



2015  
**FOUNDER REGION**  
Soroptimist International of the Americas  
**Thirty-ninth Annual Region Conference**



# Conference Proceedings

San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA  
May 1, 2, 3



***“Share the JOY of Soroptimist”***  
*Bobbi Enderlin, Governor*

## Thirty-ninth Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The thirty-ninth annual Founder Region Conference was held May 1, 2 and 3, 2015 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, California.

### **Friday, May 1, 2015**

Registration opened at 9:00 am on Friday, May 1, 2015.

The Trade Fair opened at 9:00 am.

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

Governor Bobbi Enderlin opened the conference at 10:00 am with the introduction of the Legislative Advocacy Committee members: Chair Angie Haramoto and Moderator Linda Witong.

Governor Bobbi welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference session “Increased Collective Impact on Human Trafficking”; 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 Chair Angie Haramoto (SI/Maui), Tess Albin Smith (SI/Noyo Sunrise), Elise Balgley (SI/Fremont-TriCities), Carol Dippel (SI/EI Cerrito), Joy Swank (SI/Vacaville), Linda Witong (SI/Marin County), Terry Comiskey (SI/24-680), SIA President Poco Davis, FBI Special Agent Marty Parker, Cynthia Peterson (Director, Rape Crisis Center for Marin and Contra Costa Counties), Susie Foreman (Susie’s Project), and Nancy O’Malley, Alameda County District Attorney.

The panel speakers provided valuable information on the current issue of sex trafficking from each of their perspectives. In addition, Linda Witong showed a video filmed at their recent Trafficking forum. This video was provided to all clubs.

Governor Bobbi thanked Legislative Advocacy Chair Angie and each committee member for their effort in putting the program together.

Conference Coordinator Dona Gaddis Wolf made announcements.

*Recessed at 12:02 pm*

*Reconvened at 12:45 pm*

At 12:45 pm, the “Two Faces of Slavery” luncheon was held in the Ballroom, presented by the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Governor Bobbi presented the Platform Party and introduced our Official Visitor, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) President Poco Davis. The Inspiration was provided by Legislative Advocacy Committee District II member Terry Comiskey, SI/24-680, and the Welcome by Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair Angie Haramoto, SI/Maui. Governor Bobbi informed us that guest speaker, Elmy Bermejo, Regional Representative for the Secretary of Labor, had to cancel her attendance. A Question/Answer period was provided so the audience could ask questions of all the morning speakers.

Fellowship President Carol Steele and Fellowship Director, District III Shannon Richards informed us that the eight original games were sold out and they held a drawing and four new Fellows were named: Alene Webb, SI/Humboldt Bay, Denise Grimshaw, SI/Richmond, Amelia Benko, SI/Pleasanton/Dublin, and Diana Mogel, SI/Eel River Valley.

Three members became Laurel Society members – Julie Johnson, SI/Eel River Valley, Helaine Bowles, SI/Benicia and Arletta Cortright, SI/Central Solano County.

Governor Bobbi 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 the region’s Dream Program Awards.

Governor Bobbi commented on the lunch time presentation and asked the audience to show appreciation to the panel participants and the Legislative Advocacy committee for the program.

Governor Bobbi announced that \$867.00 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 a \$250 donation towards their Laurel Society membership.

Lunch ended and members attended the workshops.

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Session Leader</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Leader of the Club (Part I)</i>	Presidents	District Directors	Salon D & E
<i>It's More Than Just Funds (Part I)</i>	Treasurers	Vicki Ham	Salon G & H
<i>Preserving Your Club's History</i>	Secretaries	Charlene Stamps	Danville Room
<i>Stepping Up to Leadership</i>	Vice-Presidents/ President-elect	Pam Parker	Salon F
<i>Membership – R &amp; R Challenge</i>	All members	Latresa Daniel	Pleasanton Room
<i>Wow, What a Great Newsletter!</i>	All members	Betsy Milan	Salon 2

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Session Leader</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Leader of the Club (Part II)</i>	Presidents	District Directors	Salon D & E
<i>It's More Than Just Funds (Part II)</i>	Treasurers	Vicki Ham	Salon G & H
<i>Food Kills – Obesity is the #2 Killer of Women</i>	All members	Bambi Reile	Danville Room
<i>Making It Easier: Live Your Dream Award</i>	All members	Gwen Johnson	Salon F
<i>Membership – R &amp; R Challenge</i>	All members	Latresa Daniel	Pleasanton Room
<i>Club Protocol &amp; Decorum</i>	All members	Barbara Lanier	Salon 2

Members returned back to the ballroom from the workshops at 4:15 pm.

