



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region Newsletter

Oct. 23, 2018

Volume 1, Number 2

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Governor's Message October 2018

Thank you to all who participated in our 2018 District Meetings! As we prepare this newsletter, we are continuing our District Meeting journey and we are sharing some highlights in this newsletter. It is always exciting to meet up with our members. I am honored to be the first Founder Region Governor from District VI, and although it is challenging to be far from the hub of Founder Region, I feel connected through technology, but more importantly through the support and friendships I am gaining as I interact with all of you. Thank you for your friendship and cooperation!

Governor Sylvia

Recap of Governor's District Meeting Message:

Governor's Message *Empowering Change* was presented by Governor Sylvia Crafton.

Vision & Goals:

- in **Program**- Increase Clubs Participating in [DIBI](#);
- in **Membership** – Strengthen Existing Clubs;
- in **Public Awareness** – Promote recognition for the Work We Do;
- in **Fundraising** – 100% Participation in [Club Giving](#)

Governor Sylvia introduced all of the Region Committees and highlighted goals in each area.

Our Pillar Goals:

Program Committee Goals: Increase collective impact through Dream programs.

- a) 100% of clubs are asked to participate in the Dream Programs.
- b) Increase clubs participating in Dream It, Be It Career Support for Girls.
- c) Increase clubs participating in Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards

Membership Committee Goals: Charter New clubs, Strengthen & Empower Existing Clubs by providing a positive club experience.

- a) Membership Awards given at SIA Convention in Yokohama Japan:
 1. Soroptimist Celebrating Success Award- Recognizing SI/ Benicia for their Recruitment and Retention Project.
 2. Founder Region won award for increasing membership by chartering 3 new clubs.
- b) Diamond Campaign *Let's Get Ready To Sparkle*.



Phase 1 Goals Reduce membership attrition to -1% and show an increase of more than 13% new members and Fewer than 14% terminated membership.

Public Awareness Committee Goals

- a) Increase awareness of Soroptimist brand
- b) Empower Communication through Technology and Social Media
- c) Improve Founder Region Website and Reinstate Region Newsletter

Fundraising Committee Goals

- a. 100% Participation in Club Giving
- b. 90% of Funds in Local Communities
- c. 10% of Funds for Club Giving
- d. 100% Participation in Founders Pennies
- e. Increase Participation in the Laurel Society

Links

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

District Meeting Recap 2018



The District Directors presentation, “Step Up to Leadership and SOAR” encouraged participants to take a look at the reasons members aren’t willing to step up to leadership positions in our clubs, and what we can do to empower change to encourage members to step up to leadership and SOAR. **SOAR** is an acronym for **Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results!**

Think about it this way:

See the **Strengths** of other members and yourself; look at the **Opportunities** for growth; nurture the **Aspirations** in yourself and others to step up and achieve; and, experience the **Results** with the joy of achievement.

In response to the question, “What worries prevent members from stepping up to Leadership?”, members included these thoughts:

1. Afraid of making mistakes.
2. Intimidation? Don’t want to offend members of longer standing.
3. Mistake an idea for action...then quick to criticize
4. We need younger women to join and then step up.
5. Overcome fear of leadership positions; members will help. Good things happen.
6. Time is a huge barrier.
7. Co-chairing lessens the burden; rely on vice-president.
8. Need to share our skills with the younger women.
9. Will I get the blame for mistakes?

Encourage members to think about serving even if it's a year or two away. Let those people know that you feel they would make a great contribution to the Club by serving on the Board. Validate them.

In response to the question, "How to validate members to make them know you support their advancement?", members included these suggestions:

1. Former leaders encouraging the new president after meetings.
2. Encourage sharing.
3. I appreciate you!
4. "Atta Girl" program for recognition for outside activities.
5. "Pinky" award; recognition in the club's newsletter.
6. Some type of monthly award at the club level for appreciation.
7. Assigning other roles to various members of the club.

The "[Soroptimist Member Capacity Inventory](#)," was provided as a handout and is an indispensable tool for members to learn about each other's strengths and assets. It is very useful to have a time set aside to focus on your Club's goals not only for the immediate future, but further down the road. In response to the question, "How many clubs have planning retreats? What is covered?", members reported:

1. Funding Objectives
2. Membership Engagement
3. Play games to bond!
4. Fun, business and recreation in an overnight retreat.
5. Drinks and bar food....business as usual.
6. Committees?
7. Goal setting; strategies; change.

Let's all step up and grow for ourselves and for Soroptimist. In other words, let's SOAR!

STRENGTHS
OPPORTUNITIES
ASPIRATIONS
RESULTS



You've GOT This! Let's SOAR!!



Membership



Chartering New Clubs: How does that affect your club?

