



Soroptimist International of the Americas

Founder Region Newsletter

September 20, 2019

Volume 2, Number 9

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Governor's Message- September 2019



Dear Founder Region Members,



It is great to hear of the activities our clubs are engaged in now that our 2019-2020 club year is well underway. I love seeing all of the Facebook posts with fundraising flyers and speaker events that are happening throughout our region. With my residence in Guam, distance prevents me from participating liberally, but please know that I am supportive of your events and admire and appreciate the work you do.

As explained in last month's Founder Region newsletter, SIA recently announced the refinement of our Mission statement to the following: Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Be sure to check your social media, website, and materials where you have the mission statement posted, and update it to the new phrasing.

I hope you are planning to attend our upcoming District Meetings. The District Directors have been working hard to plan informative, yet fun meetings. The calls are posted on the Founder Region website under the "Meetings/Conferences" tab and you can get all of the details there. Our theme is "Empowering Global Connections", and we know you will meet other members of clubs in your area, share your ideas and learn more about what is happening in our region, federation and at the international level. Plan to attend and Empower your own Global Connections! We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for all you continue to do to Empower Change in the lives of women and girls!

Governor Sylvia

"Empowering Change"

P R O G R A M S

Programs- Governor elect- Kris Chorbi

Dear Clubs,

As we begin another club year, I wanted to give you some quick links to the program resources that are located on the SIA and Founder Region websites. The Live Your Dream Award, Dream It, Be It program and Violet Richardson Award district representatives are eager to field your questions and have a breadth of knowledge to help you facilitate these programs in your club. Remember to invite them to a club meeting to give a presentation or to inspire your members. Have a great club year and I'll see everyone at our District Meetings for a more in-depth report on our life changing programs.

Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women

Info - <https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/live-your-dream-awards/index.html>

Program Materials - <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/program-resources/lyd-awards-club-resources/index.html>

November 15, 2019:

Online Portal Submission Due

February 1, 2020:

Application Due to District Rep. for District Judging

Region Chair	Lou Sablan	SI/Guam	siguam2013@gmail.com
District I	Jennifer Logan	SI/Fremont	jennifer@summit-tax.com
District II	Jackie Buccellato	SI/Antioch	ja_buccellato@comcast.net
District III	Nushi Safinya	SI/Calistoga	nushafarin@hotmail.com
District IV	Michelle Bowen	SI/Windsor	mylittlesnap123@aol.com
District V	Debbie Coles	SI/Arcata	coles@humboldt.edu
District VI	Wendy MacDonald	SI/Maui	wendy@spectrumsolutionz.com





A Message From Governor Sylvia

Region level Ruby Award Discontinued

At our August Board Meeting, the decision was made to discontinue the region-level Ruby Award as we observed participation from clubs continues to decline. We also observed there was confusion about the region donation going to Club Giving, and felt that the potential to negatively impact Ruby Awardees was not in their best interest nor ours. Providing funds to other organizations is not consistent with our strategic direction of making Soroptimist our cause of choice which is why the funds were designated to go to Club Giving in the name of the club who nominated the Ruby Awardee.

Founder Region will continue to provide the resources on the Founder Region website for clubs who wish to provide local Ruby Awards. The local club may choose to provide funds to the Ruby Awardee's organization at their discretion. The club level award continues to be a great opportunity to honor women who are making extraordinary efforts on behalf of other women, increase networking, and provide public awareness opportunities for Soroptimist, as well as, the woman being honored and her organization.



Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls

Info - <https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/dream-it-be-it/index.html>

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

Online reporting form within 1 month of project: Clubs report information to SIA & Region Chair

June 1, 2020: All report completion deadline (online to SIA + transmittal to Region Chair).