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

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

*Recessed at 4:45 pm*

At 5:00 pm, the Founder Region “Fellow” Reception was held in the patio area for Fellows only to meet the 2015 Fellowship recipients.

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

The Presentation of Colors was provided by the Mount Diablo High School JROTC Color Guard; they led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The National Anthem was sung by the VOENA Children’s Choir (Benicia).

Governor Bobbi introduced Candace Anderson, District 1, Contra Costa County Supervisor, who provided the Community Welcome. Governor Bobbi also introduced District VI Fellowship Director Lorene Hopkins who gave the Inspiration and District II Fellowship Director Terry Enns, who gave the Welcome on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Bobbi introduced the platform party. The VOENA Children’s Choir provided entertainment.

Governor Bobbi 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 Bobbi turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Carol Steele who introduced Past Fellowship Presidents who were in attendance. President Carol welcomed everyone to the

Fellowship Awards Banquet. She also announced that \$100,000.00 will be awarded to the recipients.

Seven of the following women were awarded a \$10,000.00 fellow and two were awarded a \$15,000.00 fellow; they shared information about their studies and future plans:

- Kresten Froistad-Martin whose field of study is Psychology, at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.
- Donatella Bellone whose field of study is Chemistry, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.
- Kathleen Lask whose field of study is Applied Science & Technology, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$15,000.00.
- Christian Phillips whose field of study is Political Science, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.
- Milena Gianfrancesco whose field of study is Epidemiology/Public Health, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.
- Rose Kagawa whose field of study is Epidemiology, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.
- Annick Cros whose field of study is Zoology/Population Genetics, at the University of Hawai'i received \$10,000.00.
- Gita Neupane whose field of study is Sociology, at the University of Hawai'i received \$15,000.00.
- Sarah Daniels whose field of study is Environmental Health Sciences, at the University of California, Berkeley received \$10,000.00.

President Carol gave closing remarks.

Governor Bobbi thanked Fellowship President Carol and her directors for picking such worthy recipients.

Two member's names were drawn for a Fellow: Carol Steele, SI/Fort Bragg and June Rogers, SI/Martinez.

Governor Bobbi congratulated the recipients and new fellows. She thanked the membership for their support of the Founder Region Fellowship program and announced that \$1,136.00 was raised from the table drawing. She thanked the hostess clubs for hosting the dinner.

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

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

Governor Bobbi announced that we were in recess at 9:54 pm and will reconvene at 9:00 am Saturday morning for the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting.

## Saturday, May 2, 2015

8:00 am – 8:45 am

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Session Leader</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>New &amp; Improved Soroptimists Celebrating Success</i>	All members	Clara Oakes	Salon 2
<i>Teamwork &amp; Communication</i>	All members	Poco Davis	Salon 1
<i>Let's Go Girls – Maximizing Your FUNdraisers</i>	All members	Sue Finch	Tri-Valley Room 2
<i>Girls Just Wanna Have FUNDS (Financial Tips)</i>	All members	Robi Kroger	Danville Room
<i>You Are What You Share – Social Media 101</i>	All members	Laura Dickerson	Tri-Valley Room 1
<i>Food Kills – Obesity is the #2 Killer of Women</i>	All members	Bambi Reile	Pleasanton Room

The Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting convened at 9:00 am.

Governor Bobbi asked that all cell phones be turned off, identified the delegate area, and asked that those who were not delegates move from the area. Governor Bobbi turned the meeting over to President Carol who called the meeting to order.

Credentials Chair Cheryl Poncini who gave the first Fellowship credentials report.

Clubs in Founder Region	54	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Fellowship President	1	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	Fellowship Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	50	Club Delegates	120	
Total Voting Clubs	50	Total Delegates	127	Quorum: 65

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

Fellowship District III Director Shannon Richards, Secretary, announced that the minutes of the previous meeting were on the Founder Region website and that any corrections or additions should be directed to the secretary during the conference. The minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Jo Ann Hunt, District V Director who stated that the report is an interim report (July 2014-March 2015). The assets are \$591,273.21, total income is \$42,971.10, and the net income is \$26,632.19. 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.

President Carol gave her report.

