



FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
Business Meeting
May 4, 2019
San Ramon Marriott Hotel - Ballroom
San Ramon, California

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by
Governor Sylvia Crafton.

I. President Pam introduced the Platform Party

Left side: Sheila Bearden, Laws & Resolutions Chair; Teri Malkin, District III Fellowship Director; Jan Schults, District II Fellowship Director and Fellowship Secretary; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian; Pam Parker, Fellowship President.

Right side: Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; Crystal Arbutnot, District V Fellowship Director and Fellowship Treasurer; Nancy Weber, District IV Fellowship Director; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA President/Official Visitor; Sylvia Crafton, Founder Region Governor.

II. Adoption of Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Credentials Chair, Louise Agnew (SI/Antioch):

Clubs in Founder Region	53
Clubs Eligible to Vote	52
Clubs Not in Good Standing	1
Clubs Registered	48
Total Voting Clubs	45
Delegates Registered:	
Fellowship President	1
Fellowship Directors	6
Club Delegates	113
Total Delegates	120
Quorum for Opening Session	61

Credential 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 2018 were published in the 2018 Conference Proceedings and distributed to membership. On May 4, 2019, a copy of those minutes was also placed on each table for review by FRF Business Meeting attendees. The minutes were approved and adopted as presented.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Crystal Arbuthnot provided a three-page Treasurer’s report consisting of the Profit and Loss Report Balance Sheet for the period July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. The following highlights are noted:

- Income: \$62,377.13
- Expenses: \$4,000.49
- Net Income: \$58,376.64
- **Total Liabilities & Equity: \$426,197.18**

V. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2019

The following 4 (four) FRF 2019 proposed bylaw amendments were presented and each were voted unanimously to adopt.

(1) ARTICLE VII, Board of Directors

Section 2. Duties, The Board of Directors shall:

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p>Section 2. Duties. The Board of Directors shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. have responsibility for the affairs within the adopted policies and programs of FRF; b. establish program emphasis and strategies for the implementation of the programs; c. be voting delegates at the annual meeting; d. select the awardees; e. protect the emblem; and f. make an impartial study of all applicants and invite, by letter and/or electronic mail, qualified applicants to be interviewed. The Founder Region governor and any additional persons selected by the FRF president may be silent observers at the final interviews. The FRF president or board member shall notify all applicants as to the final selection of awardees and announce the awardees at the annual Fonder Region Conference. 	<p>Section 2. Duties. The Board of Directors shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. have responsibility for the affairs within the adopted policies and programs of FRF; b. establish program emphasis and strategies for the implementation of the programs; c. be voting delegates at the annual meeting; d. select the awardees; e. protect the emblem; and f. make an impartial study of all applicants and invite, by letter and/or electronic mail, qualified applicants to be interviewed. The Founder Region governor and any additional persons selected by the FRF president may be silent observers at the final interviews. The FRF president or board member shall notify all applicants as to the final selection of awardees and announce the awardees at the annual Fonder Region Conference. g. be bonded.

- Proposed by:** The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors
Advantages: Protects FRF funds by bonding all board members.
Disadvantages: None

(2) ARTICLE VII, Section 2. Duties - continued:

Financial Impact: Based on annual insurance premium and coverage selected. (Current 2018-2019 coverage bonds all board members by insuring the “board of directors.”)

Rationale: All Founder Region Fellowship Board members collect money from clubs, club members and other sources of income. By bonding all board members, we are assuring protection for funds collected.

**(2) ARTICLE VII, Board of Directors
 Section 7. Compensation.**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p>Section 7. Compensation. The Board of Directors shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties with approval of the board.</p>	<p>Section 7. Compensation. The Board of Directors shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties with approval of the board president.</p>

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: Assures review of reasonable and allowable expense reimbursements by the board president.

Disadvantages: None

Financial Impact: None.

Rationale: Allows the board president to review and approve reimbursement of reasonable and allowable expenses without having to have the entire board review and approve. Consistent with the Founder Region bylaws allowing the governor to approve reasonable and allowable expenses.

