



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

# Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region Newsletter

March 20, 2020

Volume 3, Number 3

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## MARCH GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



**Recent events** - While we were in the heart of our awards season with many clubs celebrating as they presented their Live Your Dream, Violet Richardson and Ruby or Women of Distinction awards, the world CHANGED! We congratulate our award recipients and for those clubs who were not yet able to celebrate, please consider sending the award checks to your recipients and then look forward to a future date of being able celebrate with them.

**And, then came the Coronavirus** – the Founder Region Board met March 15, 2020,

via conference call; we are saddened to inform you that we have unanimously voted to CANCEL the Founder Region Conference scheduled for May 1-3, 2020. We are taking guidance and recommendations from the CDC concerning the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak very seriously. We consider the health and welfare of our members and attendees as the most important factor in our decision-making process and the CDC Guidance as of 3/15/20 recommends that for the next 8 weeks organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States. US President Trump is also calling for all gatherings of 10 or more to cease which includes club meetings. This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce the introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

We are working on arranging **electronic voting** as recommended by SIA to be able to conduct the business that was to occur at our conference. The opportunity to learn more about the Bylaws Amendment proposals for both Founder Region and Founder Region Fellowship is available during our Caucus Conference Call to be held on March 22, at 7 pm Pacific Daylight Time. See the **“Call to Caucus”** on the Meeting/Conferences page of our website which includes all of the proposed amendments. [call\\_to\\_caucus\\_2020.pdf](#)

## Fundraising

Lyn Lurbe, Chair

Bonnie Mertz  
Gina Moore  
Tina Chechourka  
Lillian Meyers  
Andrea Boldt  
Denise Ridge



We will also be accepting additional nominations "from the floor" during the Caucus Conference Call. If you are nominating a member for office, please send the resume and nomination acceptance form to Nominating Chair Amelia Benko no later than March 21, at 7 pm PDT (24 hours in advance of the conference call). The resume will then be sent to the appropriate voting delegates prior to the elections and posted on the Founder Region website Meetings/Conferences page. We will be asking the candidates for contested positions to provide a candidate video of the speech they would have prepared for presentation at the conference. (Unopposed positions will not be asked to create a video presentation.) We are creating a delegate "registration" form, so we will have the correct representation to enter into the electronic balloting system which will be open to eligible delegates April 15 - May 2. Registration of delegates will be due by April 8, 2020. Please be sure your club's designated delegates have access to a personal email account.

We continue to encourage clubs to get involved with Dream It, Be It, Career Support for Girls. Of course, Dream It, Be It programs are suspended per the current COVID-19 Guidelines. For clubs that already completed their Dream It, Be It program, be sure to complete the evaluation to SIA by April 1, 2020, to be entered in a drawing to win \$250 for your club. Two awards will be given. The Region Board is proposing to expand the criteria for awarding grants for high school girls' programs by adding Dream It, Be It to be eligible for grant requests from the accumulated funds supporting high school girls through "S" Clubs.

Clubs should already be selling their opportunity drawing tickets for the **basket raffle** which is always a fun highlight at our Founder Region Conference. We are proceeding with the basket drawing but have determined that each club can draw from their own stubs and award their club's \$150 value "Empowering Dreams" themed basket to the person drawn from their club. Since clubs are also not meeting during this pandemic, consider communicating within your membership via email/social media apps to get commitments for tickets and members can send a check to the club or other electronic means. That way, the club can send in the funds in a timely manner. Return a club check to your District Fundraising Committee Representative; we are relaxing the deadline until **April 30, 2020**. Each club that sells all of their tickets is also entered in a drawing for \$250 towards Club Giving.

Please send in the Memorial forms that were included in the Call to Conference to me by April 8, 2020. We will prepare the PowerPoint and post it on the Founder Region website. We will also include their names in the Memorial *Book*, and they will be honored at the June 14, 2020 Memorial Grove Service to be held at Prairie Creek State Park. We will also honor them at the 2021 Founder Region Conference.