Three names were drawn to become a fellow: Judy Lee, SI/Waikiki, Marilyn Steward, SI/Oakland, and Jacqueline Perez, SI/Guam. Past Governor Amelia Benko gifted SIA President Poco Davis with a fellow.

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

The Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

Governor Bobbi called the Founder Region Business Meeting to order at 10:02 am.

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

Governor Bobbi introduced Credentials Chair Cheryl who gave the first credentials report of the Founder Region Business Meeting.

Clubs in Founder Region	54	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	50	Club Delegates	135	
Total Voting Clubs	50	Total Delegates	145	Quorum: 73

Chair Cheryl 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 – Katharine Miller, SI/Oakland replaced Jillian Ruddin, SI/Oakland as the Official Visitor's Steward

Page 15 – Workshops (2:15 pm – 3:00 pm) – Membership – R & R Challenge moved from Salon 2 to the Pleasanton Room and Wow, What a Great Newsletter moved from the Pleasanton Room to Salon 2.

Page 17 – Membership Committee Report will follow the Public Awareness Committee Report and Induction of New Members will follow the Membership Committee Report.

Page 18 – Vote on Hostess Club was corrected to read “2018” instead of “2017”.

Page 19 – Change Barbara S. Stevenson S Club Awards to read as Barbara Stevenson S Club Awards. The report will be given by Suzanne Clark, S Club Committee member instead of Chair Lisa Wittke Schaffner.

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 Bobbi acknowledged the pages and stewards for the conference.

Governor Bobbi recognized the First Time attendees who stood and received applause.

Governor Bobbi introduced Public Awareness Chair Katharine Miller who spoke about Soroptimist being the best kept secret and that can be a cause in the decline of membership; that we must be heard. She stated that we need to promote ourselves. She encouraged members to provide their email addresses so that every member is receiving the newsletter.

Governor Bobbi introduced Membership Committee Chair Latresa Daniel who informed us that SIA has removed the classification code; she stated that there will be two types of members – regular and life. She stated that we should have recruitment events to increase membership. She encouraged everyone to view the Liveyourdream.org website. She stated that Founder Region had two clubs that disbanded – SI/Livermore and SI/Cloverdale. She stated that currently Founder Region has 1,532 members. She stated that SIA will introduce a new membership drive – All Aboard the MemberSHIP.

Governor Bobbi inducted new member Theresa Hoffman, SI/Martinez; her sponsor is Judy Moon, SI/Martinez.

Governor Bobbi announced that we had an updated credentials report and called Credentials Chair Cheryl to provide credentials report #2:

Clubs in Founder Region	54	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	50	Club Delegates	136	
Total Voting Clubs	50	Total Delegates	146	Quorum: 74

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

Governor Bobbi introduced Nominations Chair Gloria Soderbery to give the Nominating Committee report. The following names were submitted as nominees to the 2015-2017 Founder Region Nominating Committee:

**District I**

Holly Ito

**District II**

Stacy Lompa

**District III**

Suzanne Clark

**District IV**

Sandra Frazer

**District V**

Marjorie Dimmick

**District VI**

Sandra A. Simms

Governor Bobbi introduced the time keepers Patricia Walker (SI/Oakland) and Bert Vigil (SI/Martinez).

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

Governor Bobbi 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." Governor Bobbi announced all of the candidates were running unopposed; therefore, there was no need to appoint tellers.

Governor Bobbi presented the candidates, instructing them that they had two minutes to speak. When they finished speaking, they were to stand to the right of the platform and remain standing until all candidates had spoken. All candidates were declared the winner for their respective office.

Secretary Charlene stated that there were several letters of greeting; she read a card from Past Governor Marjorie Conley. Also, she announced that SI/Eureka, SI/ Humboldt Bay and SI/Eel River Valley agreed to host the 2018 Conference.

Governor Bobbi introduced Treasurer Vicki Ham to give the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Vicki announced that the financial report was in the registration packet and that if anyone had any questions, she would be happy to respond.

*Recessed at 11:20 am*

*Reconvened at 11:28 am*

Governor Bobbi introduced Soroptimist International of the Americas President Poco Davis who shared with us the Federation update. President Poco spoke about the Soroptimist brand and how does it affect our ability to deliver our mission. She stated that a brand is the emotional connection people make with an organization and that to be successful; an organization must have a strong brand which inspires trust, loyalty and a sense of excellence.

She also talked about the launching of the new girl program, Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls. This program will give the resources to reach their potential. It will also strengthen our Soroptimist brand by communicating our dedication to and support of girls.

