016 conference. She gave special thanks to SI Arcata (District V) for stepping up to the challenge and agreeing to serve with them.

Governor Dona introduced Treasurer Pam Parker to give the Treasurer's Report and announce the winner of the Julia "Bess" Combs Membership Increase Award. Treasurer Pam announced that in the conference bag, there is a Profit & Loss financial report showing the budget vs actual from July 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. In the interest of time, she would answer any questions that anyone may have during the breaks throughout the conference. Treasurer Pam noted that Founder Region had a net membership increase of 37 new members. Next, Treasurer Pam announced the Julia "Bess Combs" Membership Increase Award; the award went to SI Guam for having the largest net growth (18 new members) in regular membership. SI Guam will receive a certificate of recognition and a donation of \$500 to the Club Giving Campaign.

Governor Dona stated that in preparation of the presentation of the Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws, there will be a review of the discussion process. She introduced the timekeepers for the business session; Sharon Valenti and Tami Glasco.

Discussion time for each proposed amendment is ten minutes. Delegates can speak for or against an issue for two minutes. Governor Dona informed the delegates that the motion forms are on each table.

Governor Dona introduced Founder Region Laws and Resolutions Chair Jeannie Griffiths who read the proposed amendment number one: The question is on the amendment to Founder Region Bylaws Article V Nominations, Section 5.2, Elections, a. shall be amended to read "Voting shall be by mail ballot." The amendment was submitted by SI Fort Bragg. The voting body discussed the amendment and a vote was taken. The amendment was not adopted.

Governor Dona informed everyone that, in the interest of time, the Membership Report has been moved up; she introduced Membership Chair Gina Moore to give her report. Chair Gina stated that in order to shape our future and increase our impact as an organization we need to focus on our projects, especially the Women's Opportunity and Live Your Dream and make sure that Soroptimist is our charity of choice. To accomplish these things, we need new members to be an effective team. In the last ten years, we lost 7,500 members in 111 clubs. We must strengthen our club motto. Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) proposed to Soroptimist International (SI) that each federation determine what is best for membership requirement. At the August 2012 SI board meeting, SI agreed to remove sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 from Article 4 of the SI Constitution; these sections primarily addressed the club requirements for membership, including invitation, member categories, members being drawn from a profession, business or occupation, and the minimum number of members for continuing in service and chartering a club. Clubs with low membership will not lose their charter.

Governor Dona introduced Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect Cheri Fleming. President-Elect Cheri shared with us the Federation update. She stated that the shift we are making is going to increase our collective impact in our community and globally; making positive change for women and girls. She encouraged us to focus on the education of women and girls; education is the decisive factor in bringing women and their families out of poverty. Since 1972, the Women's Opportunity Award program has helped more than 30,000 women reach their goals and live their dreams: 63% of recipients secure higher paying employment. 79% report a higher standard of living. 98% have improved self-esteem. 92% serve as positive role models for their children. 79% have entered the "helping profession", such as nursing, teaching, social work and counseling. During the past 40 years, we have invested over \$25 million in WOA; all SIA programs are funded by members and outside donations.

She stated that clubs should give 10% of funds raised locally to Club Giving (SIA). She asked that we all participate (sign up) for Live Your Dream campaign; she encouraged us to ask at least two friends to sign up and become supporters.

President-Elect Cheri stated that she had the 2012-2013 Best Practice finalists for Soroptimist Celebrating Success. She stated that 28 entries were submitted: Fundraising (8), Membership (4), Programs (9) and Public Awareness (7). These are the region finalists for Fundraising: SI Humboldt Bay (High Heals for Healing); Membership: SI Vallejo; Program: SI Honolulu; and Public Awareness: SI Vallejo.

Governor Dona thanked President-elect Cheri and announced that Founder Region will be making a donation of \$250.00 towards the Laurel Society in her name.

Governor Dona presented the 2013-2015 Nominating Committee and appointed Gloria Soderbery as the 2013-2015 Nominations Committee Chair.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcement.

Recessed at 11:30 am

Governor Dona reconvened the meeting at 12:30 for the "Share the Light of Soroptimist Service" Luncheon. She introduced the Directors, who led their club presidents/representatives into the ballroom.

Governor Dona introduced District II Director Bev Gomer who gave the inspiration.

Governor Dona introduced District IV Director Maddy Leader who gave the welcome on behalf of the District Directors.

Governor Dona introduced the platform party.

Governor Dona talked about the table raffle and stated that the money raised during lunch will go towards our region's Women's Opportunity Award with the goal of increasing the amount we award to each district winner next year.