**(3) ARTICLE IX, Committees
 Section 3.**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p>Section 3. The Budget Committee shall be a committee of three (3) FRF board members appointed by the president. The treasurer shall serve as ex-officio member. This committee shall review the financial affairs of FRF as directed by the president, make recommendations, and prepare the budget.</p>	<p>Section 3. The Budget Committee shall be a committee consisting of the FRF board president, the FRF board treasurer and an FRF board member appointed by the president. This committee will prepare a proposed budget for the succeeding biennium. During the biennium, the committee shall periodically review and present suggested changes to the FRF board.</p>

(3) ARTICLE IX, Committees - Section 3 - continued

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors
Advantages: Provides consistent guidelines and consistent board members (president and treasurer) for Budget Committee member selection and also to bring the committee makeup to be similar with Founder Region Budget Committee members.
Disadvantages: None
Financial Impact: None.
Rationale: To be consistent with Founder Region Bylaws Budget Committee. Higher law (SIA and Founder Region) have the treasurer serve as a committee member, not as an ex-officio member.
NOTE: If approved, this bylaw change will impact Article VI, Duties of Officers, Section 3. The treasurer shall: (g) serve as ex-officio member of the Budget/Finance Committees: and...

(4) ARTICLE VI, Duties of Officers

Section 3. The treasurer shall:

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p>Section 3. The treasurer shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain a full and accurate accounting of all financial transactions; b. Deposit all monies in the FRF name in financial institutions as shall be designated by the Board of Directors; c. Disburse the funds as ordered by the Board of Directors; d. Keep records of donation, wills and legacies; e. Present a financial report at the regular meetings of the board and as requested by the board; f. Be bonded; g. Serve as ex-officio member of the Budget/Finance Committees; and h. Perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as assigned by the president. 	<p>Section 2. Duties. The treasurer shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintain a full and accurate accounting of all financial transactions; b. deposit all monies in the FRF name in financial institutions as shall be designated by the Board of Directors; c. disburse the funds as ordered by the Board of Directors; d. keep records of donation, wills and legacies; e. present a financial report at the regular meetings of the board and as requested by the board; f. be bonded; and g. perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as assigned by the president.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors
Advantages:
Disadvantages: None
Financial Impact: None
Rationale: Necessary to change this bylaw based upon impact of proposed bylaw approval Article IX Section 3 – Budget Committee. Also removes FRF treasurer as an ex-officio member of the Finance (Review) Committee, which consists of up to three (3) appointed members, not including an FRF board members, to serve on the Finance Review Committee (Article IX Committees, Section 2. – The finance Review Committee.

g. Directors' Reports

District I Fellowship Director Cheryl Poncini

There are seven clubs and approximately 115 Fellows in District I.

I have had the privilege of visiting all of my clubs this year for club meetings, fundraisers, awards programs or just for fun. Almost all of the visits involved a discussion of the Fellowship program.

In the year 2018-2019, three District I Soroptimists participated in Fellowship Monthly Giving and completed their respective monthly payments earlier this calendar year.

Since July 1, 2018, thirteen women in District I have become Fellows or "leveled up." This represents \$15,000 in individual and club donations to Fellowship. Those Fellows are:

SI/East Bay:

Dawn Couch – First Level – Club Fellow
Lynn Levin – Second Level – Club Fellow

SI/EI Cerrito:

Joni Hiramoto – First Level – Club Fellow
Susan Yeazel – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/Oakland – The Founder Club:

Khadija Fredericks – First Level – Club Fellow
Catherine Pinkas – First Level – Monthly Giving
Cheryl Poncini – Fourth Level – Donation
Cheryl Poncini – Fifth Level – Won at Conference
Kathy Sigman – Second Level – Won at 10/2018 District Meeting
Kay Taylor – First Level – Won at 10/2018 District Meeting
Kay Taylor – Second Level – Monthly Giving

SI/Richmond:

Pam Fisk – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/San Ramon Valley:

Carrie Paulik – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/Tri Valley

Katherine Bakaldin – First Level – Club Fellow
Barbara Luna – Second Level – Monthly Giving

In addition, District I raised more than \$1,100 in pre-conference sales.

