



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

2017

FOUNDER REGION

Soroptimist International of the Americas

Forty-first Annual Region Conference



Conference Proceedings

San Ramon Marriott
San Ramon, California
May 5 - 7, 2017



Pam Parker, Governor

The Forty-first Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The forty-first annual Founder Region Conference was held on May 5, 6, & 7, 2017 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California.

Friday, May 5, 2017

Registration opened at 8:00 am on Friday, May 5, 2017.

The Trade Fair opened at 8:00 am.

Governor Pam Parker opened the conference at 10:00 am. She asked that all electronic devices be silenced and that no photos or videos be taken of Elle Snow.

Governor Pam welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference session, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall". She thanked everyone for investing valuable time in their Soroptimist journey. She introduced the Platform Party.

Lower Left Tier: Legislative Advocacy Committee Members; Sandra Simms, District VI (SI/Waikiki Foundation); Elle Snow, District V (SI/Eureka) and Sue Finch, Chair (SI/Eel River Valley)

Lower Right Tier: Marie O'Neill, Founder of Padma Life Coaching; Lenore Colarusso, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District II (SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)), Lia Venet, Circle Leader for WomenSpeak, and Immediate Past President Sam Buchenau.

Governor Pam welcomed everyone and shared a small portion of her personal story and journey. She introduced Chair Sue who asked everyone to "take actions with their feelings", introduced the panelists and asked them to share their story.

Elle Snow, founder of Game Over, shared her story of survival from sex-trafficking. She has started a non-profit and trains youth and law enforcement on the pitfalls of sex-trafficking. Marie O'Neill, founder of Padma Life Coaching, was born into poverty and was a victim of bullying. She explained about the 4 steps to healing: 1. "See" the problem and want to change it, 2. Take "action" and de-program yourself, 3. Fill the "void" by finding who you really are, 4. "Experience" yourself as the new person you have become. This spells out SAVE – we need to save ourselves and find our spirituality. Her motto is: "Never give up on yourself!" Lia Venet, a Women's Empowerment Coach, asked everyone to stand and applaud for Soroptimist. She asked audience members to say one word that described the stories they heard from the panelists: joy, resiliency, impressed, power of healing, and superstar. She asked the panelists how that made them feel: stronger, supported, and validated. She encouraged others to tell their story because you never know who you might inspire. There is a power inside of us and we often let fear hinder us. Change fear into strength and speak your truth. She ended with a quote from the Dalai Lama, "Western women are going to save the world ... the ones who speak up!"

Chair Sue made her closing remarks and offered 4 tips to success: 1. Stay focused on the positive instead of the negative, 2. Challenge yourself every day and try new things every day, 3. Don't compare yourself to others – find time to celebrate your little accomplishments, 4. Never, ever give up!.

Governor Pam thanked the panelists for sharing their personal journeys and words of wisdom. She invited Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin to the podium who drew 2 "Fellows".

Recessed at 11:30 am

Reconvened at 12:00 pm

At 12:00 pm, the "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" luncheon was reconvened in the Ballroom. Governor Pam announced that there were envelopes with tickets inside on each table. The tickets were \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00. The winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards contributions to the panelists' organizations.

Governor Pam introduced Donna Garske, Executive Director of Center for Domestic Peace, the keynote speaker. She spoke about the pressure to conform. We see imperfections in the mirror so we are not the fairest of them all. Self-acceptance, self-love, kindness and empowerment is in all of us. We can change the world. So the answer to, "Who is the fairest of them all?" Is all of us!

Governor Pam thanked Donna for her inspirational speech and announced that we raised \$738 from the table raffles. She invited Fellowship President Bobbi to the podium who drew 2 more "Fellows".

Recessed at 1:30 pm

Reconvened at 2:00 pm

Governor Pam introduced Elle Snow who led the "Game Over" workshop. Elle opened with a quote: "Hell is waiting for someone to come and help me, freedom is realizing nobody is coming". She spoke about the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: identify vulnerabilities, give a false sense of fulfillment, and exploit trust. Elle experienced the trafficker's tactics which include: isolation, credible threats, intermediate reinforcement, trauma bonding, befriending, and Stockholm Syndrome. Treatment includes many of the following: making a plan, meeting with victim advocates, getting legal counsel, identifying addictions, recognizing triggers, and finding a trusted friend. Help lines in any town are found by dialing 211. She closed with sharing what helped her the most: striving to become someone you're proud of.

Governor Pam introduced Donna Garske who led the "Going Out of Our Minds: Freedom From Internalized Oppression" workshop. She explained the Patriarchy Umbrella: knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors (KABBS). She expanded on superiority verses inferiority and the female role belief system. The audience then participated in an exercise by sharing with a table partner questions about "Exploring my female role belief system" and "Identifying my liberating, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and beliefs". She concluded with challenging us to ACT NOW:

A – Abuse is unacceptable

C – Challenge men's behavior and sexism

T – Teach children early

N – No more male violence as a form of entertainment

O – Organize, organize, and organize

W – Women supporting women

Governor Pam thanked Elle and Donna for their informative workshops and for participating in our "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" program.

Governor Pam announced that after a short break, delegates were requested to return back for a Delegates Briefing at 4:15 pm. She also stated that all FELLOWS were invited to attend a 5:00 pm reception to meet the Fellowship recipients. She further stated that the "No Host" cocktail reception will begin at 6:00 pm in the Ballroom Lobby with the Dinner and Awards Program beginning at 7:00 pm.

Conference Coordinator Linda made announcements relative to the Conference.

Governor Pam introduced Region Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier who held a Delegates Briefing and then the Pages and Timekeepers Briefing.

Recessed at 4:45 pm

At 5:00 pm, the Founder Region "Fellow" Reception was held in the South Courtyard for Fellows only to meet the 2017 Fellowship recipients. At 6:00 pm the Reception began; it was held in the Ballroom Lobby.

Governor Pam declared the Forty-first Annual Conference of Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas in session at 7:00 pm.

Governor Pam announced that the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance will be provided by Girl Scout Troop #30796 of the Pine Valley Middle School followed by all singing the National Anthem. The audience was then surprised by musical guests, The Voices of St. Benedict Church, who entertained us with several uplifting hymn's followed by Governor Pam's theme song, "Shining Star"

Governor Pam introduced Belia Ramos, Napa County Supervisor, who provided the Community Welcome on behalf of the three host clubs: SI/Calistoga, SI/St. Helena, and SI/St. Helena Sunrise. Governor Pam also introduced District IV Fellowship Director Linda Bradbrook who gave the Inspiration and District II Fellowship Director Beverly Gomer, who gave the Welcome on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Pam introduced the Platform Party.

Lower Left Tier: Navit Zukerman, Fellowship Recipient; Fawn Williams, District III Fellowship Director (SI/Clearlake); Carolyn Kierans, Fellowship Recipient; Bev Gomer, District II Fellowship Director (SI/Martinez); Laura Boudreau Fellowship Recipient and Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin (SI/Benicia).

Lower Right Tier: Sharon Valenti, District V Fellowship Director (SI/Fort Bragg); Rachel Bernhard, Fellowship Recipient; Linda Bradbrook, District IV Fellowship Director (SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast); Kim Berger, Fellowship Recipient; SIA Past President Sam Buchenau and Governor Pam Parker (SI/St. Helena Sunrise).

Upper Left Tier: Nicole Tarltan, Fellowship Recipient; Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; Fellowship Treasurer (SI/Guam); and Egle Ortega, Fellowship Recipient.