Governor Dona announced that the Directors will begin their reports and present the club awards to those clubs who completed and submitted the Soroptimist International Club Award form. Each club that completed the form had their name placed in a drawing; one club from each district will receive a \$500 donation to Club Giving in the clubs name. The following clubs names were pulled for the Club Giving donation:

District I – SI East Bay
District II – SI Martinez
District III – Si Vallejo
District IV – SI Sonoma Valley
District V – SI Humboldt Bay
District VI – SI Central Oahu

Governor Dona introduced Treasurer Pam who explained the Member Sponsor Award and to draw the name of the lucky sponsor. The recipient will receive a Laurel Society membership or if already an existing Laurel Society member, will receive a contribution. The winner was Tish Belew, SI Mendocino.

Governor Dona asked Fellowship President Linda Sue to come forward to announce the new Fellows:

1. Joan Mora, SI Windsor
2. Kathleen Herrera, SI Vacaville
3. Lorene Duarte, SI St. Helena
4. Jennifer Medici, SI St. Helena
5. Sharon Ebersol, SI St. Helena Sunrise
6. Timi Tumbaga, SI Pittsburg
7. Sylvia Crafton, SI Marianas
8. Kristal Koga, SI Marianas
9. Susan Weaver, SI Mendocino

The following members became Fellows from the purchase of the Fellowship fundraiser:

1. Patty Olmos, SI McKinleyville
2. Jeannie Griffiths, SI Cloverdale
3. Treva Black, SI The Delta
4. Sally Munger, SI Clear Lake
5. Bonnie Silveria, SI Benicia
6. Carolyn Bolton, SI Oakland
7. Kathy Semac, SI San Ramon Valley
8. Brenda Renson

The results of the drawing from Deanna Hank's jewelry were Gloria Soderbery bid \$100 on a necklace and Bambi Reile, SI Vacaville won from the purchase of the pins.

The table raffle raised \$955. The money will be donated to the Women's Opportunity Award for 2014 conference.

Jeannie Griffiths gifted her Fellowship to President-Elect Cheri.

Recessed at 2:23 pm

Governor Dona reconvened the meeting at 2:45 pm; she introduced presenters Dr. Michelle Donohue Mendoza (SI Watsonville) and Dr. Valerie Brown-Kingelhofer (SI Monterey Coast) for the Soroptimist Civility: Eliminating Incivility inside Soroptimist workshop. We learned that personal communication behavior impacts club civility and member morale; and of how thoughts and feelings impact us.

Governor Dona called for a vote on the Hostess Clubs for Conference 2016; the vote was unanimous. She congratulated the clubs and let them know that we look forward to joining them in District VI.

There was a drawing for the Workshop Participation; Sally Munger, SI Clear Lake name was drawn and she will receive a donation in the amount of \$250 towards the Laurel Society.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements.

Recessed at 4:37 pm

Governor Dona reconvened at 6:00 pm for dinner and the Soroptimist Dream Factor. She congratulated everyone and recognized the Past Governors; the Founder Region All-Star Soroptimist team.

She stated that All-Star is a term designating an individual as having a high level of performance in their field. Being the baseball enthusiast that she is, the recognition was based on field positions:

Pitcher – Past Governor Kate Burns (1978-1980)
Catcher – Past Governor Del Nickerson (1984-1986)
First Base – Past Governor Carol Steele (1986-1988)
Second Base – Past Governor Susan Joyce (1988-1990)
Third Base – Past Governor Mary Ann Redden (2002-2004)
Shortstop – Past Governor Cathy Mitchell (2004-2006)
Right Fielder – Past Governor Sue Finch (2006-2008)
Center Fielder – Past Governor Amelia Benko (2008-2010)
Left Fielder – Past Governor Linda Sue Hansen (2010-2012)

A donation to the Laurel Society will be made in the name of all of our Past Governors.

Governor Dona introduced Mary Kay Hoffman, President, SI Fort Bragg who gave the inspiration.

Governor Dona introduced Allyne Brown, SI Ukiah who gave the welcome.

Dinner was served.

Table raffle raised in the amount of \$1,010 will be donated to the Women's Opportunity Award for 2014 conference.

Governor Dona shared how the Soroptimist Dream Factor evolved into the night's entertainment; informing everyone how we are "Shaping the Future of Soroptimist through Increased Collective Impact". She stated that seven clubs will be performing this evening. The winning club's performance will receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving in their name. The following clubs participated:

SI Napa, Dream Lover
SI Martinez, Day Dream Believer
SI Oakland, The Impossible Dream
SI Humboldt Bay, What a Day for a Day Dream

SI The Delta, Dream a Little Dream of Me
SI Vacaville, California Dream'in
SI 24-680, Sweet Dreams

By applause, the winner was SI Vacaville.