One of the business items on our agenda for the Founder Region Conference is to vote on the host clubs for 2023. Several Clubs from the new District I are hosting 2021, and the new District V are hosting 2022, so we anticipate that the 2023 conference should be hosted by clubs from the new District II and/or the new District III. Several questions arose about what host club duties entail, and we have included some information in this newsletter for you. Please let Secretary Pat Eileen Fisher know if your club is willing to assist in hosting the 2023 Founder Region Conference. We will include this vote on the electronic ballot if we have the invitation from clubs in advance.



On Thursday, March 12, SIA had communicated: **“In view of the seriousness and risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection—if you are in North America, Japan and Korea, you must postpone or cancel all club events through at least April 15.** You should reassess this timing based on your local health and governmental authorities' recommendations.”

As you may now know, on Sunday night, March 15, our country’s CDC recommended organizers postpone or cancel events of 50 (and some areas are limited to 10) or more people for the next eight weeks (estimated through May 11). This action supersedes the March 12 communication. **April 15 is now May 11 until further notice.**

Since then we have had a few questions. I would like to share their answers with you.

1. Does this mean events with members or nonmembers?

Answer: It means all gatherings of people.

2. Does this mean club meetings?

Answer: As you may know, we are having a global outbreak with sustained transmission. It is socially responsible to cancel events. An event is defined as a planned public or social occasion. Per our insurance broker, holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIAHQ.

3. How do we handle voting?

Answer: Region and/or clubs can postpone elections or conduct elections by electronic means. Many small groups use Survey Monkey for their “elections”. eBallot <https://www.eballot.com/> and Simply Voting <https://www.simplyvoting.com/> are two other choices for electronic ballots.

For any region or club postponing or canceling their event where they hold an election, we recommend regions and/or clubs consider the electronic options. There may be a small cost. Check your region’s and/or club’s laws. If they stipulate voting during region conference or club meeting, rather than just voting, you will want to gain board agreement to relax the law, given the conditions, to allow members to vote electronically.

## MARCH 19 COVID-19 Letter from SIA

March 19, 2020  
Philadelphia, PA

Dear SIA Members in the United States and Canada,

Thank you for your continued outreach for guidance during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Last Thursday, March 12, I wrote you: **In view of the seriousness and risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection—if you are in North America, Japan and Korea, you must postpone or cancel all club events through at least April 15.** You should reassess this timing based on your local health and governmental authorities' recommendations.

In the United States, Sunday night, March 15, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reassessed this timing for us. The CDC recommends organizers postpone or cancel events of 50 or more people for the next eight weeks (estimated through May 11). The CDC defines gatherings as conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies.

U.S. President Trump is calling for all gatherings of 10 or more to cease. Some areas of the U.S. are moving to sheltering in place. In fact, any organization involved in delivering its services through public gatherings are suspending operations.

Because of these health and government recommendations, this communication supersedes my March 12 communication. April 15 is now May 11 until further notice. However, given today's latest information from our U.S. public health officials, I would plan an additional three weeks for good measure ... so June 1.

Here are some important points to be aware of:

- If you are with a club located in the US or Canada, our club and region liability coverage does not cover communicable diseases. Holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIA headquarters (SIAHQ). You must postpone or cancel all club events at least through May 11<sup>th</sup>; June 1<sup>st</sup> for good measure.
- Your region leadership has received guidance from our General Legal Counsel regarding written agreements for region events and the use of

“force majeure.” If your club is having challenges canceling or postponing an event due to the venue, contact your region leadership for assistance and guidance prior to investing in legal representation regarding your club contracts.

- Currently 20 of our 29 regions have canceled their region conferences and have been able to do so with the cooperation of their venue.
- Region leadership have received virtual options for sharing important information covered in their planned region conference.
- The timing of the 46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, WA, is being evaluated. The health and safety of all our convention attendees is our highest priority. Please keep checking the [convention webpage](#) for the most recent updates.
- SIAHQ employees have been outfitted to work remotely until further notice. While the situation continues to evolve, you can count on the fact we will continue to do our very best to support you during this time.