Upper Right Tier: Qiong Wu, Fellowship Recipient; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director and Fellowship Secretary (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club); and Nipuni Sirimalwatta. Fellowship Recipient.

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Fellowship Treasurer Rena Borja or they could start their Fellow Monthly Giving Plan. The proceeds will go towards Founder Region Fellowship.

Governor Pam turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin. President Bobbi welcomed everyone to the Fellowship Awards Banquet and introduced the Past Fellowship Presidents in attendance.

President Bobbi introduced District I Fellowship Director Cheryl Poncini who announced that Carla Contestable (SI/Richmond) was the 2017 recipient of the Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fellowship. She then gave a brief history. When Founder Region Fellowship was formed in 1986, Dorothy became the first District I Fellowship Director. In 2010, an anonymous donor gifted \$10,000 to Founder Region Fellowship in memory of Dorothy Sarnes which has funded a Fellow every year since.

Each Fellowship Director announced and made a presentation of the new Fellows from their respective district.

Each of the following women was awarded \$10,000.00 and shared information about their studies and future plans:

Kimberly Berger	Epidemiology	UC Berkeley
Rachel Bernhard	Political Science	UC Berkeley
Laura Boudreau	Business & Public Policy	UC Berkeley
Carolyn Kierans	Astrophysics	UC Berkeley
Natalie Nimmer	Education	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Egle Ortega	Biology	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Nipuni Sirimalwatta	Botany	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Nicole Tarlton	Infectious Diseases	UC Berkeley
Qiong (Linda) Wu	Civil Engineering	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Navit Zuckerman	Chiropractic	Life Chiropractic College West Hayward

President Bobbi gave her closing remarks.

Governor Pam thanked Fellowship President Bobbi and her directors for choosing such worthy recipients. She congratulated the recipients and new Fellows. She also thanked the membership for their support of the Founder Region Fellowship program and announced that \$1,192.00 was raised from the table drawing.

Conference Coordinator Linda made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Pam announced that we were in recess at 10:30 pm and will reconvene at 8:30 am Saturday morning for the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

The Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting convened at 8:30 am.

President Bobbi Introduced the Platform Party.

Lower Left Tier: Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director/Treasurer; Sharon Valenti, District V Fellowship Director/Asst. Treasurer; Linda Bradbrook, District IV Fellowship Director; Shannon Richards, Laws & Resolutions Chair.

Lower Right Tier: Bev Gomer, District II Fellowship Director; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director/Secretary; Fawn Williams, District III Fellowship Director; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian; and Bobbi Enderlin, Fellowship President.

Adoption of Fellowship Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena:

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52	Fellowship President 1
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 0	Fellowship Directors 5
Clubs Registered: 50	Club Delegates 119
Total Voting Clubs: 50	Total Delegates 124
	Quorum for Opening Session 63

Fellowship Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

The minutes of the FRF Business Meeting held at the Founder Region Conference in May 2016 were published in the 2016 Conference Proceedings and distributed to the membership. On May 6, 2017, a copy of those minutes was also placed on each table for review by FRF Business Meeting attendees. The minutes were adopted as presented. Treasurer Rena Borja provided a two page Treasurer's report which covered the period July 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. The following highlights are noted: Income: \$72,693.23; Expenses: \$23,233.17; Net Income: \$49,460.06; Total Liabilities & Equity: \$525,502.82. The Treasurer's Report will be submitted for financial review.

Each of the Fellowship Directors gave a report about Fellowship activities from July 1, 2016 to the 2017 Founder Region Conference.

President Bobbi encouraged everyone to purchase Fellowship bracelets for a chance to win a Fellow. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 am.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Pam called the Founder Region Business Meeting to order at 9:32 am.

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

Upper Left Tier: Angie Haramoto, District VI Director (SI/Maui); Dyann O'Brien, District V Director (SI/Eureka); and Barbara Young, District IV Director (SI/Santa Rosa).

Upper Right Tier: Elise Balgley, District I Director (SI/Fremont); Pat Eileen Fisher, District II Director (SI/Martinez) and Joy Swank, District III Director (SI/Vacaville).

Lower Left Tier: Crystal Arbuthnot, Region Nominating Committee Chair (SI/The Redwoods); Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer (SI/Willits); Shannon Richards, Laws & Resolutions Committee Chair (SI/Napa) and Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian (SI/EI Cerrito).

Lower Right Tier: Region Secretary, Kris Chorbi (SI/Eureka); Sylvia Crafton, Region Governor-elect (SI/The Marianas); Sam Buchenau, SIA Immediate Past President and Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor (SI/St. Helena Sunrise).

Governor Pam then introduced special guests in attendance: from Sierra Pacific Region – Governor Tana Elizondo, member of SI/Hanford and Governor-elect Gail Dekreon, member of SI/San Francisco.

Governor Pam introduced Credentials Co-Chair Lori Duarte (SI/St/ Helena). Governor Pam asked everyone to turn to page 20 in the program. Credentials Co-Chair Lori updated the Fellowship Credentials Report #1 to read: 125 Voting Delegates and then gave the first credentials report of the Founder Region Business Meeting.

Adoption of Founder Region Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena:

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 0	District Directors 6
Clubs Registered: 50	Club Delegates 126
Total Voting Clubs: 50	Total Delegates 136
	Quorum for Opening Session 69

Founder Region Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read the Conference Standing Rules on page 26 in the program. She stated that, in the interest of time and with no objections, she would not read the Standing Rules as they were listed in the program. She moved for the adoption of the Conference Standing Rules. The standing rules were adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read any corrections to the conference program:

- Page 5 – Official Visitor - SIA Past President Buchenau – insert first name “Sam”
- Page 14 – Adoption of Credentials Report - Credentials Co-Chair should read “Lori Duarte”
- Page 15 – Laurel Society Honors and Recognition should read “Fundraising” Chair Gina Moore
- Page 17 – Violet Richardson Award District IV spelling correction Nancy “Villegas”
- Page 24 – Bobbi Enderlin’s theme should read “Share the JOY of Soroptimist”
- Page 26 - Decorum - 7B – The Chair shall at all times be addressed as Governor Pam.

Secretary Kris 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 Pam announced that there were 50 first time attendees registered and asked them to rise and be recognized. She then introduced the pages and stewards for the conference. She also stated that Sharon Ebersole was the Governor’s Steward; Holly Mason was the Governor-elect’s Steward; and Roberta Oswald was SIA Past President Sam’s Steward.

Governor Pam gave a brief history of the Laurel Society. She reported that 10 million dollars have been donated from 6,000 Laurel Society members since it began. She asked Fundraising Chair Gina Moore to announce the new Laurel Society members. SIA Past President Sam was asked to do the pinning. The following members were pinned or received the next level recognition: Jackie Buccellato (SI/Pittsburg) Envoy level; Lynn Havens (SI/Pittsburg) Envoy level; Marli Shoop (SI/Noyo Sunrise) Attache level; Judy Moon, (SI/Martinez) Attache level; Sharon Valenti (SI/Fort Bragg) Envoy level; Cheryl Poncini (SI/Oakland – The Founder Club) Attache level. Chair Gina informed Governor Pam that she was close to the Diplomat level; she paid the amount due and was pinned as well. Chair Gina announced she had an accounting of member’s Laurel Society status if anyone wanted an update and thanked all for their donations.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read the greetings and correspondence. Secretary Kris read the letters of official greetings from SIA President Rosemary Reid, SIA Executive Director & CEO Liz Lucas, SIA Director and Past Governor Dona Gaddis Wolf, Past Governor Susan Joyce and Past Governor Marge Conley.

