



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region Newsletter

March 22, 2019

Volume 2, Number 3

In This Issue

- Governor's Message
- Membership
- Public Awareness
- Fundraising
- Friendship Links
- Elise Balgely
- Conference Guest Speaker Bios
- Save the Date

Links

[Founder Region Website](#)
[Founder Region Facebook page](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)
[SIA](#)
[Live Your Dream](#)
[Dream It, Be It](#)
[Barbara Stevenson Award](#)
[Violet Richardson Award](#)
[Ruby Award](#)
[Monthly Giving](#)
[Key Message Flyer](#)

Governor's Message March 2019



award recipients!

It is exciting to know our "award season" is in full swing! Many clubs are having their awards luncheons, dinners, and banquets throughout the months of March and April, and it is exciting to know that the impact we are making in the lives of these women and girls is Empowering Change for their future. Each Live Your Dream Award, Violet Richardson Award, Barbara Stevenson "S" Club Award, and Ruby Award contributes to the collective impact we are making within our region. Congratulations to all of our

Speaking of Award Recipients, we are looking forward to meeting our Fellowship Award recipients on Friday, May 3rd, and our District level recipients at our Awards Breakfast on Sunday, May 5 at the San Ramon Marriott. Our Call to Conference went out February 23 and provides a lot of details about our 43rd annual Founder Region Conference. I hope you are planning to attend! Check out the Complete Call to Conference at the link:

https://www.si-founderregion.org/uploads/8/0/6/6/8066933/2019_complete_call_to_conference.pdf

Our Caucus Conference Call will be held on April 7, at 7:00 p. m. California time see the Call to Caucus for the dial in phone number, as well as the online meeting link if you prefer to listen in on your computer. Get all of the details at the link:

https://www.si-founderregion.org/uploads/8/0/6/6/8066933/caucus_call_2019.pdf

All Basket Raffle tickets were distributed, and we encourage clubs to sell all tickets allocated to your club. We have a great incentive for clubs that sell all basket raffle tickets for Conference - there will be a drawing for \$250 toward club's Club Giving.

As we continue to Empower Change in those we impact through Soroptimist, may each of us Empower Change in our daily lives which helps make the world a better place for our future.

Governor Sylvia

"Empowering Change"

Membership Chair
Bobbie Enderlin



Membership

Bobbi Enderlin, Region Membership Chair

Region Conference

Our Founder Region Conference is coming up - this is a great opportunity to engage your new members. Many of our members have said that going to conference is how they figured it all out! The conference provides the perfect setting for educating new members, meeting and networking with members from other clubs, and seeing how all of our hard work pays off. Investing club money in helping members attend conference is money well spent.

The **Julia Bess Combs** Membership award will be presented at Region Conference to the club with the highest net increase in membership between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. The award is based on the Founder Region Treasurer's records - so be sure to turn in all SIA and Founder Region paperwork for your new members by 3/31!

Chartering New Clubs

We have several efforts going on to start new clubs - in Sebastopol, Ukiah (evening), Hayward and Oakmont (Santa Rosa). If you have friends or family in these areas, please let them know to get involved. Contact Region Membership Chair Bobbi Enderlin or your District Director for more information.



The Julia Bess Combs Membership Award

This award was originated by SI 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 Region and in Founder Region.

Public Awareness

Jackie De Vries, Chair
Kathy Johanson
Vicki Dillard
Patti Dutton



Public Awareness

Jackie De Vries, Region Public Awareness Chair

Learn about the importance of branding at the May conference. Jackie De Vries will be presenting an SIA PowerPoint that will enlighten and inform members on growing our brand and its effect on collective impact (*This means all levels of the organization are working on the same goal – increasing the number of women and girls we reach through our brand unifying Dream Programs. By focusing on what unites us – providing access to education to increase the economic empowerment of women and girls – we will be better known for our work and engage more people in our mission.*)

All levels of our organization should use the "S" logo consistently, and not alter its look in any way (no added colors, or images). Having a consistent visual identity is essential to successful branding efforts, which affects SIA's ability to increase our recognition, recruit members and fundraise outside our organization.

Follow this link to our [Style and Branding Guide](#). There is a great PowerPoint on this page that can be used at a club, or board meeting.