We encourage you to continue to educate yourself on the facts using recognized experts such as Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and local and national governmental official requirements.

We encourage you to take precautions with social distancing and good hygiene.

We encourage you to create new ways to communicate with your club members, your community, and your supporters. It is imperative our mission continues, and our communities and supporters know our Dream Programs will continue to provide the services they have come to expect and treasure.

We encourage you to rethink your club year in 2020—use this time to take planned activities in April, May and June and move them further out to a time when it becomes apparent group gatherings are allowed in our respective areas.

We are grateful for your continued demonstration of professionalism, dedication, and compassion as we work through these challenges together.

Continued best wishes to you, your families, and your communities for good health and resilience in the weeks to come.

With care and concern for you,



Elizabeth M. Lucas

Executive Director & CEO

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

## Programs- Governor-elect Kris Chorbi

### **DREAM IT, BE IT: Career Support for Girls**

Thank you for being local change-makers and hosting Dream It, Be It in your community! After you review the evaluation worksheet, submit your report online to receive your participation credit. We recommend submitting your report within one month after the project. However, all reports must be submitted by **June 1st** each year to receive recognition for participating in the program, and ensure your impact is measured.

**Online Report:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QQXCZ2Q>

### **Reporting and Evaluations resources**

<https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/program-resources/dream-it-be-it-club-resources/reporting-and-evaluation.html>

Don't forget to let SIA know about your success stories. They will be sharing photos and stories on their Facebook page monthly of great Dream It, Be It projects.

### **Live Your Dream**

Honoring your recipient is one of the most important aspects of the *Live Your Dream Awards* program, as well as the most fun! We know many of your celebrations were canceled due to the COVID-19 concerns. There is so much uncertainty you may not be able to reschedule for this club year.

This is an excellent time to see how you can go beyond the cash award.

### **Beyond the Cash Award**

Consider providing additional support for your recipient. Asking for her input is a great step to ensure your gesture is not only meaningful, but also meets her needs. Perhaps she needs a certain book, piece of equipment, an item of clothing for an interview, a self-care item, groceries, or childcare so she can catch up on her tasks or have some quiet time to herself. Perhaps you can match up club members' professional experience with a need, such as mentorship or mock interviews. We know these mentorships will have to be scheduled for later, or virtually, but we are sure your awardees will appreciate your reaching out.



Membership  
Bobbi Enderlin, Chair  
Elise Balgley  
Beverly Gomer  
Joy Swank  
Barbara Young  
Dyann O'Brien  
Kristal Koga



## Fundraising

Lynn Lurbe, Chair  
Bonnie Mertz  
Gina Moore  
Tina Chechourka  
Lillian Meyers  
Andrea Boldt  
Denise Ridge

## Membership News

### The Julia Bess Combs Membership award



Originated by Soroptimist International of Santa Rosa to honor Past Southwestern Region Governor "Bess" whose passion was the chartering of new clubs. Bess was instrumental in chartering many new clubs in both Southwestern and Founder Region. The Santa Rosa club donated an award trophy of a bird in flight fashioned in pewter which was purchased from a Smithsonian Institute gift catalog. The award was to honor a club who chartered a new club and the winning club would be determined by adding the annual net growth of their own club to the charter membership of the new club.

Bess Combs was presented with a duplicate copy of the award trophy as a gift. She later donated it back to the region because she believed there should also be an award for the club who attained the greatest net increase in membership whether they chartered a new club or not.

The trophies were traveling awards and clubs kept them for a year. Over the years it became difficult to keep track of the awards and get them to conference. One of the awards was lost at a conference and the trophy was no longer available for purchase. Past Governor Marjorie Conley who had purchased one of the birds in flight from the Smithsonian catalogue for her personal use kindly donated her statue back to the Region.

The original awards were retired in 2002 by conference action. Currently the awards presentation at the annual Founder Region Conference consists of the presentation of a special certificate to the winning club, and a donation in their name to the SIA Club Giving campaign.