Governor Pam asked Secretary Kris if any clubs had volunteered to host conference 2020. Secretary Kris said that there were none at the time but was working with clubs to volunteer.

Governor Pam asked Credentials Co-Chair Lori if there were any changes to the credentials report. As there were none, Governor Pam asked the conference body if there were any objections to not repeating the report. There were no objections.

Governor Pam declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She introduced the Microphone Monitors were Edie and Maggie and the timekeepers were Trudy and Virginia.

Governor Pam introduced Nominating Committee Chair Crystal Arbuthnot who gave the Nominating Committee Report. The following names were submitted as nominees for the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee

- District I – Billy Knight (SI/East Bay)
- District II – Teresa Enns (SI/24/680 – Walnut Creek)
- District III – Clara Oakes (SI/Vacaville)
- District IV – Sandra Frazer (SI/Santa Rosa)
- District V – Mary Ruth Rheinschild (SI/Crescent City)
- District VI - none

Governor Pam read each nomination by district. She then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She stated that if there are none; the chair declared the nominations closed. Districts I – V had no nominations from the floor, therefore, the nominations were closed. Loling Field, SI/The Marianas nominated Nancy Tan from SI/The Marianas for District VI Nominating Committee Representative. Governor Pam asked if the consent from the nominee had been obtained and for resumes to be distributed to District VI delegates. Governor Pam declared the nominations closed.

Governor Pam asked the candidates for the 2017-2019 Founder Region Nominating Committee to line up starting with District I and then in order of district. She stated that each candidate had two minutes to speak.

Governor Pam 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." She stated that only delegates from respective districts may vote for their district. Governor Pam announced that voting for nominees that are unopposed shall be by voice vote.

Governor Pam announced the District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Billy Knight the District I winner. She announced the District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Teresa Enns the District II winner. She announced the District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Clara Oakes the District III winner. She announced the District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Sandra Frazer the District IV winner. She announced the District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Mary Ruth Rheinschild the District V winner. She announced the District VI nominee and called for the vote. She declared Nancy Tan the District VI winner.

Governor Pam declared that the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee members were all elected through a voice vote, therefore, no tellers or elections procedures would be needed.

Chair Crystal thanked the 2015-2017 Nominating Committee members for their work during the last two years.

Governor Pam asked the new Nominating Committee members to stand and announced that Crystal Arbuthnot would continue as chair for the 2017-2019 term. She also asked clubs to help make their job easier by nominating qualified nominees for next year's elections.

Governor Pam asked Credentials Co-Chair Lori Duarte if there were changes to the Credentials Report. Chair Lori stated that there were no changes; therefore, no Credentials Report was needed.

Governor Pam introduced SIA Past President Sam and gave a short bio. She thanked her for stepping in for Yoko Ichigatani as our Official Visitor who had to resign as President-elect due to a medical issue. Past President Sam gave her presentation entitled "What If". A few highlights include:

- The Live Your Dream Award is the key to keeping women on the path to achieving their dreams.

- What would happen if Soroptimist wasn't there to support them?
- Dream It, Be It is the perfect bookend to the Live Your Dream awards.
- Next Big Goal is to increase the capacity of our Dream Programs.
- Dream Programs are the future of our organization.

Governor Pam thanked SIA Immediate Past President Sam for her presentation and announced that a donation in her name would be made to the Laurel Society.

The following Credentials Report #2 was presented by Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena:

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 0	District Directors 6
Clubs Registered: 50	Club Delegates 127
Total Voting Clubs: 50	Total Delegates 137
	Quorum for Opening Session 70

Founder Region Credentials Report #2 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Pam introduced Maggie and Edie, who would assist at the microphones and Toni and Claudia, who were the timekeepers. Discussion time for each proposed amendment would be ten minutes. If a delegate wished for the discussion time to be extended beyond the ten minutes as provided in the standing rules, such delegate would need to make a proper motion to extend the time within the initial ten minute period. Delegates could speak for or against an issue for a maximum of two minutes. The time keepers would hold up colored cards to indicate the amount of time remaining. The green card would go up when there was one minute remaining. The white card would go up when there were thirty seconds remaining. The red card would be raised when the two minutes had expired and the delegate must STOP. When the ten minutes had been exhausted the timekeeper would so indicate, with the RED STOP card and the sound of a bell.

Governor Pam introduced Laws and Resolutions Chair Shannon who read amendment #1.

Article VIII, Committees, Section 8.1: Standing Committees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
h. Financial Review Committee: A committee consisting of three Founder Region Soroptimist members who have at least two years of experience as an accountant or bookkeeper, and have served at least two years as a club or region treasurer. The committee shall be responsible for conducting the financial review of the Treasurer's Books at the end of each biennium.	h. Financial Review Committee: A committee appointed by the Governor and consisting of three Founder Region Soroptimist members who have at least two years of experience as an accountant or bookkeeper, and have served at least two years as a club or region treasurer. The committee shall be responsible for conducting the financial review of the Treasurer's Books at the end of the biennium.
RATIONALE:	
Housekeeping: The proposed language makes it clear that the Governor appoints the committee members.	

Governor Pam stated the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 8, Committees, Section 8.1: Standing Committees by changing item h. Financial Review Committee, as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. There was none. She called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Laws & Resolutions Chair Shannon read amendment #2.

Article VIII, Committees, Section 8.1: Standing Committees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
i. Budget Committee: A Committee consisting of the Governor, Governor-Elect and Region Treasurer to prepare a proposed budget for the succeeding biennium for proposal to the Region Board. During the biennium, the committee shall periodically review and present suggested changes to the Region Board.	i. Budget Committee: A Committee consisting of the Governor, Governor-Elect and Region Treasurer will prepare a proposed budget for the succeeding biennium for proposal to the Region Board. During the biennium, the committee shall periodically review and present suggested changes to the Region Board.
RATIONALE:	
Housekeeping: Clean up language – changes “to prepare” to “will prepare” in the first sentence.	

Governor Pam stated the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 8, Committees, Section 8.1: Standing Committees by changing item i. Budget Committee, as read by chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. There was none. She called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Laws & Resolutions Chair Shannon read amendment #3.

Article IX, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
b. The annual dues shall be \$20 for regular members. Dues shall be prorated at \$10.00 for those members joining January 1 through June 30.	b. The annual dues shall be \$35.00 for regular members. Dues shall be prorated at \$17.50 for those members joining January 1 through June 30.
RATIONALE:	
Dues have not been increased since 1996. Costs to operate the Region continue to rise while membership has declined. The Board remains watchful and strategic in its spending, and has implemented a fundraising effort to offset some of the rising costs. However, if projected costs continue rising in the future, the Region will require additional income through dues or may have to limit the level of work that they do and the membership has come to expect. A YES vote will increase dues for all members, allowing the Board to maintain their representation of you and provide quality programs such as District Meeting, Leadership Training, Caucus and Board Meetings to continue to educate and engage membership in our mission. A NO vote will keep dues as they are and has the potential of negatively affecting your membership experience by reducing or eliminating some of the programs provided by the Board in order to meet all fiscal responsibilities of the Board.	

Governor Pam stated the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 9, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees by changing item b., as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. The discussion was as follows:
Vicki Ham, SI/Willits spoke in favor of the amendment.

Brenda Roberts, SI/Napa moved to amend the motion: “Dues for regular members shall be increased from \$20 to \$35, by increasing dues \$5 per year for three consecutive years beginning with dues for 2017. Members who join after January will pay ½ the regular dues for the year in which they join.” She then amended it to read “from January 1 – June 30”.