Use of the SIA logo is authorized and encouraged on all club or region stationery, websites, bulletins, banners, programs, and educational materials, as well as on badges, decorations, and printed matter for region conferences, district meetings, workshops and any other official Soroptimist function. It is also permitted as a decoration on cakes or confections for official Soroptimist celebratory events.

Give away items don't have to be expensive –pens, keychains, tiny LED flashlights, water bottles labeled with our logo and our President’s Appeal – they just have to be impactful, useful, and branded with your information. If you invest in some promotional products and give them away at events, meetings, and fundraisers, you'll be surprised at just how effective they are.



Fundraising

Lyn Lurbe	Chair
Bonnie Mertz	Dist. I
Gina Moore	Dist. II
Tina Chechourka	Dist. III
Sandy Frazer	Dist. IV
Andrea Boldt	Dist. V
Denise Ridge	Dist. VI

Overcoming Obstacles

Lyn Lurbe, Region Fundraising Chair

“Never Underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

– by Wilma Rudolph

Wilma Rudolph was born in June of 1940 in St. Bethlehem, Tennessee. She was a sickly child who had to wear a brace on her left leg. She overcame her disabilities to compete in the 1956 Summer Olympic Games, and in 1960, she became the first African-American woman to win three gold medals in track and field in a single Olympics.

We all face some sort of difficulty/obstacles in our lifetime. Facing it alone or not knowing where and how to overcome those obstacles can really lead us into a deep depression. The same happens to those women and girls that we support, the difference is they don't know they have the resources in Soroptimist to turn to.

Luckily, we have two fabulous programs that were created to be amazing resources; Club Giving and the Laurel Society. As a club, giving 10% of our locally raised funds to SIA will show our support as a group but you don't have to stop there, if you feel passionate about supporting those women and girls as an individual member you can donate through our Laurel Society program and you have the option to designate where you want your donation to go to; whether it's to the Live Your Dream program, the Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls, or to an Undesignated Program Support.

Soroptimist members see obstacles as challenges. So, challenge your club to give 10% of your raised funds to the Club Giving program and challenge yourself to be that needed resource by participating in the Laurel Society program and designate where your contributions will go towards. Help our women and girls visualize that pursuing an education/higher education is possible, opportunities for better employment is attainable and providing a better life for her family, is achievable.

To send in your contributions for 10% Club Giving and the Laurel Society, use the Financial Transaction Form on the SIA website and send it in.

Thank you for being a part of that team that supports women and girls to Overcome Obstacles!



Friendship Links EASY STAGES GUIDES



A number of Clubs have asked for guidance on how to initiate, develop and maintain strong Friendship links. This document is purely for guidance and seeks in no way to be prescriptive. Clubs with positive results and good examples of best practice are encouraged to share these at National Association, Network, Region and Federation level.

Stage 1: Why develop friendship links?

Friendship Links are vital to all Soroptimist Clubs. They are the key to the International Soroptimist world. Friendship Links can be made across different countries, federations or within the same country.

Stage 2 What are the benefits?

- ❖ Sharing in Joint Program Action Projects.
- ❖ Getting to know the life of other clubs.
- ❖ Supporting new developing clubs
- ❖ Appreciating different cultures.
- ❖ Establishing warm friendships.
- ❖ Visiting and exchanging programs.
- ❖ Enjoying holiday contacts.
- ❖ Practicing language skills
- ❖ Taking part in Special Events
- ❖ Offering hospitality, house exchange etc.



Stage 3 How do I make a friendship link?

Link Applications <https://sitahoesierra.org/pdfs/FriendshipLinkApplication-Writeable.pdf>





Spotlight on Director Elise Balgley



I was born in Dearborn, Michigan, lived there for a year and was relocated to Cranford New Jersey for my second year. Then, my parents relocated to Decatur, Illinois where I theoretically finished growing up until the age of 18. At that point, I came to California and have been in the Bay Area since 1981.

My mother was a homemaker for all of her marriage and my father was a chemist/chemical market research specialist during his work life, but was also, at various time, a professional

pianist.