The determination of the winner of the award is based solely on the Founder Region Treasurer's records and in order that the results can be known for presentation at conference each year\*, the membership increase tracking time frame is April 1 through March 31. **It is therefore imperative that clubs get all new member transactions filed by March 31.** The award is based on net growth which is understood to mean increase above and beyond current regular membership minus those who resign or regular membership terminated for other reasons.

*\*This year, due to the cancelation of the Founder Region Conference, the winner will be announced in our April newsletter.*

## Fundraising, -Lyn Lurbe, Region Chair



MARCH 2020

**"Be an OPENER of doors . . . ."**

**By Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Our Vision:

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.





**Our Mission:** Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

We have identified that EDUCATION is the key to opening doors for someone to move forward in their lives. Education provides insight and opportunities to what is available to us to reach our dreams. It's the tool that allows women and girls to escape from their unforgiving situations and into a new world where dreams become reality.



Our Club Giving program helps to provide us with that opportunity or the *key* to guide the women and girls of our dream programs towards that *door* of a new life. Your club's contributions to Club Giving will provide direct financial support that is needed to empower their dreams. Contributing at least 10% of your locally raised funds will ensure the program is fully funded and will show your club's commitment to empowering the women and girls.

So, send in your club's contributions of at least 10% by May 31<sup>st</sup> at to SIA-HQ through the website, <https://www.soroptimist.org/clubgiving.html>

Be that club that opens the door for others!

### **The Laurel Society- How Active are You?**

The highly anticipated Laurel Society biennial event will take place on **July 24<sup>th</sup> 2020** at SIA's **46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention** in **Bellevue, Washington**. We are excited to celebrate our generous and committed Laurel Society members! Our Soroptimist committee members have made this an incredible event you don't want to miss.

How to be sure you're on the invitation list? Stay active ... this includes Laurel Society members who:

- Have reached Attaché (\$1,000) level between **September 1, 2018** and **July 24, 2020**.
- Have reached Attaché or above **prior to September 1, 2018** and have remained active by giving \$500 or more between **September 1, 2018** and **July 24, 2020**.

**You can check your own Laurel Society status on the SIA website** by clicking the Donate/Fundraise Dropdown list. Once on the page Click the "Make a Donation" tab and it will show your personal contributions. There you can see if your donations qualify for "active" status as explained above.

### **SIA 2020-2021 President-elect Electronic Ballot**

SIA launched its first ever electronic ballot on February 28<sup>th</sup> to elect the 2020-2021 President-elect. All clubs received a link into the electronic voting portal at their @soroptimist.net club email address. Before entering the voting portal, candidate resumes and videos may be viewed on the <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/nominations-elections/nominations-and->

[elections.html](#). Clubs are asked to rank all the candidates in the voting portal. The ballot will be open until April 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM EDT.

## Public Awareness, Jackie De Vries, Region Chair

Public Awareness  
Jackie De Vries, Chair

Kathy Johnson  
Vicki Dillard  
Patti Dutton

Remember:

#SoroptimistsAtWork Social Media  
Campaign



### The Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist  
And to the ideals for which it  
stands...

The sincerity of friendship  
The joy of achievement  
The dignity of service  
The integrity of profession  
The love of country

I will put forth my greatest effort  
To promote, uphold and defend  
these ideals  
For a larger fellowship in home, in  
society, in business  
For country and for God.

I hope you and your families are well during these uncertain times. Many of our clubs are dark right now as we shelter in place and a lot of people are turning to social media for information and entertainment. They also want to see the good in the world and know that together we are better, and we can do great things. Let's work on posting on Instagram (IG)

Fill out your bio as your "homepage" to your account when creating the club IG account. Schedule IG posts in advance through organizations like **SproutSocial**. Showcase your IG on your FB and website. Educate your followers and get the conversation started. [LiveYourDream.org](#)  
SIA blog  
Other topics related items your club support. Always make sure they link to your webpage or your FB page. It is important to drive traffic to your website. You want people to browse your site and learn more about you. Use the #SoroptimistsAtWork hashtag when you post. Use sites like **Canva**, **Bannersnack**, **Crello** to make your posts, and share infographics from SIA. This graphic was created in Canva. Inspirational quotes are always good to share...