Discussion ensued on the amendment to the main motion:

Holly Ito, SI/San Ramon Valley spoke in favor of the amendment.

Pat Eileen Fisher, SI/Martinez spoke against the amendment to the motion.

Sandy Frazer, SI/Santa Rosa spoke in favor of the amendment, asked a question.

Governor Pam then called for the question.

Governor Pam read the amendment to the main motion:

“Dues for regular members shall be increased from \$20 to \$35, by increasing dues \$5 per year for three consecutive years beginning with dues for 2017. Members who join from January 1 – June 30 will pay ½ the regular dues for the year in which they join.” This requires a majority vote.

Governor Pam asked for votes and instructed the pages to count the votes in favor and against. She declared the motion defeated.

Discussion resumed on the main motion:

Divora Stern, SI/Willits spoke in favor of the motion.

Bobbi Enderlin, SI/Benicia spoke in favor of the motion.

Loretta Tognoli, SI/Ukiah spoke against the motion.

Gail Theller, SI/Marin County spoke in favor of the motion.

Teri Malkin, SI/Rio Vista spoke against the motion.

Gerry Humes, SI/Santa Rosa moved to extend the debate time 10 more minutes and it was seconded. Governor Pam called for the vote which needed a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion defeated.

Governor Pam restated that the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 9, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees by changing item b., as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Governor Pam recessed the meeting for the Director’s Lunch.

Recessed at 12:00 pm

Reconvened at 12:30 pm

Governor Pam introduced the lunchtime platform party:

Upper Left Tier: Clara Oakes, Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair (SI/Vacaville); and Olimpia Garner, Public Awareness Pillar Chair, (SI/Dixon)

Upper Right Tier: Lyn Lurbe, Membership Pillar Chair (SI/Central Oahu); Shannon Richards, Laws and Resolutions Chair (SI/Napa).

Lower Left Tier: Barbara Lanier, Region Parliamentarian (SI/El Cerrito); Treasurer Vicki Ham, (SI/Willits) Secretary Kris Chorbi (SI/Eureka); Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton (SI/The Marianas); SIA Immediate Past President Sam Buchenau.

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Region Treasurer Vicki Ham. The proceeds would go towards the Dream Program Awards.

Governor Pam announced each club as the directors led the presidents’ processional of their district. She then announced the “Shining Star” recipient from each club who received a star ornament.

Governor Pam introduced District III Director Joy Swank who gave the inspiration.

Governor Pam introduced District II Director Pat Eileen Fisher who gave the welcome on behalf of the District Directors.

Governor Pam announced that SI/Vacaville and SI/Vallejo would donate the left over purses from the "Purse Fundraiser" to their local women shelters.

Fellowship Director Fawn Williams announced that Director Joy donated \$1,000 to name Jackie Devries a Fellow, who will be the secretary in the new club, SI/Vacaville Twilight.

District I Director Elise Balgley announced that one club from each district would receive a donation to Club Giving in their honor and encouraged everyone to read the region newsletter that was included in their registration packets. The District Directors read the club slogans and drew for the Club Giving donations.

Club Giving Winners:

- District I SI/San Ramon Valley
- District II SI/24/680 (Walnut Creek)
- District III SI/St. Helena Sunrise
- District IV SI/Sonoma Valley
- District V SI/Mendocino
- District VI SI/West Maui

Governor Pam thanked Director Elise and Katharine Miller for reviving the region newsletter. She also reminded participants to complete the conference surveys.

Governor Pam introduced Fundraising Chair Gina Moore who announced 5 more Laurel Society memberships and asked Past President Sam to pin each one: Desiree Ramos (SI/Vacaville) Attache level; Cara Begley (SI/Antioch) Attache level; Jackie Pactol (SI/Oahu) Attache level; Natalie Cottrell (SI/Fort Bragg) Envoy level; Barbara Lanier (SI/El Cerrito) Envoy level.

Governor Pam asked for credentials report #3.

The following Credentials Report #3 was presented by Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena:

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: Zero	District Directors 6
Clubs Registered: 50	Club Delegates 128
Total Voting Clubs: 50	Total Delegates 138
	Quorum for Opening Session 70

Founder Region Credentials Report #3 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Pam continued with the Bylaws Proposals and asked Laws and Resolution Chair Shannon to read #4.

Laws & Resolutions Chair Shannon read amendment #4.

Article IX, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
e. A Region fee of \$60 shall be charged each club annually. This fee will be applied to the registration of the club delegates to the district meeting.	e. A Region fee of \$90 shall be charged each club annually. This fee will be applied to the registration of the club delegates to the district meeting

RATIONALE:

Costs for District Meetings have continually increased. District Meeting registration costs are up to \$30 (see Procedures, section I3c.) This proposal keeps the policy of prepaying registration for three (3) delegates to District Meeting in place.

Governor Pam stated that the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 9, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees by changing item e, as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. The discussion was as follows:

Vicki Ham, SI/Willits spoke in favor of the amendment. There was no further discussion.

Governor Pam called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Laws & Resolutions Chair Shannon read amendment #5.

Article IX, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
g. Each club shall pay Founder Region a fee of \$25 annually to support S Club or Sigma Society programs within the Region.	g. Each club shall pay Founder Region a fee of \$10 annually to support “S” Club or Sigma Society programs within the Region.

RATIONALE:

The funds collected have been underutilized. The Region asks that the fees collected correlate to the expenditures and programs, and asks to reduce these fees.

Governor Pam stated that the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, Article 9, Finance, Section 9.2: Dues and Fees by changing item g, as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. There was none.

Governor Pam called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Governor Pam introduced Treasurer Vicki who stated that the Founder Region Treasurer’s report was included in the registration packets and if anyone had questions, to contact her during the break.

Governor Pam introduced Soroptimist Celebrating Success Chair Clara Oakes (SI/Vacaville). She reported that there were 38 entries in 4 pillars. The following clubs were announced as the region winners in each pillar category who would receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving and submission to SIA for federation judging:

- Program – SI/Crescent City
- Fundraising – SI/Benicia
- Public Awareness – SI/Clear Lake
- Membership – SI/Rio Vista

Governor Pam introduced Membership Chair Lyn Lurbe who presented the Julia “Bess” Combs Membership Increase Award. She reported that as of March 31, 2017, Founder Region had 1,501 members. The 2nd place clubs were SI/Benicia, SI/Marin County, SI/Central Oahu, and SI/Guam. SI/Honolulu had net growth of 10 members and was the first place winner. They were presented with a certificate and a \$500 donation to Club Giving in their honor.

Governor Pam invited Fundraising Chair Gina to the podium who presented a Laurel Society membership to Rena Borja, (SI/Guam), at the Envoy level.

Governor Pam introduced Treasurer Vicki who announced that the winner of the New Member Sponsor drawing was Leanne Outlaw Rahn, SI/Central Solano County. She would receive a \$1,000 donation to the Laurel Society for sponsoring a new member.

Governor Pam asked Secretary Kris to provide the results of the Invitation to Host Region Conference in 2020. Secretary Kris announced that SI/Ukiah and SI/Marin County had offered to serve as host clubs for the 2020 Founder Region Conference. Governor Pam asked a representative of the clubs to speak. Secretary Kris then moved to accept SI/Ukiah and SI/Marin County as host clubs for 2020 Founder Region Conference which was seconded. Governor Pam called for the question which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed.

Recessed until 3:00 pm

Governor Pam announced that \$1,075 was raised from the table drawing and the proceeds would go towards the Dream Programs.