Being a Fellowship Director is one of the most rewarding positions in Founder Region: it gives a director the opportunity to be part of a region-wide organization which, each year, creates higher education opportunities for women. I look forward to my fourth year as your Fellowship Director and thank you again for the opportunity to represent you while, together, we meet Fellowship's goal of improving the lives of women, girls and society through higher education.

Lastly, if any of the new District I Fellows or Fellows who have "leveled-up" are here, please meet me at the flags for your pin, certificate and photos at the conclusion of this meeting. Thank you.

District II Fellowship Director Jan Schults

District II is made up of six clubs and has approximately 126 members as of last month. We have 129 Fellows past and present from Level 1's to Level 3's.

Three members in District II have continued to take advantage of the Monthly Giving program thereby working their way towards becoming a Fellow or moving to the next level.

At our District Meeting we raised \$2,000.00 for Fellowship and through our earring pre-sales raised another \$1,170.00.

Clubs/members in District II have donated a total of \$8,000 towards new Fellows since July 2018.

District II will have awarded eight new Fellows this year:

- ~Kathi Regan from SI/The Delta donated \$1,000.00 to receive her 1st Level Fellow.
- ~Debbie Bradley from SI/Martinez received her 1st level Fellow through the District meeting drawing.
- ~Kim Trupiano from SI/Diablo Vista was gifted her 1st level Fellow by Jo Harlow who's raffle ticket was drawn at District Meeting.
- ~Sharon Sobol Idul from SI/Pittsburg was selected by her club to receive her 1st level Fellow and I will be pinning her in June.
- ~Jan Schults has donated through Monthly Giving reaching 2nd level in July 2018 and 3rd level May 2019 this weekend.
- ~SI/Antioch is surprising Gina Moore today moving her up to a Level 2.
- ~Diablo Vista will surprise one of their members at their May Mixer. (Carlyn Obringer)

Serving as District II's Director has been a great experience for me as I've met some amazing women, became a lot more self-confident and garnered new ideas to take to my own club. I'm thankful to have this opportunity to serve on this board raising funds to support women who will make a difference by gaining their PhD's. Thank you so much.

District III Fellowship Director Teri Malkin

13 clubs in District III with 534 Members

Monthly Giving Signups: Two

District III funds raised over \$21,000

Fellows	\$16,000
Fellowship Raffle Tickets	\$ 5,115 (5 Fellows drawn)
Earring Pre- Sales as of 4/1/19	\$ 515

New Fellows as of 5/3/19

Level	First	Last	Club	
3 rd	Bonnie	Silveria	SI Benicia	Drawing
1 st	Donna	Ernst	SI Benicia	
1 st	Susan	Leick	SI Calistoga	
1 st	Carolyn	Cotton	Si Central Solano	Drawing
1 st	Kathy	Archer	SI Dixon	
1 st	Sue	Conklin	SI Rio Vista	
1 st	Kathy	Wright	SI Rio Vista	
1 st	Deborah	Roden	SI Rio Vista	

District III New Fellows as of 5/3/19 - continued

1st	MaryEllen	Lamothe	SI Rio Vista	
1st	Regina	Lewis	SI St Helena	Drawing
2nd	Patti	DiTomaso	SI St Helena	
2nd	Janet	Todd	SI St Helena Sunrise	Drawing
2nd	Jill	Hunter	SI Vacaville	
1st	Jim	Frazier	SI Vacaville	
1st	Club		SI Vacaville	
1st	Dana	Halve	SI Vacaville Twilight	
1st	Brooke	Fox	SI Vacaville Twilight	Drawing
1st	Michelle	Strand	SI Vacaville Twilight	
1st	Vicky	Scopesi	SI Vallejo	
1st	Mimi	Farone	SI Vallejo	
1st	Cathy	Rojas	SI Vallejo	

Thank you to the Clubs in District III and their members for their generosity and ongoing support of Founder Region Fellowship. I have enjoyed visiting nine of the clubs and look forward to visiting all the clubs in 2019-2020.