Recessed at 10:00 pm

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Governor Dona reconvened the conference at 8:05 am Sunday morning with the "Reflecting the Light of Soroptimist Service" remembrance of the members who had lost their lives this past year. The service, a power-point presentation, featured the names and photographs of the deceased members.

They will be missed in our hearts and remembered for their dedication to the ideals of Soroptimist:

Nina Arrabit

Mildred C. Bloedorn

Kennis "Ann" Buringrud

Mary T. French

Joyce Neil

Gladys Preszler

Martha Turner

Helen Van Reeth

Soroptimist International of Santa Rosa

Soroptimist International of Kona

Soroptimist International of Benicia

Soroptimist International of Pittsburg

Soroptimist International of Richmond

Soroptimist International of Diablo Vista

Soroptimist International of Oakland

Soroptimist International of Calistoga

Governor Dona made two short announcements: Legislative Advocacy Committee need assistance transporting the items for the women in the military to Antioch. Also, remember to complete the conference evaluation forms and turned them in.

Governor Dona introduced Treasurer Pam who gave the inspiration.

Governor Dona introduced Secretary Charlene who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board.

Governor Dona introduced the platform party.

Governor Dona informed us that Fundraising Committee Chair Linda Glantz became ill and was transported to the hospital. Laws and Resolutions Chair Jeannie Griffiths purchased "Get Well" cards for attendees to sign which were passed around. Governor Dona called upon Treasurer Pam to give the Fundraising Committee Report.

Treasurer Pam stated that SIA President Raquel's challenge is that clubs give 10% of funds raised to Club Giving; keeping 90% of funds in the clubs for local projects. She gave the following breakdown of clubs who have made contributions to Club Giving: three (3) clubs in Founder Region have given at the \$250 level; twelve (12) clubs have given at the \$500-\$999 level; and sixteen (16) clubs have given at the \$1000-\$2499 level. She stated that \$.81 of each dollar contributed goes towards funding programs and \$.19 goes towards funding other projects; none of the contributions goes towards administration. She informed us that in Founder Region, \$8,553.98 has been donated to Founders Pennies. There are now 182 members in Founder Region who are members of the Laurel Society; Carolyn Bolton, SI Oakland and Sally Munger, SI Clear Lake became members today by donating \$1000, each. Also, there are 13 members in Founder Region who are members of the Laurel Legacy.

Governor Dona introduced S Club Committee Chair Lisa Wittke Schaffner and her daughter Mckenzie who gave a report on S Clubs. There are 19 S Clubs sponsored by 12 clubs in Founder Region.

Governor Dona introduced Governor-elect Bobbi who also is the Founder Region Program Chair. Chair Bobbi stated that the Ruby Award is named for Ruby Lee Minor, the first president of the National Soroptimist Club, now SIA. She stated that 19 clubs submitted an applicant for the award. She introduced the Ruby Award winner Robin Weidman, Princess House; who was sponsored by SI Central Solano County. After sharing her story of the evolution of Princess House, Governor Dona presented Robin with a check for \$1000 for Princess House and a certificate and Ruby paperweight.

Governor Dona introduced Violet Richardson Award Chair Norene Lowry. Chair Norene gave a history of the Violet Richardson Award program that began in 2000 and named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club founded in 1921 in Oakland, CA. Chair Norene stated that during the 2011-2012 club year, 54% of Soroptimist International of the Americas clubs participated, recognizing 818 girls. For the 2012-2013 club year Founder Region had 82% participation; 53 award recipients and runner-ups received \$27,050 and \$9,250 was donated to their organizations. She thanked the committee members, Latresa Daniel, District I; Cynthia Laskey, District II; Fawn Williams, District III; Sydney Sciani, District IV; Elizabeth Sinofsky, District V; and Lou Sablan, District VI.

Chair Norene asked the Violet Richardson Award district winners or their sponsoring club representative to come forward and be seated by the stage. The district winners were: Claire Williams, sponsored by SI Pleasanton/Dublin; Isabel Bustamente, sponsored by SI Diablo Vista; Nesrine Majzoub, sponsored by SI Central Solano County; Gianna Pendleton, sponsored by SI Santa Rosa; Hannah Christen, sponsored by SI Humboldt Bay; and Mahealani Yoshida, sponsored by SI Kona. Governor Dona presented each winner with a certificate, a \$500 check, a Live Your Dream Journal and a check for \$250.00 for their charity of choice. Chair Norene announced that Claire Williams was selected as the region winner and that her application has been forwarded to Soroptimist International of the Americas for federation judging. Claire was awarded \$1,000 by Soroptimist International of the Americas with matching funds to her organization, *Read to a Teen*.