Governor Pam recognized Carol Dipple (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club) who made the following motion:

“I move, on behalf of the SI/Oakland-The Founder Club, to suspend the rules to bring before the voting body consideration of a resolution urging the board of SIA to reconsider the recent change in the SIA Federation rule, allowing clubs in SIA to continue usage of the original ‘woman’ emblem alongside the more recently adopted ‘S’ logo.”

The motion was seconded and Governor Pam called for the question which needed a 2/3 vote to pass. Governor Pam declared the motion passed.

Carol Dipple (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club) read the following resolution:

“I move that Founder Region adopt a resolution, to be sent by the Founder Region secretary with an appropriate cover letter to the SIA board, stating:

Whereas: in 1928, Soroptimist International (SI) adopted the emblem its universal symbol. It depicts a woman which ‘typifies the spirit of womanhood; with uplifted arms she holds the banner “Soroptimist”; spreading rays of the sun form the background; from the banner on one side fall acorns and leaves of the mighty oak, and on the other side leaves of the laurel”.¹

Whereas: When the ‘S’ logo was introduced approximately 10 years ago, membership was informed by SIA that clubs could continue usage of the emblem along with the logo. Membership never voted on the ‘S’ logo as replacement for the ‘woman’ emblem. That choice was made by the SIA Board of Directors despite concerns amongst Founder Region (and possibly other region) clubs. At that time, we were informed both the logo and emblem could be used together. Now we’re informed the emblem will be phased out & can no longer be used.

Whereas: We recognize the difference between a marketing logo and a representative emblem of honor. Founder Region of SIA wants to maintain the beautiful significance of the emblem in its historical context, especially as we approach the Soroptimist International 100-year anniversary in 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of Founder Region of SIA urges the SIA Federation board to reconsider the recent change in the SIA Federation rule, allowing clubs in SIA to continue usage of the original ‘woman’ emblem alongside the more recently adopted ‘S’ logo.”

¹ Soroptimist Club of Oakland, “The First Fifty Years, 1-21 – 1971, of the Soropoitmist Club of Oakland, California, Soroptimist International Golden Jubilee, Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc.”, (Oakland: 1971),6.

The motion was seconded and Governor Pam called for the question and stated it needed a majority vote to pass. Governor Pam declared the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Governor Pam introduced Public Awareness Chair Olimpia Garner who gave a presentation on social media. She recorded a short video of the conference body and posted it to Facebook to show how fast and easy it was. She spoke about the different types of social media users: Ultra, Dippers, Deniers, Lurkers, and Approval Seekers. She believed the benefit of social media is to share photos and connect with friends. She gave several tips to using Facebook & Instagram:

- Clubs' Facebook pages should use the 'S' logo as their profile picture.
- SIA has created banner photos for use on clubs' Facebook pages.
- Set up club events on Facebook and be sure to use hashtags (#).
- Be consistent – post daily, weekly, monthly.
- Build relationships by using links.
- Promote programs with stories of women and girls we help.
- Create a closed group for LYD winners to stay connected with club.
- Promote fundraising events by recognizing donors.
- Explain what funds are being used for in the community.

Chair Olimpia then recorded a get well video to SIA Past President-elect Yoko and posted it on the Founder Region Facebook page.

Governor Pam introduced Membership Chair Lyn Lurbe who gave her report.

Total members in SIA	31,782	2017
	32,453	2016
Clubs in SIA	1,271	2017
	1,290	2016
Members in Founder Region	1,501	2017
	1,485	2016
Clubs in Founder Region	52	2017
	53	2016

Chair Lyn stated that chartering clubs was the fastest way to increase membership. The SIA website has all the information on charting clubs and the membership staff at SIA was a great resource.

Governor Pam announced that Founder Region would be chartering a new club, SI/Vacaville Twilight, in June of 2017.

Governor Pam introduced SIA Immediate Past President Sam who gave a presentation entitled, "How Far Can You Go, and More?" She spoke about her leadership journey which never included being SIA President. She stated that "you can do it!" She attributes her leadership journey to a little serendipity, flexibility and stepping outside her comfort zone. She then led a question and answer discussion.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference and "Lost and Fines".

Adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Governor Pam reconvened the meeting with Dinner at 6:30 pm. She recognized the Past Governors as they proceeded in:

Mary Ann Redden. Member of SI/Antioch – Founder Region Governor from 2002-2004. Her theme was "Achieve Growth By Sharing" - escorted by SI/Calistoga President Nushi Safinya

Sue Finch, member of SI/Eel River Valley – Founder Region Governor from 2006-2008. Her theme was "Creating Magic Through Soroptimist" - escorted by SI/St. Helena Sunrise President Norma Ferriz

Amelia Benko, member of SI/The Tri-Valley, Founder Region Governor from 2008-2010. Her theme was "Making a Difference Matters" - escorted by SI/St. Helena President Yvonne Vosti

Bobbi Enderlin, member of SI/Benicia, Founder Region Governor from 2014-2016. Her theme was "Share the Joy of Soroptimist" - escorted by her daughter and future Soroptimist, Robin Duncan.

Governor Pam thanked them for their mentoring and continued service to Founder Region. She then showed a photo presentation of the past governors.

Governor Pam introduced the President of Soroptimist International of Calistoga, Nushi Safinya, who gave the inspiration on behalf of the three host clubs: SI/Calistoga, SI/St. Helena and SI/St. Helena Sunrise.

Governor Pam introduced the President of Soroptimist International of St. Helena Sunrise, Norma Ferriz, who gave the welcome on behalf of the three host clubs.

Governor Pam introduced special guests: Sierra Pacific Region Governor Tana Elizondo and Sierra Pacific Region Governor-elect Gail Dekreon and thanked them for attending. She then introduced SIA Immediate Past President Susan "Sam" Buchenau and asked the audience to rise.

Governor Pam announced that on each of the tables there was an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets were \$2.00, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner would receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Vicki. The money raised during the dinner would go towards our region's Dream Program Awards.

Dinner was served.

After dinner, Governor Pam explained how the "Dream Factor" entertainment started with Past Governor Dona Gaddis Wolf. It was renamed "Singing and Dancing with the Stars" to reflect Governor Pam's theme this year and she invited all to sit back, enjoy the fun and frolics, and then dance the night away with our DJ, Josie, of BegaPhina Entertainment.

The following groups performed to "Star" themed songs:

Founder Region Board – "Shining Star" by Earth, Wind and Fire

Founder Region Fellowship Board – "When You Wish Upon A Star" from the movie, Pinnocchio

SI/Clear Lake – "Shining Star" by the Mannhattans

SI/Humboldt Bay – "All Star" by Smashmouth

SI/Benicia – "Lucky Star" by Madonna

SI/Vacaville – "Little Star" by The Elegants

Governor Pam also announced that each club who participated would have a contribution to Club Giving made in their name and thanked all who participated. She announced that we had raised \$837.00 from the table raffles.

Recessed at 10:00 pm

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Governor Pam reconvened the conference at 8:00 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:

Bonnie Vukonich	SI/Arcata and SI/McKinleyville
Verna Beard	SI/Diablo Vista
Barbara Conners	SI/Diablo Vista
Gayle Dawson	SI/Diablo Vista
Jean Williams	SI/Dixon
Eleanor "Ellie" Kimbrough	SI/Napa
Alta Kelsey	SI/Richmond
Gloria McGill	SI/Richmond
Joy Augusto	SI/Rio Vista
Elaine Hamilton	SI/Rio Vista
Mary Heath	SI/Rio Vista
Valerie Jackson	SI/Rio Vista
Martha "Marnie" Cunningham	SI/St. Helena
Marie Cronin	SI/The Tri-Valley
Greta Lange	SI/Vallejo
Josefine Stolz	SI/Vallejo
Ursula Theresa Williams	SI/Vallejo

Governor Pam announced that we lost additional members: Shirley Norenberg, SI/Crescent City; Gloria Martinucci, SI/EI Cerrito and Toni Wilson, SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast, after the deadline date and they would be officially honored next year.