Contrary to what you might think, helping Founder Region charter a new club can be a good thing for your existing club!

It adds another group of volunteers to help improve the lives of women and girls and fulfill our Soroptimist mission.

More *Live Your Dream Awards* will be given, and more lives touched by our good deeds. If you help a new club get started, it can energize your club and gives you access to more people in the community. If you are hesitant, take a look at a couple of our newest clubs, SI/American Canyon 2018 and SI/Vacaville Twilight. These new clubs have taken off running, and have made a big impact already in their communities. Their sponsoring clubs, SI/Vallejo and SI/Vacaville have established positive relationships with these new members, and together, they are better serving their communities.



For more information, contact Region Membership Chair Bobbi Enderlin at bjenderlin@gmail.com or your district director. Resources are available on the Soroptimist website at: <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/for-clubs/chartering-new-clubs.html>.

Save the Dates



SIA Convention 2020



JULY 22-25, 2020

Public Awareness



All of the logos are available in one easy place on the SIA website. They are located in "Clubs and Members" under branding tools! Download here: Logos



All Logos and Usage Guidelines

Be a brand Warrior



Madame Noël

Founders Day History

Soroptimist celebrates Founders Day on **October 3**, which acknowledges the day in 1921 when the first club in Alameda County, California, called to order its first business meeting. Clubs celebrate the founding of the organization with activities to promote the organization and its early mission to “foster the ideal of service” through programs that now focus on improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

The collection of [“Founders Pennies”](#), an important Soroptimist tradition, is often linked to Founders Day. Each year, every Soroptimist is offered the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution of six pennies for each year of Soroptimist’s existence. These contributions directly fund SIA’s annual programs such as the Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls, and Soroptimist Club Grants.

The Founder Pennies tradition began in World War II as the Madame Noel Fund, which collected one penny for each year of Soroptimist’s existence, and used the money to help re-establish clubs in Europe that had disbanded as a result of pre-war political conditions and the war itself. After World War II, the fund was renamed the Founders Fund, and provided international fellowships, scholarships and other award to improve the status of women. Beginning in the 1960s, Founders Pennies provided funding for the Youth Citizenship Awards, and in 1972 The Live Your Dream Awards (then called the Training Awards Program.) Founders Pennies are now used to fund SIA’s programs that support Soroptimist’s mission to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

Take **ONE** Step

To Support Our Collective Impact

Take One Step



This year, we are asking clubs to **Take One Step** each month to support our Big Goal. Each month, we will feature simple actions in the Soroptimist Summary clubs can take to ensure we reach our goals. **Take One Step**

Rape Kits- an SI Vacaville Project



SI of Vacaville shared a recent project they have undertaken. They applied for funding to get untested Rape kits tested by local police agencies.

It has been reported there are over 400,000 kits across the United States that have never been tested. California is number one on that list. They remain untested for a few reasons, lack of staffing and lack of financial resources at the top of the list.

Why this is a time-sensitive issue now:

In California, a law has been passed that any crimes post January of 2017 no longer have a statute of limitations. That means the crimes committed prior to 2017, are subject to the 10-year rule. The evidence is being destroyed as we speak.

Solano County is currently participating in the RADS pilot program (Rapid DNA testing) This mandate went into effect in 2011. Therefore, all kits from 2011 on, have 120 days to be tested and entered into CODIS. As far as the kits prior to 2011, those are still sitting UNTESTED! The DOJ will not fund the testing of those kits... it is up to groups like Soroptimist to raise the funds needed to show these women they do matter, and they do deserve justice. This is a one-time opportunity before the statute runs out on these kits.

SI of Vacaville received \$10,000.00 for their project, \$6,000.00 from the 100 Women Group and \$4,000.00 from a local Assemblyman who heard of the project. This money was enough to test all of the untested kits in Vacaville. SI Vacaville is awaiting numbers in Solano County so that they can expand their project.

SI Vacaville President, Beth Rowe stated “Why would we like all of the clubs in our region to participate? It is a core value of our mission to support women and girls and to be that voice for those who don't have a voice. I think collectively WE CAN make a huge impact.”

Have an idea for a newsletter article?

We are looking for mission focused, informative articles to publish.

Please email your article to: Jackie De Vries at soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com



LYD Videos

Region Board

Gov. 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

The LYD videos can answer your questions, and can be shared with applicants. We still have a few weeks until the Nov. 15 deadline. Maybe this would be something you would want to share on your social media.

Completing an Application

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92dHDXyldV8>

What Happens After I Apply?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u01ECENMc3A>

Quick Tips for Applying

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puqnonpRDj0>

Connecting to a Local Club

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8mb6QXZYFs>