Region Chair	Karen Jameson	SI/Diablo Vista	karenjameson0699@sbcglobal.net
District I	Leanne Davis	SI/Oakland, The Founder Club	Leannecdavis@gmail.com
District II	Jay Villalta-Romiti	SI/Antioch	jmvillalta@sbcglobal.net
District III	Joy Swank	SI/Vacaville	directorjoys@gmail.com
District IV	Maddie Leader	SI/Sonoma Valley	maddy@maddyleader.com
District V	Donna Ayres	SI/Eureka	donnaayres@yahoo.com
District VI	Teri Sato	SI/Honolulu	Terisato.Realtor@gmail.com

Violet Richardson Award



Info & Program Materials - <https://www.si-founderregion.org/violet-richardson-award.html>

November 15, 2019: Application Due to Clubs (suggested deadline)

February 1, 2020: Application Due to District Rep. for District Judging

Region Chair	Governor-elect Kris Chorbi	SI/Eureka	kchorbi5@yahoo.com
District I	Carol Dippel	SI/Oakland, The Founder Club	dippel@ix.netcom.com
District II	Lisa Schibler	SI/24/680 (Walnut Creek)	lschibler13@gmail.com
District III	Patty Herdell-DiTomaso	SI/St.Helena	pditomaso@herdellprinting.com
District IV	Vicki Campbell	SI/ Novato	vlcampbell@comcast.net
District V	Tess Albin Smith	SI/Noyo Sunrise	tess@alumni.ucdavis.edu
District VI	Jina Rojas	SI/Guam	jinabrojas@gmail.com

Membership
Bobbi Enderlin, Chair

Elise Balgley
Beverly Gomer
Joy Swank
Barbara Young
Dyann O'Brien
Kristal Koga



Make Soroptimist your cause of
choice!

Fundraising
Lyn Lurbe, Chair

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

Membership- Chair Bobbi Enderlin



Inspire the Next Generation

In today's world, women need to lift each other up to thrive in success, to empower one another and to dare to lead by being brave in the face of fear. Check out these tips from Angela Kambouris to see how you can help guide the next generation of women today!

<http://angelakambouris.com/8-ways-women-leaders-inspire-the-next-generation/>

Just Follow the Map!

Did you know we can accomplish so much more when everyone supports our current Big Goal of Increased Collective Impact? Simply follow the 2019-2020 Club Roadmap for Success for five areas of focus that will guide your plans for this year, help us reach our goals, and provide a positive club experience. We'll recognize your accomplishments with our Club Roadmap Certificate of Appreciation, which will honor clubs that take actions on the club roadmap during the 2019-2020 club year!

Fundraising- Chair Lyn Lurbe

Starting Small ...

"GREAT THINGS are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together" Vincent van Gogh



If you have been wanting to be a financial supporter to something greater, then look no further, our Laurel Society Program is the way to go! It's our prestigious contribution program that members can sign up and ensure that their donations will fully support the women and girls of our mission-based programs.

The Laurel Society program was established in 1994, to show appreciation to those individuals that have made SIA their cause of choice and are willing to support our mission of enhancing the lives of women and girls through our programs that lead to social and economic empowerment. Since then, the program has raised \$10 million for Soroptimist programs that help women and girls live their dreams.

The monthly giving program will help you start with small contributions leading to great results. You will be able to determine how much to contribute that fits your budget and designate where you want it to go towards; whether it is to the Live Your Dream Program, Dream, It, Be, It Program, or to an Unrestrictive Program. No matter what your contribution or program designation is, it will ensure that SIA receives the funding needed to support our federation programs.

Public Awareness
Jackie De Vries, Chair

Kathy Johanson
Vicki Dillard
Patti Dutton



To learn more or to download your **Laurel Society Enrollment Form** or **Monthly Giving Program Enrollment Form**, please visit our website, Soroptimist.org.



Start Small and Sign Up Today!

Public Awareness, Chair Jackie De Vries

We have a great little tutorial on the art of the selfie being presented at the October District Meeting. The selfie presentation was created by SI/Oakland member Leanne Davis. The other component of the presentation is on using Instagram and the younger demographics associated with this platform. You will not want to miss this!

Remember, regardless of what social media you are using 80% of your posts should be content driven.

Post about Live Your Dream, Dream It, Be It, any projects your club is engaged in, and posts that show the global nature and impact of Soroptimist.

Everyone loves infographics. They're usually **eye-catching** and informative. Due to this, infographics usually get more engagement and sometimes can rack up quite a lot of shares.

Content that inspires emotions is the most successful and will have the largest impact. Share the Live Your Dream stories. They are inspiring. Share informational content, such as our mission, and what Soroptimist is all about.

Fellowship and the Laurel Society: Why They Are Not the Same

Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director

Questions that are oftentimes asked of the Fellowship Board members include: "What is the difference between Fellowship and the Laurel Society? Isn't my donating money to one the same as donating money to the other?"