*"It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed." – Doe Zantamata*

### Founder Region Convention Group on Facebook

Soroptimist Founder Region - 2020 SIA Convention group

Send Governor-elect Kris Chorbis an email at [kchorbi5@yahoo.com](mailto:kchorbi5@yahoo.com) or message her to be added to our group page for those attending the SIA Convention.

A blue graphic with white text and illustrations. The title is "Ask Me Why I'm a Soroptimist". Below it, the text reads: "I know that together we are stronger. I'm helping women and girls locally, and globally! I love working with like minded people to make the world a better place." There are three stylized illustrations of women with their arms raised in celebration. A banner says "Join Today!". The Soroptimist logo is in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, the website "www.sivacavilletwilight.org" is listed, along with a small description of Soroptimist as a global volunteer organization.

## 2020-2022 COMMITTEE SIGN UPS

### Region Board

Governor Sylvia Crafton  
Governor-elect Kris Chorbi  
Secretary Pat Eileen Fisher  
Treasurer Vicki Ham

#### Directors

District I Elise Balgley  
District II Bev Gomer  
District III Joy Swank  
District IV Barbara Young  
District V Dyann O'Brien  
District VI Kristal Koga

### Mailing Address

Founder Region, Soroptimist  
International of the Americas, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1787  
Willits, CA 95490

Ideas? Email Jackie De Vries  
soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com


### FOUNDER REGION IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO SERVE ON REGION COMMITTEES IN 2020-2022.

Please complete this form indicating the committee you are willing to serve on and return to Governor-elect Kris Chorbi, or send by email to kchorbi5@yahoo.com.

Committee descriptions are found on the back. More information about committees and responsibilities can be found on the Founder Region website: [www.si-founderregion.org](http://www.si-founderregion.org) or in the Founder Region roster. **Be a part of this exciting biennium as we celebrate 100 YEARS!**

#### Pillar of Success Committees:

##### Program:

- Live Your Dream  
 Dream It, Be It  
 Violet Richardson  
  Celebrating Success

Public Awareness

Fundraising

Join a  
committee



#### Region Specific Committees:

- "S" Club  
 Redwood Memorial Grove  
 Laws & Resolutions  
 Legislative Advocacy  
 Financial Review  
 Committee Chair

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/TERRITORY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Governor-elect Kris Chorbi: 801 Azalea Lane, Eureka, CA 95503 or email to kchorbi5@yahoo.com

### FOUNDER REGION COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

**Live Your Dream Awards** - This committee requires a chair and representatives from each district who are responsible for planning, coordinating and administering the award at district and region levels. Committee members also serve as a resource for club members.

**Dream It, Be It:** Career Support for Girls will help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults. The committee requires a chair and representatives from each district who are responsible to encourage clubs to participate in the program.

**Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards** - Chairperson collects entries from clubs in each of the four pillar categories - Program, Membership, Public Awareness



# Save the Dates

## **2020 Leadership Training**

June 13, 2020

District V

Location: Red Lion Hotel Eureka  
1929 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

June 20, 2020

District I-IV

Location: Galileo Club  
371 S. 23rd Street, Richmond, CA 94804

## **2020 District Meetings**

October 3, 2020

District I & II

Location: Contra Costa Country Club  
801 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Host Clubs: SI/Diablo Vista & SI/Dixon

October 9-10, 2020

District III & IV

Location: Ukiah Valley Conference Center  
200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

Host Clubs: SI/Clear Lake, SI/Fort Bragg & SI/Noyo Sunrise

October 23-25, 2020

District V

Location: Sheraton Laguna Resort, Guam

Host Clubs: SI/Guam, SI/The Marianas, SI/Northern Mariana Islands & SI/Palau

## **46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, Washington**

Wednesday July 22 – Saturday, July 25. Access all the latest information and schedule via the convention website. And remember, we will be kicking off Soroptimist's 100th Anniversary celebration during convention.

**[Link to Sponsorship page](#)**