President Poco stated that one-half of all members who leave Soroptimist do so because of the quality of the club experience. Research states this is because clubs are stuck in tradition and unwilling to change. She stated that ultimately members leave because they do not feel valued and they are not having fun – when people don't have a good experience, they tend to share their unhappiness with others.

She stated that in order for businesses and organizations to remain relevant, they must (1) forget the sacred cows, (2) change the concept, (3) think long-term, and (4) look ahead.

She shared with us the Club Road Map for Success – qualities of a strong club provide direction in program, fundraising, membership, and public awareness. She stated that good clubs have happy, fulfilled members doing important and life-changing work on behalf of women and girls. Happy members contribute to a strong brand. She further stated that our clubs must be welcoming and inclusive and implement the membership criteria changes, which have been devised to create a more flexible club atmosphere. We must welcome any person who wishes to help us deliver our important mission.

President Poco stated that in the fall, SIA will launch a campaign called All Aboard the Soroptimist MemberSHIP to help strengthen our clubs and our brand. She spoke about the Live Your Dream.org brand strategy. LiveYourDream.org is open to anyone interested in supporting the Soroptimist mission. She stated that currently we have more than 50,000 LYD.org supporters. LYD.org serves as a lead generator for prospective members.

She stated that brands are earned, not made and brands can and should change.

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

Governor Bobbi called forward the 2015-2017 Nominating Committee members. She announced that Crystal Arbuthnot, SI/The Redwoods will serve as the 2015-2017 Nominating Committee Chair. She stated that the task of the nominating committee will be to find qualified members to run for the 2016-2018 Founder Region Fellowship and Region Boards.

Governor Bobbi announced that Credentials Chair Cheryl will give credentials report #3:

Clubs in Founder Region	54	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	54	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	50	Club Delegates	137	
Total Voting Clubs	50	Total Delegates	147	Quorum: 74

Chair Cheryl moved the adoption of the credentials report. Credentials report #3 was adopted by a majority vote.

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

*Recessed at 12:15 pm*

Governor Bobbi *reconvened* the meeting at 12:58 pm for the “Share the Joy of Soroptimist” Luncheon. She introduced the platform party and the Directors, who led their club presidents into the ballroom where there was special seating for the presidents.

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

Governor Bobbi introduced District I Director Gloria Bragg who gave the welcome on behalf of the District Directors.

Governor Bobbi 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 our region’s Dream Program Awards.

Governor Bobbi announced the Directors who gave their reports and held a drawing of all the clubs: one club from each district received a \$500 donation to Club Giving in the club’s name. The following club names were pulled for the Club Giving donation:

- District I – SI/Richmond
- District II – SI/East Contra Costa County
- District III – SI/Vallejo Gateway
- District IV – SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast
- District V – SI/Willits
- District VI – SI/Maui

Governor Bobbi introduced Membership Chair Latresa who explained the Julia “Bess” Combs Membership Increase Award. Chair Latresa stated that as of March 31, 2015, we have 1,532 members. She announced that SI/Eureka was the recipient of the increase award with a net gain of 15 new members. On behalf of SI/Eureka, President Dyann O’Brien received a certificate and \$500 donation to Club Giving.

Governor Bobbi announced the names of four Laurel Society members – Lynn Levin (SI/East Bay), Vicki Ham (SI/Willits), Barbara Lanier (SI/El Cerrito), and Lorene Hopkins (SI/Waikiki).

Governor Bobbi announced that the best way to find new members is to invite your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors or complete strangers to attend a meeting. She stated that to encourage members to sponsor a new member, we have a drawing at conference and that one person will win a donation of \$1000 to the Laurel Society. She asked everyone who sponsored a new member to stand.

Governor Bobbi announced that Treasurer Vicki will explain the Member Sponsor Award and draw the lucky sponsor's name. Treasurer Vicki stated that to be eligible to have your name in the drawing, a member must have sponsored a new member between April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015. Treasurer Vicki announced Donna Ayres (SI/Eureka) as the winner.

Governor Bobbi introduced Clara Oakes, Chair of the Soroptimist Celebrating Success Award. Chair Clara announced the names of winners in each category; each winner will receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving. The finalists are: Program – SI/Marin County, Membership – SI/Calistoga, Public Awareness – SI/Waikiki, and Fundraising – SI/Vacaville. These finalists were forwarded on to Soroptimist International of the Americas for federation judging.