The short answer is no: they are not the same program. Donating money to one is not donating money to the other. While both programs focus on empowering women, Fellowship focuses on empowerment by awarding financial grants to women who are receiving their doctoral degree here in Founder Region. The Laurel Society, through the Soroptimist International of the Americas' *Live Your Dream Award: Education & Training Awards Program*, focuses on helping women from all over the world who are returning to school, have financial need and are heads of household.

The Fellowship program is our Founder Region identifying project. No other region has a program like Fellowship. Begun 71 years ago, it is a non-profit



(501(c)(3)), governed by its own board of directors and is independent of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA).

The Fellowship board is tasked with raising money to fund financial awards for, and soliciting applications from, women in the final phase of their doctoral studies. After a rigorous application and interview process of women attending an accredited college or university within the boundaries of Founder Region, the board selects the women who best fulfill the mission of Fellowship, which is to advance the status of women through financial support in the final phase of their doctoral programs.

Since the program began in 1948, Founder Region Fellowship has awarded over 1.4 million dollars to over 320 women who have then been in the position to be in leadership roles in their respective areas of expertise and improve the lives of women, girls and/or society in general.

In addition to traditional fundraising within Founder Region, the Fellowship Board accepts donations from clubs and individuals. For every \$1,000 donated, a Fellow can be named, or an existing Fellow can move to the next level of recognition. The 2018-2020 Fellowship Board increased the number of levels of recognition from four to ten, each with its own unique pin.

Donations can be made by individuals or clubs either as a lump sum payment or on a monthly payment plan to Fellowship. Contact your Fellowship District Director or the Fellowship Treasurer for more information.

The Laurel Society is a non-profit fundraising program of our federation – Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA). The money donated to this program is a source of funding for the federation's *Dream Programs*, one of which is the *Live Your Dream Award: Education & Training Award for Women* program. This program encourages women to return to school to obtain further education to become economically independent for themselves and their families. Oftentimes award recipients have had to overcome challenges such as domestic violence, substance abuse and poverty. Award recipients must reside within one of the twenty-one countries and territories which comprise our SIA federation. Donations are made directly to Soroptimist International of the Americas, either in lump sum amounts or through monthly giving, with recognition levels at \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Introducing District Meeting Speaker Frances Harkins

Frances Harkins is a Certified Financial Planner, Accredited Investment Fiduciary, Soroptimist and more.

Your Founder Region Fellowship Board of Directors is pleased to announce that our very own, Frances Harkins, member SI/Benicia, will be our presenter at our upcoming District Meetings (I/II/III and IV/V). Frances is our Financial Planner and most recently, FRF has been working with Frances regarding ways



C O N V E N T I O N

and methods to continue to increase our performance financially. We've taken "baby steps" with our education to membership, with Past President Bobbi originally sharing information about RMD – Required Minimum Distribution – in 2018.

Fellowship President Pam continued our education by sharing with membership, at our 2019 Annual Business Meeting, our financial status and the importance of growing our endowment fund rather than reducing our fund to give Fellowship grants to doctoral students. She shared that for several years grant funding to our deserving Fellowship recipients has been depleting our endowment fund, but at the same time, has been making members happy to see larger Fellowship grants given to women. She also shared that we've reached the plateau. Our message is that we cannot continue to pull from our endowment funds without finding a way to increase our endowment fund.

Frances will be presenting very informative information about valuable ways members can support Founder Region through **Tax Smart Charitable Giving**. Please join us at District Meeting to learn more about how you can support Founder Region Fellowship.

REPORT ON SI CONVENTION IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Governor-elect Kris Chorbi

Saturday Convention Highlights

WOMEN TAKE CHARGE – END VIOLENCE, TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION

Sonia Casanova, Immediate Past President, SI Griffith and President Elect, SI Region of NSW/ She spoke about the slavery of overseas workers and exploitation of migrant workers which occurs in remote isolated farm areas. The landowners extort wages and withhold earning and passports. She also spoke about a movement "[Walk in her shoes](#)" targeted at men and boys, educating them about domestic violence against women. She spoke about Photo Voice Art Therapy Program. These are the kind of meaningful projects that attract new members

Marcela Suazo, UNFPA South East Asia. She spoke about equality for women in jobs, reproduction, investments, and production. She said that gender-based violence and discrimination against women happen in private but opportunities and education are bestowed upon boys in public. She is training healthcare workers to identify gender-based violence. She is working on the collecting data about the 17 million births that created from child marriages. "If we don't count it, it won't count".