After starting my undergraduate education at UCLA as a pre nursing/premed major, I quickly learned that wasn't going to work. So, I adjusted course and got my undergraduate degree in Political Science and Sociology.

Then, needing a career/job, where I could actually earn a living, I went to law school at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. After a couple of years doing various "legal jobs", I became an attorney with the firm that has now morphed into my law firm in Fremont. I have a general civil practice dedicated to keeping individuals and businesses safe.

I am single with no children. I do, however, have 6 nieces and nephews and 9 grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

I like to say I joined Soroptimist because someone asked. That is certainly true, but there is more. In Soroptimist, I was exposed to a welcoming group of women who would let me be as involved as I could or wished to be in doing something to improve the lives of women and girls in our community and throughout the world. That is why I joined and, more importantly, why I stay a Soroptimist.

"My" Club is Soroptimist International of Fremont. Our Music in The Vineyard fundraiser (come see us on September 7, 2019) is a fun no-stress event allowing us to raise funds to do what we do. In addition to participating in the Soroptimist Dream Programs, SI/Fremont uses it funds to create "Pretty Bags", canvas bags filled with full-size toiletries, to distribute to women leaving trafficking and /or domestic violence situations.

As far as vacations, my very favorite is a cruise to a warm destination. I like to sit on my deck chair, read a book, sip a beverage, look at the ocean and just relax.





CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen – President, Soroptimist International



Mariet was educated in the Netherlands, studied, worked and lived in Brussels, Belgium from 1974 then, moved to the UK in 1985 where she worked in Hampshire and Buckinghamshire as a translator and subtitle editor for Discovery Channel, London.

She joined Soroptimist International Club Zwolle, Union of the Netherlands in 1997 and, after serving as Governor of the SI Union of the Netherlands, served as President of Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) in 2007. During this time, she met many Soroptimists in the 58 countries of SIE who inspired her to do her utmost for the empowerment of women, the support of women as agents of change and the alleviation of poverty through water, education and leadership.

Mariet explains: “I started my projects for the SIE water theme ‘*Soroptimists Go For Water*’ in 2006. Together we collected over 2 million Euro and I am currently assisting and training African Soroptimists to create their own Future African Federation. I have represented SIE in Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) and am now serving as the President.”

For her work in Africa, in 2008, Mariet was awarded the ‘Chevalier à l’ordre National de la République de Madagascar’. 2017 saw her co-chairing the steering committee International Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), an initiative with FAO. Also, in 2017 Mariet was awarded Women of the Decade Creating a Better World for All by the Women Economic Forum and All Ladies League. That same year she became SI President and was honored with the Dutch Royal Honor of Officer in the order of Orange Nassau during her inauguration for her work with Soroptimist and WfWP.

Recognized as an expert on the topic of water and how it impacts the lives of women and girls it is no surprise that her President’s Appeal is “Women, Water & Leadership” where she hopes to start projects on 5 continents to empower women through Water.



May 3, 2019
Legislative Advocacy
Committee Presents:
"Water Crisis and
Climate Change
Challenges -
Empowering Change
for our Future"



Beverly Bucur SI Director of Advocacy –2017-2019

Bev became a Soroptimist in 1993 and her vast experience includes her current position as Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy 2017-2019, in addition to previous roles on the Leadership Development Committee (2015-2017), on the Soroptimist International of the Americas Board of Directors (2014-2016) and the Soroptimist International of the Americas Program Council, where she was the founding member in Education. Her advocacy training and experience includes Domestic Violence Training for victim advocacy and representing SIA as part of a coalition of women representing NGOs at a meeting with Illinois Senator Richard Durbin. Working as part of a national group of educators for the ISTE- International Society for Technology in Education, Bev advocated for increased funding for technology hardware, software, and training for teachers in order to increase student access to technology in areas of poverty. Today, advocacy is the most important job we have as Soroptimists. As an NGO with ECOSOC General Consultative Status we are in the position to be that global voice for women and girls. We must ensure that we maintain this status by continuing to be visible in the United Nations. We must also increase our advocacy efforts locally, nationally and internationally to ensure our voice is heard”.



Theo (Theodore) Tsoukalas, Ph.D.