Governor Bobbi announced that the room must be cleared so that staff can reset the room.

*Recessed at 2:15 pm*

*Reconvened at 2:54 pm*

Governor Bobbi announced the platform party.

Governor Bobbi announced that the lunch table raffle raised \$964. The money will be donated to the region's Dream Program Awards.

Governor Bobbi introduced Linda Witong and Paula Kamena, SI/Marin County, who have attended meetings at the United Nations and gave a report. Linda and Paula introduced the guest speaker, Bette Levy. Bette's speech was titled – Connecting the Dots: From Global to Local. Bette shared how important Soroptimist is in the work being done at the United Nations. She shared a quote from SI President Ann Garvie who said: Human rights are critical to the vision and mission of every Soroptimist globally. No country is free from human rights violations. Respect and tolerance is from every human.

Governor Bobbi thanked Bette for her speech and we sang Happy Birthday to Bette.

Governor Bobbi introduced Lynn Levin who gave an update on the new Dream It, Be It Program. Lynn introduced club members who shared information on their girl programs. Terry Comiskey talked about "Get Real Academy", Joy Swank talked about "STEPS", Elaine Reed talked about "FEM Power" and Bonnie Mertz talked about the collaboration with the Alameda County District Attorney's office.

Governor Bobbi announced that Juliette Andrews (SI/Sonoma Valley) is the winner of the Workshop Participation and will receive a \$250 donation to the Laurel Society.

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

*Recessed at 4:46 pm*

*Reconvened at 6:00pm*

Governor Bobbi reconvened the evening at 6 pm for the Dream Factor III Dinner. Governor Bobbi recognized the Past Governors. A donation to the Laurel Society will be made in the name of each of our Past Governors.

Governor Bobbi introduced Cheryl Poncini, SI/Oakland who gave the inspiration on behalf of the three hostess clubs – SI/Oakland, SI/Fremont-TriCities, and SI/Martinez.

Governor Bobbi introduced Elise Balgley, SI/Fremont-TriCities who gave the welcome.

Governor Bobbi 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 the region's Dream Program Awards.

Dinner was served.

Governor Bobbi presented her annual "Governor's Message", encouraging clubs to embrace the federations's goal to increase collective impact. She briefly described what clubs can do to meet this goal by following the Club Roadmap for Success. She also briefly discussed the Healthy Region report and reported that Founder Region is quite "healthy."

After dinner the 2014-2016 Founder Region Board performed before Soroptimist Dream Factor III began. Governor Bobbi announced that the Soroptimist Dream Factor III is not a competition and that each participating club will receive a \$250 donation in their name to Club Giving. The participating clubs were SI/Vacaville, SI/Benicia, SI/Humboldt Bay, and SI/Pittsburg.

Governor Bobbi welcomed Mistress of Ceremonies Joy Swank, SI/Vacaville. Joy announced that the entertainment will begin with the Founder Region board performing to "This One's for the Girls" by Martina McBride. Following the region board's performance was the Fellowship board performing to "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper.

The performing clubs were SI/Benicia dancing to "Roar" by Katy Perry, SI/Pittsburg dancing to "Brave" by Sara Bareilles, SI/Humboldt Bay dancing to "Girl on Fire" by Alicia Keyes, and SI/Vacaville dancing to "Man! I Feel Like a Woman" by Shania Twain.

Conference Coordinator Dona made announcements.

Members danced to music provided by a DJ.

*Recessed at 10:00 pm*

## **Sunday, May 4, 2014**

Governor Bobbi reconvened the conference at 8:04 am Sunday morning with the "Celebration of 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:*

*Marilyn Mitchell*

*Emily Saxton*

*Mary Katherine Morris*

*Sue Eaton-Cooley*

*Laura Gomez*

*Jan Howard*

*Shirley Ambro*

*Patricia Hofstetter*

*Roberta (Bobbi) Poulton*

*Betty Kimlinger*

*Ilene Jones Addison*

*Viola "Vi" Richardson*

*Leora Doreene Sandelin*

*Ginger Kelly*

*Soroptimist International of Benicia*

*Soroptimist International of Calistoga*

*Soroptimist International of The Delta*

*Soroptimist International of Dixon*

*Soroptimist International of Dixon*

*Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg*

*Soroptimist International of The East Bay*

*Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley*

*Soroptimist International of Oakland*

*Soroptimist International of St. Helena*

*Soroptimist International of Sonoma Valley*

*Soroptimist International of Ukiah*

*Soroptimist International of Ukiah*

*Soroptimist International of Ukiah*

Governor Bobbi announced that we lost additional members after the deadline date and they will be officially honored next year.