Governor Pam made an announcement about Memorial Grove on June 11, 2017. She stated that in June 2018, we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary Annual Memorial Grove Service. She thanked the Memorial Grove Committee: Debbie Thompson, Dyann O'Brien, Crystal Hull, and Past Governor Kate Burns.

Governor Pam introduced District V Director Dyann O'Brien who gave the inspiration.

Governor Pam introduced District VI Director Angie Haramoto who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Region Board.

Governor Pam introduced the platform party:

Lower Left Tier: District VI Director Angie Haramoto, District V Director Dyann O'Brien, District IV Director Barbara Young, District III Director Joy Swank, District II Director Pat Eileen Fisher and District I Director Elise Balgley

Lower Right Tier: Fundraising Chair Gina Moore, Treasurer Vicki Ham, Secretary Kris Chorbi, Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton and official visitor Soroptimist International of the Americas Past President Sam Buchenau.

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Region Treasurer Vicki Ham. The proceeds would go towards the Dream Program Awards.

Governor Pam introduced Fundraising Chair Gina Moore who gave her report. She introduced the Fundraising Committee members. She stated that Club Grants and Dream Programs were donation funded. Beyond our dues, donations were needed to fund these important programs. For every dollar we donate, 69 cents go towards the program and 31 cents go to administrative and fundraising costs. Donations to Club Giving was the largest way to support these programs. She thanked everyone for their support and announced that 29 clubs gave 10% of their fundraising to Club Giving. She then called them forward and presented them with a special pin.

Governor Pam introduced Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton as the emcee for the Dream Program Awards. In addition to her duties as Governor-elect, she serves as the Founder Region Program Chair.

Governor-elect Sylvia gave a brief history of the Ruby Award which was named after the first president of the "National Soroptimist Club" in 1928, Ruby Lee Minar. It is given to women who, through their personal or professional activities, work to improve the lives of women and girls. She announced that the 2017 Ruby Award winner was Miriam Wong nominated by SI/EI Cerrito. Twenty-eight years ago Miriam immigrated to California from Peru, a survivor of domestic violence, and later founded the Latina Center that brought immigrant Latina women together who suffered domestic violence. She announced we would be sending SIA a donation of \$500 in her honor and presented her with a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson and gave her a Ruby Star paperweight to remember us by.

Governor-elect Sylvia gave a history of the Violet Richardson Award program which began in 2000 and was slightly revamped by Founder Region in 2015, as a way to recognize young women between the ages of 14 and 18 who make a difference in their community and world. The award was named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club founded in 1921 in Oakland, CA. This year, we had 40 clubs participate by honoring 48 young ladies. Governor-elect Sylvia introduced Chair Amelia who then introduced the district award winners. She asked each District winner or representative to sit in the chairs next to the dais and when prompted, share a bit about their service.

Violet Richardson Award Recipients:

District I	Neziah Whitson	SI/EI Cerrito
District II	Daria Dragicevic	SI/Martinez
District III	Jacquelyn Elder	SI/Central Solano
District IV	Nancy Villegas	SI/Ukiah (not in attendance)

District V Amaya Garcia SI/Mendocino
District VI Anna Kimata SI/Honolulu (not in attendance)

Chair Amelia introduced her committee members: Billie Knight (District I), Lisa Schibler (District II), Patty Di Tomaso (District III), Vicki Campbell (District IV), Tess Albin Smith (District V), and Kristal Koga (District VI) and thanked them for their hard work. She then told a story about Violet Richardson Ward as a young girl who was bullied. Her brother explained to Violet that she had not done anything wrong and should not feel bad. This experience inspired Violet to live by the motto, "It's what YOU DO that counts!"

Chair Amelia introduced each Violet Richardson Award recipient and asked them to tell about their service work. Governor Pam then presented each girl with a Violet Richardson Award certificate, a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson, a Dream It, Be It notebook, and a check for \$500.

Neziah Whitson from District I chartered a club called "Rising Stars" at El Cerrito High School which focuses on performing arts and nutrition. Daria Dragicevic from District II encourages more women to enter the field of computer science through her "Start It Up" project. Jacquelyn Elder from District III is the founder, leader and president of "Around the World Club" at Armijo High School. Nancy Villegas from District IV, who was not present, participates in many activities including the Willits Youth Advocates. Linda Davis, President of SI/Ukiah accepted the award on her behalf. Amaya Garcia from District V volunteers at the teen clinic for at-risk youth and wants a career in Public Health. Anna Kimata from District VI, who was not present, has incorporated her passion for science and math to serve the Hawaii community. Lisa Ma, member of SI/Honolulu accepted the award on her behalf.

Governor-elect Sylvia closed with a Helen Keller quote, and asked the families and guests of the recipients to stand and be recognized. She then thanked Chair Amelia for her dedication and coordination of the award and congratulated the winners.

Governor-elect Sylvia asked each District winner of the Live Your Dream Award to come to the chairs to the side of the dais for the presentation of the awards and to remain during the presentation. She instructed them to not open the envelopes until they are told.

Live Your Dream Recipients:

District I	Rebekah Shtayfman	SI/El Cerrito
District II	Jacqueline Soriano	SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)
District III	Faraha Nia-Showers	SI/Benicia
District IV	Yesenia Rivera Alvarado	SI/Windsor
District V	Ashlee Milenewicz	Si/Willits
District VI	Daniella Wallace	SI/Waikiki Foundation

Governor-elect Sylvia thanked the Live Your Dream Chair, Lou Sablan, who could not attend conference, for doing an awesome job on this life-changing award program. She announced that all 52 clubs in Founder Region participated in the Live Your Dream Awards. She also introduced the committee members: Jennifer Logan (District I), Jan Schults (District II), Brenda Crandall (District III), Michelle Bowen (District IV), Karen Lorenzo (District V), Rene Tokunaga (District VI) and thanked them for their good work.

Governor-elect Sylvia spoke about the benefits of education which serves as a catalyst for women and girls. Since 1972, Soroptimists have provided cash grants to more than 30,000 women who have overcome poverty, teen pregnancy, illness and addiction. Our program strategy includes: 100% club participation, honor more women, provide more funding to recipients, support recipients beyond a financial award, and provide ongoing support to past recipients.

Governor-elect Sylvia announced that all six recipients were present and would be getting a special Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson. She then introduced each recipient and asked them to speak about their journey and future plans.

Rebekah Shtayfman, District I, who currently attends UC Berkeley majoring in Physics, overcame challenges with teen pregnancy and homelessness. Jacqueline Soriano, District II, who is studying nursing at Los Medanos College, overcame abusive relationships. Faraha Nia-Showers, District III, who is working on her Master of Science degree in Professional Counseling at Grand Canyon University,

overcame depression, a suicide attempt and homelessness. Yesenia Rivera Alvarado, District IV, who will be attending UC Davis or Berkeley in the fall to become an Economic Analyst, overcame anxiety and an abusive and careless lifestyle. Ashlee Milenewicz, District V, who is attending Mendocino Community College and then plans to attend Sonoma State for an Associates of Human Services degree, overcame domestic violence and homelessness. Daniella Wallace, District VI, who is studying to be a Physical Therapist Assistant at Kapiolani Community College, overcame abusive relationships and homelessness.