Dr Aurora J. De Dios, Senior Project Director, Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College, the Philippines. She spoke about Trafficking being a multi-dimensional problem; a 217-billion-dollar revenue linked to organized crime, heroin smuggling, and money laundering. They use sophisticated

methods of recruitment. In Cambodia, they have the pedophile tourists. In Thailand, they have cyber pornography. The demand side is what drives this industry; professional men, peace keeping soldiers, military seafarers, and military bases. To put it in perspective, the 97-billion-dollar net worth of the pornography industry is bigger than the NFL, the NBA and the MLB combined. Her takeaway: “Listen to the voice of the survivors.”

WOMEN LEADING IN TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman, Former Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). She spoke about her personal journey in the field of Astro Physics and the evolution of the stars. She started the National Planetarium and was involved in drawing up the outer space treaty. Space is international and belongs to all mankind and created “space law” at the UN. She said this her career path; “If the opportunity comes to you, take it and then learn how to do. Challenge yourself and break through those glass ceilings.”

Rupa Shanmugam, President & COO, SoPark Corporation, USA. She used to wear skirts to class so they would know there was girl in the all-boys classes. We need to encourage girls in the STEM fields. Early on, girls learn a limited view of their talents. Did you know that the window washer was developed by a woman? Takeaway: “We need to encourage girls to start STEM learning early and spark their imagination.”

Dr Jasmine Begum, Director of Legal, Corporate and Government Affairs, Microsoft Malaysia. Can you name any women inventors? Microsoft has some new advertising encouraging women inventions and technology. Watch the video “[Let’s celebrate all women made inventions](#)” by Microsoft. These types of inventions are helping the disabled most of all.

Ir Sharifah Azlina bt Raja Kamal Pasmah, Chief Executive Officer, HSS Engineers Berhad. She is helping to encourage women engineers in her organization. She is engaging and motivating young women to enter engineering and stay in the career. They are providing childcare at conferences so moms can attend the meetings.

SHE MATTERS: HEALTHCARE & LIFETIME WELLNESS

Kath Mazzella OAM (Australia), Gynecological & Women’s Sexual Health Awareness Advocate. She educated us about 9/10 International Gynecological Awareness Day. Her mantra is, “I have a Vulva; Viva la Vulva”
Professor Datin Paduka Dr Teo Soo Hwang, OBE, CEO, Cancer Research Malaysia. She talked about cancer research in Asian women and predicted that by the year 2030, 85% of deaths due to cervical cancer will be in low income women. Her mantra is. “Because we can, we must.”

Professor Dato’ Dr Zaliha Omar, Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant, Universiti Malaya Specialist Centre, Malaysia. She is helping people with disabilities through rehabilitation team which is mainly women. She promotes

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

women in leadership since we are the world's care givers and nurturers. She says, "Whatever hat we wear, we can have a positive influence on people."

Indra Balaratnam, Consultant Dietician, Founder & Owner of Indra Balaratnam Nutrition. She talked about healthy eating and says that, "Nutrition is the most important key to lifelong wellness."

In the October newsletter we will complete the summary of this informative convention.

Autobiography of Dyann O'Brien , Director District V



In 1951 I was born into an Italian family in San Francisco. My grandparents had been immigrants in the late 1800's. They learned English, became U.S. Citizens, worked hard, but kept their Italian culture alive through the years. "Famiglia", Italian for "Family" with homemade vino, accordion music, and traditional food was my world.

My mother and father married at the end of World War II and when the marriage ended in divorce it seemed my world had come crashing down. Mom, my older brother and I were ostracized by the church and from some of our family members.

After mother married the second time we moved to San Jose and that's where my little brother was born. Things went along pretty well until my stepfather's drinking got out of control, showing us all a different side of him, and it became necessary for my mother to go it alone. Finding a job that would pay the mortgage and feed the family was a challenge for one without work experience and little education, she was forced to rent out a room in our house to help pay the bills.

My job was to help with the household chores, cook and babysit my little brother. I didn't realize how poor we were because I had friends who had much less. During the summer I would hang out with my friend, while she was also babysitting her two sisters. Every afternoon I would help her peel potatoes for her family's dinner.