Governor Bobbi made an announcement about Memorial Grove on June 7, 2015; she stated that in June 2018, we will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Grove Service. She thanked the Memorial Grove Committee: Debbie Thompson, Dyann O'Brien, Crystal Hull, and Past Governor Kate Burns. Governor Bobbi shared a video highlighting the Memorial Grove.

Breakfast was served.

Governor Bobbi introduced District IV Director Maddy Leader who gave the inspiration.

Governor Bobbi introduced District VI Director Lyn Lurbe who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board.

Governor Bobbi introduced the platform party.

Governor Bobbi 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 the region's Dream Program Awards.

Governor Bobbi introduced Courtney Ruby, guest speaker. Governor Bobbi stated that she met Courtney at SI/Oakland's awards program and invited her to be the keynote speaker at Sunday morning conference. Courtney has an extensive service background and she shared her wonderful and inspirational story.

Governor Bobbi introduced Fundraising Chair Linda Glantz who gave her report. She introduced the Fundraising Committee members. She spoke about how our contributions increase collective impact and why Soroptimist should be our first organization of choice for contributions. She stated that Soroptimist measures its success by following our strategic plan which has four goals: Impact, Engagement, Recognition and Philanthropy. She shared last year's fundraising successes: SIA Club Giving – Participation increased by 80%, contributions increased by 14% to more than \$690,000; club's reported giving at least 10% increased by over 19 % of the previous year. In Founder Region, Club Giving Participation increased to 82%, with 46 of our 56 clubs donating which is from 43 the previous year. Clubs giving 10% increased from 20 to 32 at 21% increase. She stated that this year SIA received contributions from only 27 clubs; the deadline to submit to SIA is May 31, 2015. She stated that 7 clubs have given to \$499 level; 8 clubs have given at the \$500-\$999 level; 10 clubs have given at the \$1000-\$2499 level and 2 clubs (SI/Calistoga and SI/Vacaville) have given at the \$2500-\$4999 level. SI/Calistoga and SI/Vacaville will receive three entries into a drawing for an additional \$500 Live Your Dream Award for their club for the 2015-2016 club year; as well as a \$100 gift card to the Soroptimist store. She spoke about contributions to the Laurel Society – Federation members contributing increased by 371 for 36%. To date, there are nearly 4000 members in the Laurel Society. Since 1994, Laurel Society members have raised over \$9,500,000.00 for Soroptimist programs that help women and girls. In Founder Region, we have 166 members; this year we signed up 4 new members. Juliette Andrews, who won a \$250 donation in her name to the Laurel Society, gifted Maddy Leader to make Maddy a new Laurel Society member. There are seven members in Founder Region at the Diplomat Level (\$5000-\$9999); twenty-nine members at Envoy Level (\$2500-\$4,999); and 133 Attaché Level members.

Governor Bobbi introduced Governor-elect Pam Parker, who also is the Founder Region Program. Governor-elect Pam was the emcee for our Dream Program Awards Chair.

Governor-elect Pam began with the Barbara Stevenson S Club Award – she called upon Suzanne Clarke to give the presentation. The recipients were Hannah Holden, Healdsburg High School and Tiana Wong, Sacred Heart Academy (Waikiki, HI). Each recipient was awarded \$750 and a certificate. Janice Torres (SI/Healdsburg) and Sandra Simms (SI/Waikiki) accepted the awards on their behalf.

Governor-elect Pam made the Ruby Award presentation to Linda Kekelis and Lyn Gomes, Techbridge – a program designed to inspire girls in technology, science, and engineering. They were nominated by SI/24-680. They received a certificate, heart-shaped paper weights and a check for \$1000 to Techbridge.

Governor-elect Pam asked the recipients of the Violet Richardson Award to come forward for their presentation and to share a bit about their service. Governor-elect Pam 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. She stated that 31 of our 56 clubs participated in the Violet Richardson Award giving awards to 33 young women. The recipients are Sienna Tubridy, sponsored by SI/Napa; Sophia Haag, sponsored by SI/Eureka; Valeria Alvarez-Diaz, sponsored by SI/Sonoma Valley and Morgan Johnson, sponsored by SI/Arcata. Each recipient received a certificate, Live Your Dream notepad and a check for \$250.