Theo (Theodore) Tsoukalas Ph.D., has earned his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois, and has earned a certificate of post-doctoral studies in health policy from the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. His award-winning doctoral thesis research titled *Political Crisis and the Politics of Water Pollution Control in the 1970s* focused on an analysis of the social, political, and economic dynamics that led to the passage of two crucial federal water quality laws in the 1970s. His interest in the connections between environmental quality and human health led him to conduct and publish pioneering research on the forces driving the setting of the national research agenda on the impacts of leaded gasoline on pediatric and adult health. In addition to his research activities, Dr. Tsoukalas has also been active as a recent TV documentary producer. In a collaboration with Novato’s community television station (NCTV), he produced and hosted a 3-part documentary series on drought, water management, and climate change in Marin County and California.

Legislative Advocacy

Linda Witong, Chair
Madalienne Petrs
Fredda Kaplan
Carrie Domogalla
Angie Haramoto
Sandra Simms



Rev. Sally Grover Bingham—Canon for the Environment

The Reverend Canon Sally Grover Bingham, a priest and canon for the environment in the Episcopal Diocese of California, has been active in the environmental community for 35 years. She is founder and president Emeritus of The Regeneration Project and its Interfaith Power and Light campaign, a religious response to climate change. The IPL campaign includes a national network of over 20,000 congregations with affiliated programs in 40 states. Sally is the lead author of *Love God Heal Earth*, a collection of 21 essays on environmental stewardship, published by St. Lynn's Press in 2009. Sally has received numerous awards, including the 2007 US EPA Climate Protection Award, the Purpose Prize, the Energy Globe Award, and recognition as a "sacred gift to the planet" by the World Wildlife Fund. She has been awarded honorary Doctorates from the Church Divinity School of Religion, College of the Holy Cross and the University of the South. Sally was named one of the top 15 green religious leaders by *Grist* and has received honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of the South, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and the College of the Holy Cross.



Nick Tipon

Nick Tipon gives us a different but needed perspective on the water crisis. His views emphasize indigenous heritage and how it is viewed and evaluated through only a Western lens; which ignores Indigenous values, beliefs and that the knowledge systems are fundamentally different. The different values are reflected in our current reaction to changes in the environment, dating from the last ice age when the sea levels were over 300 feet lower. The examination of how native people adapted to these and other changes provides critical information for current climate change. Nick is a retired teacher and an enrolled member and elder of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Nick has lectured at local Universities and at the Universities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg. His work has included consultation with indigenous people from Canadian, Russia and New Zealand on preservation of their cultural resources in the face of climate change and how each of their national governments have responded.



Elizabeth Emerson—Director, Evergreen Leader's Project

Elizabeth Emerson, M.A., is the Director of the Evergreen Leaders' Project where she helps elected and other leaders develop personal resilience. She is a co-author of the upcoming book: *Help Your Brain and Body Cope with Work!* A European native, Elizabeth has presented on disease prevention and public health topics on five continents including a project with 23 countries for the

World Health Organization. As a licensed, certified HeartMath® Institute Facilitator, Elizabeth also provided burnout prevention and cross-cultural resilience training to local health departments, Travis Air Force Base officers and for the California State Legislature health care staff as well as other public service groups. In February 2019 Elizabeth presented a live-stream presentation to social workers across California called: *“Add Heart to Work: Your Body has to Outlast Your Job!”*

Elizabeth just launched a new international project called **Resilience Media**, where she creates therapeutic media for fire fighters, safety officers, emergency medics, military and other public servants to help them cope with trauma- related insomnia. Elizabeth received the 2012 Marin Human Rights Commission's “Humanitarian of the Year” award. Her late brother was an International Red Cross Engineer who developed water sanitation systems for several African countries for 14 years and invented a well that brought water to villages in deserts. He was kidnapped twice during his service in Africa and the International Red Cross called him their most dedicated volunteer in their organization’s history after he lost his life in Kenya. In his memory, Elizabeth’s mission is to compassionately support both paid and unpaid public servants and advocates with work- life balance and personal resilience and restorative practices.



Marissa Elder -Digital Media Specialist

Marissa is a professional in the media field, refining her craft since 2012 when she graduated with a bachelor's degree, Multimedia Design in Development. She documents a range of events from music festivals to corporate events to small gatherings and intimate portraits.