District IV Fellowship Director Nancy Weber

District IV has 8 clubs. There are approximately 187 members in the 8 clubs.

We have 111 Fellows ranging from 1st to 3rd level which is about 60% of our members. During this fiscal year, we had 5 lucky recipients that won Fellows by raffle – of those 5, 2 were new Fellows and the remaining 3 were level 2 awards. In addition to these 5 raffle winners, clubs purchased 2 Fellows to date. The names of the new Fellows are Laurie Hanks and Marge Cunningham of Windsor Club. Linda Fisher and Jeanne Kerns of Santa Rosa Club. Kathy Besio Borg, Michelle Bowen and Barbara Young. Level 2

District IV has raised approximately \$77 hundred. This is a combination of raffle sales of about \$2250, purchased Fellows of \$2K, a donation to Dorothy Sarnes Fund, other misc. donations, pre- sales of earrings and promotional items. In addition, we revived February Fun for Fellowship, and three clubs gave donations totaling \$1360 which are being accrued toward the purchase of the next club fellows.

I love serving as District Director since it's a wonderful way to meet so many more women who are passionate and compassionate about helping others, especially women and girls. We as Soroptimists work toward righting some of the inequities of the past and believe that giving a helping hand to some of the most vulnerable in our society will make a significant change for generations to follow. I love that we value education as a stepping stone to making a difference in our world.

Thank you to all the members and clubs that have invited me to present to their membership and for giving me the opportunity to explain what Fellowship does and how we raise our monies to provide grants for some very deserving women. And thank you for all your efforts in making Fellowship continue to be the signature project of the Founder Region.

District V Fellowship Director Crystal Arbuthnot

- There are 10 clubs in my district with 159 members as Fellows. All the clubs in my District are Fellows. I was able to visit all of them, except 1, to present a program about Fellowship and/or to present a Fellow.
- Raised over \$3000 with the tickets and raffle drawings at our District meeting which allowed us to draw 3 Fellows.
 - Tosha Bowling, SI/Humboldt Bay, 1st level
 - Andrea Boldt, SI/The Redwoods, 1st level
 - AB Priceman, SI/Noyo Sunrise (2nd level)
- Total club donations totaling \$3000
 - SI/Arcata, club fellow in honor of their 65th anniversary (2nd level)
 - SI/Fort Bragg, awarded a “surprise” fellow to Frances Andrews
 - 2 clubs sent in “half fellow” payments and will be able to name a fellow next year. (SI Redwoods & SI Eel River Valley)
- One Fellow thru monthly giving: Kathryn Leaman, SI Fort Bragg
- Laurie Garrison finished her Fellow donation - \$500
- Attended 2 awards luncheons to award Fellows
- Total Pre-sale Earrings - \$1155
- Fun for Fellowship donation - \$290
- One person signed up for monthly giving, with 3 others signing an intent to do so.

Total money raised so far by District V is \$8,270.00. Total Fellows – 7.

Being on the Fellowship board gives me the satisfaction of knowing I’m helping women to achieve their goals.

THANK YOU - District V for supporting Fellowship and for making me feel so welcome at your clubs. You truly are AWESOME.

District VI Fellowship Director Rena Borja

There are nine clubs in District VI

There are about 110 Fellows in District VI and 2 more just added from the conference drawings.

Total monthly giving was signed up by 7 members and will be processing.

Amount of funds raised at District Meeting in 2018 was approximately \$3150 and \$4000 in club donated fellows

One member Levelled up to 3rd fellow, 1 level 2 all at drawings, 2 new Fellows surprise by their club

Anita Haban-Nakamaejo third level of SI Waikiki, Glenda Rother 6th of SI Waikiki, Wendy MacDonald SI Maui are being recognized here at conference.

District VI Director's Report - continued

The people I have met and interviews with candidates and the generosity of all Soroptimists in Founder Region and of course the many friends made are among the reasons why I did Fellowship Director second time around.

Thank you to all the members in my district who have invited me to their meetings and events in the various islands. I enjoy traveling and love to be there in your clubs.