*Recessed at 10:15 am*

*Reconvened at 10:28 am*

Governor-elect Pam introduced Gwen Johnson (SI/Oakland), Chair, Live Your Dream Award Program. She introduced the Live Your Dream Award Committee members. She stated that all 56 (100%) clubs participated in the Live Your Dream Award. She stated that 89% of the recipients who completed their education reported an improved standard of living; 100% reported an increase in self-esteem; 94% reported to be a role model for their children; and 79% a career goal of helping others. Since 1972, the Live Your Dream Award has distributed more than \$30 million. Last year, clubs gave \$1.7 million to over 1200 women; in addition \$436,000 was awarded to region and federation finalists. She introduced the women who judged (region level) the applications: Josie Monahan, Carmen Williams and Adrienna Williams.

Chair Gwen introduced the six district recipients: Maria Del Pillar Manriquez, sponsored by SI/EI Cerrito; Jenna Weathers, sponsored by SI/Martinez & SI/Pittsburg; Vanessa R. Rotolo, sponsored by SI/Vallejo; Gabrielle Glorianne Jackson, sponsored by SI/Santa Rosa; Melanie Wrate, sponsored by SI/Arcata; and Rita Reeves, sponsored by SI/Waikiki Foundation. Each recipient received a \$1000 check from Founder Region; 5 recipients received a check for \$3000 from SIA and 1 recipient received a check for \$5000 from SIA.

Chair Gwen announced that Maria Del Pillar Manriquez was selected as the Founder Region Live Your Dream Award winner; her named will be submitted to the federation level judging. In addition, Maria received a laptop from Founder Region.

*Recessed at 11:23 am*

*Reconvened at 11:33 am*

Governor Bobbi announced a special treat; Rita Reeves performed a hula dance.

Governor Bobbi made the announcement for club drawings: Past Governor Sue Finch asked President Poco to pull a name; Debbie Eivers of SI/Humboldt Bay was the winner. The winner of the Robi Kroger (Royal Neighbors) basket was Gerry Humes, SI/Santa Rosa.

Governor Bobbi announced that Linda Perry, SI/Crescent City as the winner of the photo contest; Linda will receive a \$250 donation to the Laurel Society.

Governor Bobbi announced that Linda Glantz will read the names of the winners of the basket opportunity raffles and give instructions on picking them up. Linda reported that club pre-sale tickets were \$13,020 and additional conference ticket sales were \$1,120 for a total of \$14,140.

Governor Bobbi stated the Sunday's brunch table raffle donation was \$817; the money will be donated to the region's Dream Program Awards.

Governor Bobbi announced that Terry Comiskey was the winner of the free registration and meals packet for 2016 Founder Region Conference in Hawaii.

Governor Bobbi called Co-Registration Chair Elise Balgley to give the Thirty-ninth Annual Founder Region Conference attendance report:

International Officers	0	Club Delegates	135
Federation Officers	1	Other Soroptimist	204
Region Officers	4	Guests	47
District Directors	6		
Fellowship President	1		
Fellowship Directors	6	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>404</b>

Conference Coordinator Dona made her final announcements. She asked for a big round of applause for the Marriott staff. She requested that everyone complete the evaluation form. She thanked the hostess clubs (SI/Oakland, SI/Fremont-TriCities, and SI/Martinez) and asked the presidents of each club to come up and receive their hostess club certificate.

Governor Bobbi announced that Dona was elected as a federation director. She announced that due to Dona's new role, she will not be our Conference Coordinator next year in Hawaii. Governor Bobbi announced that Sylvia Crafton (SI/The Marianas) has been appointed to serve as the 2016 Conference Coordinator and that Gwen Johnson (SI/Oakland) will be the Assistant Conference

Coordinator working with the hostess clubs: SI/Central Oahu, SI/Waikiki, SI/Honolulu and SI/Arcata.

Governor Bobbi thanked President Poco; a donation to Laurel Society will be made in her name. She thanked the visitors, the past governors, the region committee chairs, the hostess clubs, registration chairs, pages and time keepers, and conference committee members.

Governor Bobbi gave her closing remarks; Fellowship President and Past Governor Carol Steele led us in the Soroptimist Pledge.

Governor Bobbi adjourned the Thirty-ninth Annual Founder Region Conference sine die at 12:14 pm.

Charlene Stamps  
Founder Region Secretary