Governor Dona announced that Women's Opportunity Award Chair Dr. Christine Naber could not attend and that District IV Representative Paula Kamena will make the presentations. Paula stated that the Women's Opportunity Award was established in 1972 and is the signature program for Soroptimist International of the Americas. During the 2011-2012 club year \$1.6 million in club, region and federation funds were awarded to 1,260 women from 1,011 clubs in 19 countries and territories. There was 74% participation by Soroptimist International of the Americas clubs. Funding increased by \$39,144, which is 2.5%; and 44 additional women received awards. Non-cash awards totaled \$17,716. For the 2011-2012 Women's Opportunity Award Impact Report, SIA sent surveys to 100 region level participants from the 2008-2009 club year. The results follow: 96% reported an increase in self-esteem and self-confidence; 64% reported earning an additional education degree or certification; 36% are still working towards a degree or certification; 69% reported securing higher pay in employment; 72% reported an improved standard of living for themselves and dependents; and 93% reported serving as role models for their dependents. On behalf of Chair Christine, she thanked and recognized the committee members: Elise Balgley, District I; Mary Morris, District II; Helaine Bowles, District III; Kristy Rasmussen, District V; and Lisa Nelson, District VI. Special recognition went to District III who gave 19 awards and District VI who gave \$36,000. We had 100% participation with 74 women recognized, giving a total of \$115,950. This is an increase of 24% in giving from last year, representing over \$22,000 more in awards.

Paula asked the Women's Opportunity Award district winners or their sponsoring club representative to come forward and be seated by the stage. The district winners were Irene Lopez, sponsored by SI El Cerrito; Jenny Tran, sponsored by SI Pittsburg; Fahima Khoram, sponsored by SI Central Solano County; Dani Foreman, sponsored by SI Ukiah; Sarah Pobiecke, sponsored by SI Arcata; and Amber Carlson, sponsored by SI Waikiki Foundation, Inc. Each

winner was presented with a certificate and two checks, one for \$800 from Founder Region and one for \$3000 from Soroptimist International of the Americas and a Live Your Dream journal. Paula announced the region winner who received \$5,800 was Jenny Tran whose name will be forwarded to Soroptimist International of the Americas for federation judging. Jenny also received a laptop computer and Windows 8.

Sunday's brunch table raffle donation was \$1,006; the money will be donated to the Women's Opportunity Award for 2014 conference.

Governor Dona announced the names of the basket opportunity raffles.

Registration Chair Vicki Ham gave the attendance report:

International Officers	0	Club Delegates	142
Federation Officers	1	Other Soroptimist	201
Region Officers	4	Guests	51
District Directors	6		
Fellowship President	1		
Fellowship Directors	6	Total in Attendance	412

Governor Dona thanked President-elect Cheri, her region committee chairs, the hostess clubs and conference committee members. The hostess clubs were presented with a certificate of appreciation and each club will receive a \$500 donation in the club's name to Club Giving.

Governor Dona gave her closing remarks, thanking the clubs for their donations for the women in the military serving in Afghanistan.

Governor Dona adjourned the Thirty-seventh Annual Founder Region Conference sine die at 11:12 am.

Charlene Stamps
Founder Region Secretary



**Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting
May 3, 2013
San Ramon Marriott Hotel**

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Sue Hansen at 7:45 PM.

Secretary Grace Sharples reported that the minutes of the previous meeting were in the 2102 Conference Proceedings. Any corrections or additions could be directed to the Secretary during the Conference.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Bonnie Silveria. The balance in all accounts as of 4-30-13 was \$548,682.77. The Treasurer's report will be filed for review.

The six awardees were each given a certificate and a check for \$10,000.00.
Andrea Maile Aiona - Curriculum Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Elizabeth Carlisle - Geography, University of California at Berkeley
Irenka Dominguez-Pareto - Educational Advocacy, University of California at Berkeley
Michelle Galloway - Nuclear Engineering, University of California at Berkeley
Gina Anne Jibrán - Violence in Schools, University of California at Berkeley
Jennifer Lawson - Domestic Violence and the Child Welfare System, University of California at Berkeley

Fellowship Game winners were Carolyn Bolton, SI Oakland, Kathy Samic, SI San Ramon Valley, Pamela Pitkins, SI Clearlake, Eva Giannori, SI Dixon, Treva Black SI The Delta, Helaine Bowles, SI Benicia, Patty Ohma, SI McKinleville, Cheri Fleming, SI Santa Clarita Valley,

District Directors from each District gave a brief report and presented certificates and pins to all new Fellows. The Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fellow was given to two Fellowship Directors not yet Fellows - Harriette Minear, District IV and Grace Sharples, District V in recognition of all their hard work for Fellowship.

Closing remarks were given by President Linda Sue Hansen.
The meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Submitted by,
Grace Sharples
Secretary
Founder Region Fellowship, Inc