Governor-elect Sylvia then announced that each recipient received a \$1,000 check from Founder Region; 5 recipients received a check for \$3,000 from SIA and 1 recipient received a check for \$5,000 from SIA and a \$500 gift card for Best Buy. She then announced that the region winner was Daniella Wallace from District VI. Governor-elect Sylvia closed with a quote from Malala Yousafzai and thanked both Amelia and Lou for chairing their respective committees and encouraged the winners to stay in touch and let us know about their success.

Governor Pam resumed presiding and closed with a Maya Angelou quote and congratulated the winners. She then invited everyone to attend the 2018 SIA Convention in Yokohama, Japan from July 31 – August 2, 2018 and a promotional video was shown.

Governor Pam asked those clubs who had raffles to come forward and announce their winners. She then announced that Monday Sparkles, one of the Trade Fair vendors, donated their boxes for a raffle and Noreen Fetzter was the lucky winner. She announced that \$766 had been raised from the final table drawing and would be donated to the Dream Program Awards.

Governor Pam announced the Coloring Contest winners: Colleen Berumen (SI/Vacaville), Leona Soto, (SI/Central Oahu), Sharon Redd (SI/Humboldt Bay), Jessica Cate (SI/Guam), and Elise Carmody (SI/Central Oahu) who would receive a \$100 donation to the Laurel Society or Fellowship.

Governor Pam invited Fellowship President Bobbi to the podium one last time who named more fellows. She thanked them on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Pam welcomed back Fundraising Chair Gina who had more Laurel Society memberships to present. She called forward Fawn William (SI/Clear Lake) who was pinned at the Attache level and Kelly Slater (SI/Clear Lake) who was pinned at the Attache level, both by Past President Sam. She then gave her report on the “Shine Your Brightest” Opportunity Drawing. She stated that there were 52 baskets donated and total tickets sales resulted in over \$14,000 for SIA fundraising. The winners had been drawn and she announced their names and which club provided the basket they won.

Governor Pam announced Jackie Pactol (SI/Central Oahu) the winner of the Conference Incentive drawing who will receive free registration and meals to the 2018 Founder Region Conference

Governor Pam welcomed Registration Co-Chair Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena Sunrise, who presented the Forty-first Annual Founder Region Conference attendance report:

International Officers	0	Club Delegates	128
Federation Officers	1	Other Soroptimist	171
Region Officers	4	Guests	43
District Directors	6		
Fellowship President	1		
Fellowship Directors	6	Total in Attendance	360

Conference Coordinator Linda made her final announcements. She made an announcement of “Lost and Fines” and reminded members to turn in the evaluation forms. She then thanked the host clubs for their hard work. The presidents of the 3 host clubs came forward and Governor Pam thanked and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Governor Pam gave her final thank-yous to the following: SIA Immediate Past President Sam, region committee chairs, pages and time keepers, Credential Co-Chairs Patty DiTomaso and Lori Duarte, Registration Chairs Bonnie Schoch and Norma Ferriz, Floor Chairs Maggie Friedrich and Edie Kausch, Stewards Sharon Ebersole, Holly Mason and Roberta Oswald, Trade Fair Chair Mary Ellen Hester, Audiovisual Chair Tess Albin Smith, Conference Treasurer Kelley Slater, Host Clubs: SI/Calistoga, SI/St

Helena and SI/St. Helena Sunrise, Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz, and finally the Founder Region Officers and Directors and Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier.

Governor Pam gave her closing remarks and asked SIA Immediate Past President Sam to lead us in the Soroptimist Pledge.

Governor Pam adjourned the Forty-first Annual Founder Region Conference at 11:15 pm.

Kristin Chorbi
Founder Region Secretary (2016-2018)



**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP (FRF)
BUSINESS MEETING
May 6, 2017
San Ramon Marriott Hotel – Ballroom
San Ramon, California**

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by President Bobbi Enderlin.

I. President Bobbi Introduced the Platform Party.

Left side: Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director/Treasurer; Sharon Valenti, District V Fellowship Director/Asst. Treasurer; Linda Bradbrook, District IV Fellowship Director; Shannon Richards, Laws & Resolutions Chair.

Right side: Bev Gomer, District II Fellowship Director; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director/Secretary; Fawn Williams, District III Fellowship Director; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian; and Bobbi Enderlin, Fellowship President.

II. Adoption of Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Lori Duarte, SI/St. Helena:

Clubs in Founder Region:	52
Clubs Eligible to Vote	52
Clubs Not in Good Standing	Zero
Clubs Registered	50
Total Voting Clubs	50

Delegates Registered:	
Fellowship President	1
Fellowship Directors	5
Club Delegates	119
Total Delegates	124

Quorum for Opening Session	63
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Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

III. Minutes of the Previous Business Meeting

The minutes of the FRF Business Meeting held at the Founder Region Conference in May 2016 were published in the 2016 Conference Proceedings and distributed to membership. On

May 6, 2017, a copy of those minutes was also placed on each table for review by FRF Business Meeting attendees. The minutes were adopted as presented.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rena Borja provided a two page Treasurer's report which covered the period July 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017. The following highlights are noted:

- Income: \$72,693.23
- Expenses: 23,233.17
- Net Income: \$49,460.06

- Total Liabilities & Equity: \$525,502.82

The Treasurer's Report will be submitted for financial review.

V. Directors' Reports –

Each of the Fellowship Directors gave a report about Fellowship activities from July 1, 2016 to the 2017 Founder Region Conference. Those reports are as follows.

District I Fellowship Director Cheryl Poncini

- ❖ There are seven clubs in District I.
- ❖ Since July 1, 2016, I have visited all District I clubs as a Fellowship Director for a total of 17 visits. Those visits have included attending club meetings where I discussed Fellowship and our bracelet fundraiser, as well as attending club awards programs and fundraisers. I also attended the Fall 2016 District I Presidents Round Table.
- ❖ In the period July 1, 2016, to date, ten District I Soroptimists became first level Fellows while one became a second level Fellow.
- ❖ During that same period, at least \$9,600.00 was raised in District I for Fellowship. This figure includes club and member donations and over \$1600.00 in bracelet presales.
- ❖ The clubs in District I have raised money for Fellowship in a variety of ways. Two of those ways include one club's long-standing "Super Bowl Pool." Each person donates \$20.00 to guess what the final score will be and in which team's favor. The person whose guess comes closest to the actual final game score wins a prize. The club is proud that it raises its \$1,000 Fellowship donation each year through this fundraiser. Another club holds a week-long dining fundraising event at a local restaurant. The restaurant gives the club a percentage of its receipts for that week. Those funds go towards the club's \$1,000 Fellowship donation each year.
- ❖ Approximately 118 members and clubs in District I have become Fellows since the inception of the program.
- ❖ During this fiscal year so far, one District I member established an account for monthly giving, working her way towards becoming a Fellow.

I want to thank each of the District I clubs and their members for their generous and ongoing support of Fellowship and for the warm welcome I always receive when I visit your clubs. I look forward to visiting with each of you during the upcoming year.

District II Fellowship Director Bev Gomer

>District II is made up of six clubs and approximately 150 members as of this past month.