While seeking fulfilling projects to achieve her career goals, she was introduced to Soroptimist International of Novato and is instrumental in their television and online program, *e-luminate*, formally known as *Sounding Board*.

In her affiliation with them, Marissa has worked as video producer and sound engineer on projects showcasing women in law enforcement, a local philanthropist involved in building a hospital and clinics in Nepal, the global water crisis, and a school for tribal girls in Kenya, Africa. Marissa looks forward to continuing her work by engaging in more of these meaningful projects with Soroptimist club members and the organizations they support.

Deadlines for Conference

MARCH 31, 2019

- 🦋 SIA 5008 forms and Founder Region **New Member forms** must be RECEIVED by Region Treasurer Vicki Ham at vickiham01@gmail.com in order to be counted in the Julia Bess Combs Membership Increase Award.
- 🦋 Club’s “December 10th **International President’s Appeal**” donation to SIA to be counted in our presentation at conference.



APRIL 1, 2019

- 🦋 Camera- ready **Advertisement** due to Secretary Pat Eileen at patoreileen@gmail.com for Conference Program Booklet advertising.
- 🦋 **Hands- on Group Project Participation form** due to Project Coordinator Deborah Roden at debroden@gmail.com
- 🦋 Completed **Dream It Be It** programs must have reported evaluation to SIA to be included in our Founder Region drawing to win one of two awards of \$250 for your club.

APRIL 4, 2019

- 🦋 Deadline to **Register for Caucus** Conference Call due to Sheila Bearden at shebehere@aol.com

APRIL 8, 2019

- 🦋 **Basket Raffle Fundraiser check and ticket stubs** due to your District Fundraising Committee Representative

APRIL 10, 2019

- 🦋 Club's **Registration & Meal form** for Conference due to Conference Treasurer Kelley Slater at kelleyslater@hotmail.com
- 🦋 **Trade Fair Registration** due to Conference Treasurer Kelley Slater at kelleyslater@hotmail.com
- 🦋 **Empowering Change Award form** due to Governor Sylvia at Sylvia.Crafton@gmail.com
- 🦋 **Song requests due** to Governor Sylvia at Sylvia.Crafton@gmail.com for clubs participating in our Saturday Evening Entertainment.
- 🦋 **Celebration of Service Memorial form** due to Governor Sylvia at Sylvia.Crafton@gmail.com for clubs to honor deceased members since March 15, 2018.
- 🦋 **Invitation to Host Region Conference 2022** at a location in District VI due to Secretary Pat Eileen at patoreileen@gmail.com.
- 🦋 **Silent Observer Registration form** due to Secretary Pat Eileen at patoreileen@gmail.com to attend the pre-conference Founder Region Board Meeting.

APRIL 12, 2019

- 🦋 Marriott Hotel Reservations conference rate deadline. Reservations can be made at this web address: <https://book.passkey.com/e/49823080>





Save The Date!

2019 Founder Region Conference
May 3-5, 2019 - San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA
Host Clubs: SI/Antioch, SI/The Delta (District II)



Soroptimist International Founder Region Annual Conference 2019
(May 3, 2019 to May 5, 2019)

MAKING RESERVATIONS

A dedicated website is now available for attendees to book their hotel rooms online. Reservations can be made at this web address:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/49823080>

Region Board

Governor Sylvia Crafton

Gov. elect Kris Chorbi

Sec. Pat Eileen Fisher

Treasurer Vicki Ham

Directors

Elise Balgley, Dist. I

Beverly Gomer, Dist. II

Joy Swank, Dist. III

Barbara Young, Dist. IV

Dyann O'Brien, Dist. V

Kristal Koga, Dist. VI

Mailing Address

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



SIA Convention 2020



JULY 22-25, 2020



Soroptimist Recognition Banquet

Saturday, June 22, 2019

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Hotel Omni Mont-Royal

Montreal, Canada

Join us for an evening of fun and friendship!

All Soroptimists and their guests are encouraged to attend!



For more information visit:

Soroptimist.org/recognition-banquet-2019.html

Have an idea or article for our newsletter? Please email Public Awareness Chair
Jackie De Vries soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com