VI. President's Report - Pam Parker

Good morning.

First of all, thank you again to Governor Sylvia for appointing me to this important position in our region. It has been such a rewarding experience this year, from working with a great board of directors to meeting members from all over the region to playing a role in selecting our amazing Fellowship Recipients.

How many of you were here last night to witness the incredible women our board selected to receive \$10,000 each? What a gift we were able to give them – to support them not only financially but to empower them to continue with their goals and dreams of finishing their doctoral studies.

Many of you know this but I am going to repeat it; Founder Region Fellowship is the identifying project of Founder Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas. Our mission is to advance the status of women by RAISING money to award to outstanding women in the final phases of their doctoral program.

I would like to point out a key word in what I just said. RAISING.

As you can see, your board of directors have gone above and beyond with their efforts this year to raise funds to support our financial awards to our Fellowship recipients. Our store in the Trade Fair is proving to be a huge success, and if you haven't been in the trade fair yet and shopped at our store and other vendors, you are missing a real treat.

Our board and previous boards have invented clever and fun ways to raise funds. But the reality of this, is that we cannot raise \$100,000 each year to give \$10,000 to ten recipients. We don't even come close. In the last several years, we have drawn from our reserves in order to award women significant amounts of money. Our membership asked that we do this. But now we've reached a critical place where we can't do that anymore. There is no other way to say this.

Our board met with our Financial Advisor this past week and we were given some powerful and positive information. In the next year, Founder Region Fellowship will be providing you with additional ways you can continue your support of Founder Region Fellowship. We will be providing you with tax smart giving information and we want to encourage you – our biggest donors – to add options to your cash donations. Planned giving, raising funds, shopping at our store, donations, naming Fellows – we need to utilize all of these methods and more in order to continue keeping Founder Region Fellowship sustainable and alive. If we don't do more with our financial options, the reality is Founder Region Fellowship will not continue as we know it.

Please talk to your financial advisor to see how you can support Founder Region Fellowship – now and in the future. Please play a role in continuing this amazing program. Please educate yourself, just as we will do our part in bringing you information and sharing

VII – President’s Report - Pam Parker - continued

what we learn, so we can move forward to a financial position where we can create an endowment fund, continue to raise funds and accept donations and keep our region’s identifying project alive and sustainable.

We always thank you from the bottom of our hearts – just as every previous Founder Region Fellowship board has done – for your generosity and your belief in our mission. We want to continue to empower women – just as we did last night. We want to succeed and make a difference in the lives of ten women this year who in turn will make a difference in many lives of women in the future. As I said last night, our recipients are our future.

Your board, as have others, continues to move in an upward position to make Founder Region Fellowship the best it can be. That being said, we are excited and proud to be rolling out our new Founder Region Fellowship pins. You can see on the slides just how beautiful they are, and you can see that we have already projected up to a tenth level of pin. We have pins with us today, and will be pinning Fellows this morning and throughout the day with our new pins. And the beauty of all of this is, if you would like to “trade-out” your previous Fellow pin, you may, but, because we are creative in our fundraising, we ask that you donate \$25 to Founder Region Fellowship.

I mentioned last night that our current board is making a personal contribution to the Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fund in memory of Deanna Hanks. This is a beautiful and significant way you can make a donation to Fellowship by expressing your love and honoring someone’s memory. Although this fund is relatively new to Founder Region Fellowship, it is one we hope to grow and eventually become a positive and successful method for members to use to contribute to Fellowship, in a way that is significant.

We thank everyone who has had a part in the weekend’s Fellowship program. We can’t do it without you. One person in particular that I would like to thank is a new member to Founder Region but not a new Soroptimist. Leanne Davis joined Founder Region last year, and she has been a tremendous help to me with our presentations. Thank you, Leanne. Our program last night was awesome. We are so fortunate to give as we do, and to have such remarkable women receive our gifts.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and beyond for what you do to make Founder Region Fellowship successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Schults
Secretary - Founder Region Fellowship
District II Fellowship Director
Soroptimist International of the Americas