>Since becoming Fellowship Director, I have visited each of my clubs and talked about Fellowship and the Conference games. I also attended SI/Martinez's and Pittsburg's award lunches where I presented a new Fellow, and attended SI/The Delta's awards dinner. I installed two new members in the SI/Antioch club, and attend two District II PRT meetings. And I must include serving on our MOST successful District II "Dream It Be It" Program, Get Real Academy #14.

>To date, all six clubs have awarded one or more Fellows for a total of seven new Fellows named in District II: Two fellows were drawn at the District Meeting last October, and five new fellows were gifted by their clubs, one of whom received her second Fellow level status. This accounts for approximately 127 total Fellows in District II. Clubs in District II have also donated \$5,000 towards new Fellows and generously purchased over \$2,000 in (Conference games) bracelet pre-sales.

>Since July 1, three members in District II have taken advantage of the Monthly Giving program thereby working their way towards becoming a Fellow or moving to the next Fellow level.

>District II clubs raise funds for Fellowship in a variety of ways. One club has created a "calendar game" for the Fun-for-Fellowship month of February where daily activities or actions are assigned monetary values. At the end of the month, all monies earned are collected and donated to Fellowship. Another club creates a "100 square board" selling each square for \$10. When the entire board has been sold, a square is drawn and that person becomes a Fellow. And most clubs take up a collection at the end of their meetings where a portion is either donated to Fellowship or towards naming a member of their club a Fellow.

Thank you members in District II, for your ongoing support and generosity towards Founder Region Fellowship, and for always making me feel welcome when I visit your clubs. I look forward to our continued work together in the coming year.

District III Director Fawn Williams

- There are eleven clubs in District III
- Since July 1, 2016, I have visited 8 clubs as a Fellowship director for a total of 14 visits. I also created the Facebook page and the flyer for presale bracelets, the script for the District meetings and attended the Fall PRT
- In the period July 1, 2016, to date, fifteen District III Soroptimists became Fellows (3 from the District meeting), one of which became a second level Fellow.
- During that period, more than \$12,800.00 was raised in District III for Fellowship. This figure includes \$1660 in bracelet presales and \$1400.00 in monthly giving.
- The clubs in District III have raised money for Fellowship in a variety of ways. Some examples are:
 - Mystery Auction - Each member brings a beautifully wrapped gift to be bid on by the members. \$500.00 from the proceeds are given to Fellowship
 - Pizza Fundraiser - An "all you can eat" pizza night was held at a local Pizza Parlor. 50% of the nights proceeds were donated to Fellowship.
- Approximately 248 members in District III have become Fellows since the inception of this program
- 7 members in District III have established an account for monthly giving, working their way towards becoming a Fellow or moving to the next Fellow level

I want to thank each of the District III club and their members for their generosity and ongoing support of Fellowship. I have greatly enjoyed visiting the clubs and look forward to more visits in the coming year.

District IV Director Linda Bradbrook

- District IV has eight clubs
- This winter amid rain, sleet and floods, you invited me to eight club programs
- Eight new Fellows were given or purchased
 - Three from District drawings
 - And five purchased
 - After yesterday's drawings we have increased that by four making it 12 Fellows
- We have 128 Fellows in District IV
- Club and individual donations YTD totaled approximately \$6,000.00, with combined Fellow and Bi-annual donations. You also pre-purchased \$1,300 in Conference bracelets.
- Most of our clubs budget \$500 to \$2000 for yearly club Fellowship giving
- In February your "Fun 4 Fellowship" fundraising events included
 - Bunko night
 - The February "Fun"d Calendar challenge
 - A white elephant sale
 - And a gift bag live auction.
- I want to thank all of my clubs for making me feel special
 - You welcomed me into your meetings and
 - helped me reach personal goals.
 - You are the success Fellowship relies on.
 - Always remember, You are the stars in this program.

District V Director Sharon Valenti

- There are 11 clubs in District V. It has been a challenge to visit the district 5 clubs this year, because of highway closures in the north area. I visited all but one club. Fingers crossed they will be open next winter.
- I attended the President Round Table and encouraged each club to have a Fellowship fundraiser during Fun For Fellowship month in February. One club had raised money for Fellowship each day in February by having club members making donations based on daily activities during the month.
- There were 5 Fellows awarded in my district – 3 at Level 1, and 2 at Level 2. Two were drawn at the district 5 meeting, and three were from club donations. Last night a new member from S.I. Arcata won a Fellow.
One club gave \$500 toward their next year's Fellow award.
- Presale bracelets in District 5 totaled \$1,260
- There are approximately 118 fellows in District 5.
- Thank you, District 5, for your warm welcome and your continued support for Fellowship.

District VI Director Rena Borja

- There are nine clubs in District VI with 299 members spanning over two time zones and 5 islands in the Pacific as of 3/31/2017
- Since July 1, 2016, I have visited four clubs as a Fellowship Director, in Guam, Maui and Honolulu and presented Fellow certificates to eight members.
- In the period July 1, 2016, to date, 13 District VI Soroptimists became first level Fellows, while two became second level Fellows, with one making that level in the same year, and one became a fourth level with a significant donation.
- During that period, more than \$14,105.00 was raised in District VI for Fellowship. This figure includes \$700.00 in bracelet presales.
- The clubs in District VI have raised money for Fellowship in a variety of ways. Some examples are:
 - SI Honolulu held a Valentines Brunch, a sold out event. A fellow was awarded from their club who was greatly surprised.
 - SI Maui held a lobster fest and honored five Fellows.
- 90 members in District VI have become Fellows since the inception of this program

I want to thank each of the District VI club and their members for their generosity and ongoing support of Fellowship. I have greatly enjoyed visiting the clubs and look forward to visiting the others in the next few months.

VI. FRF Board President Bobbi Enderlin's Report

First of all, thank you again to Governor Pam for appointing me to this important position in our region. Having never been a Fellowship Director, I was a little concerned about being the president, but I have definitely spent a lot of money on buying Fellowship tickets – so I guess that makes up for my lack of experience! Being past governor probably helps also!

At our first board meeting, we all shared our goals for the biennium – they are pretty simple.

1. Give away \$100,000 each year to Fellowship Recipients
2. Educate club members about the Fellowship program
3. Make it easier for clubs and members to donate to Fellowship

The directors have done an outstanding job this year visiting clubs and providing education about Fellowship when they visit, as well as the presentation they gave at the district meetings – please give them a hand for their hard work! We have implemented online donations using PayPal or credit cards to make it easier to donate. We have established a way for members to donate monthly through PayPal or sending checks. We have approximately 20 members that have done this.

We gave away \$100,000 to ten deserving women last night. In order to do this, we did move \$40,000 out of our reserve account. In the budget we established at the beginning of the biennium we had identified we would need \$50,000 from the reserve.

We have discussed our financial situation with experts and have been told that we should have about 3 years' worth of Fellowship awards available in our reserve. That would be about \$300,000. Our plan is to get the reserve down to that amount. Many of you have expressed concern that FRF has had too much money in its accounts. We are doing this to be financially

prudent. This means we definitely need to keep fundraising aggressively so we can meet our goals for giving our awards in the future.

It appears that by the end of this fiscal year, we will have raised approximately \$95,000. That breaks down as follows:

District Meeting: \$15,906

Conference: Presales - \$8500

Deanna's Pins \$1120 (pre-conference)

Club Individual Donations: \$65,000+

With 57 new fellows in the region.

Thank you and congratulations to all of you! We appreciate your support for Founder Region Fellowship, our region's identifying project.

VII. Announcements

President Bobbi reminded everyone to purchase Fellowship bracelets. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Poncini

Cheryl Poncini

Secretary

Founder Region Fellowship

Soroptimist International of the Americas