My high school years were challenging as well. I was not only a part of a minority, but by living in a single-parent household there was no time nor money for extracurricular activities and...I was always responsible for my little brother.

At seventeen I fell in love with a boy who had a dream. Since my self-confidence was at zero and having had no dream of my own, I followed him and his dream. Ten years later, my daughter was born.

When my daughter was four months old, I knew that I, too, like my mother before me, must leave the abusive relationship with my "dream boy", so I took my daughter and moved back in with my mother. By this time, she was single

again, still looking for “Mr. Right”. She was working, and I was able to help her while I made an effort to sort out my life and get on my feet again. The house needed painting, there was housework and yardwork to do and I was eager to show her that together “We could do it!”

Two years later I re-married and we had a beautiful son. Unfortunately, it was another abusive relationship. About five years into the marriage my husband had a heart attack and passed, so I started over as a single mom with my two children. I worked part time jobs and took computer classes at the local community college.

My present husband came into my life bringing two boys, five and eight years old and with my two children, also five and eight, we had a house full. We are now blessed with eleven grandchildren and find our happiest times are spending time together.

A recent trip my husband and I made to Italy to explore my roots has also been a highlight in this part of my life.

By joining Eureka’s Soroptimist Club, I received validation from the women I met there. They encouraged me to develop my leadership skills by giving me responsibilities and they supported me as I grew to understand myself. It soon became clear to me that I had found a purpose in not only helping myself, but I saw I could help women and girls who needed guidance, a “hand up” to make *their dreams* come true. I related to them and continue to in a deeply emotional and familiar way.

Save the Dates



2019 District Meetings

October 12, 2019 District I, II & III

Location: Crow Canyon Country Club
711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville, CA 94526

Host Clubs: SI/San Ramon Valley, SI/The Delta & SI/Central Solano County

October 18-19, 2019 District IV & V

Location: Cloverdale Citrus Fair Association 1 Citrus Fair Dr., Cloverdale, CA 95425
Host Clubs: SI/Eureka & SI/Santa Rosa

October 26-27, 2019 District VI

Location: Heritage Hall, 401 Baldwin Ave., Paia, Maui, HI
Host Clubs: SI/Maui & SI/Kona

Leadership Training District VI (Sunday, October 27, 2019) J Walter
Cameron Center 95 Mahalani St, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii - 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention
Bellevue Washington- July 22-25, 2020**

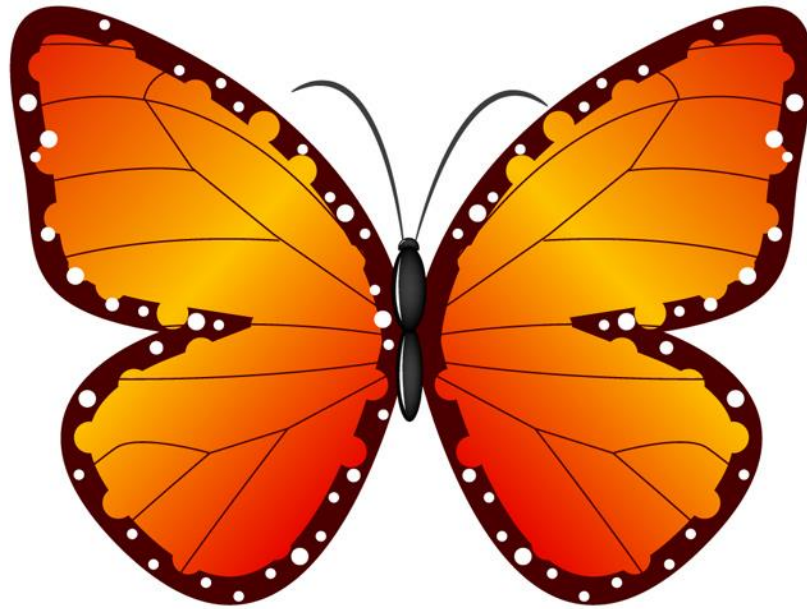
Start planning your trip for #SIAConv2020! Both registration and
hotel booking open in **October**.



2020 Founder Region Conference

May 1-3, 2020 - San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA

Host Clubs: SI/Ukiah, SI/Marin County, SI/Novato (District IV)



Mailing Address

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International of the Americas, Inc.
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Willits, CA 95490

Ideas? Email Jackie De Vries
soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com

Happy Fall!