



GOVERNOR’S APRIL MESSAGE

As I write this, we are less than thirty days from our 2025 Founder Region Conference. I hope you are registered and will be there to take part in all that the Conference has to offer.

Even if you cannot be at Conference, take a moment and look at the big picture of Soroptimist. It is easy to just focus on your club and lose sight of how much else Soroptimist is.

We are a worldwide organization. We have a seat at the United Nations and are invited to participate in things such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas includes clubs in Japan, Korea, and South America. Those clubs all face the same challenges your club does, but, like you, they continue to work toward the mission of Soroptimist.

There are clubs throughout the United States. Each doing their best to help women and girls in their communities. In Founder Region, stretching from Crescent City to Fremont and west to Hawaii, Guam and the Marianas, there are clubs building dreams as Soroptimist promises to do.

Founder Region, as a region, will be making a difference in the lives this May with awards to our Fellowship recipients, Live Your Dream awardees, and Violet Richardson awardees. Think for a moment about how huge that is. Think for a moment that we did that and continue to do that.

To paraphrase Violet Richardson, WHAT WE DO MATTERS. Never forget that or think otherwise.

I hope to see you soon.

Governor Elise



Happy April Soroptimist Friends,
I am busy hiding eggs for my eight grandchildren, in between counting raffle tickets for our May conference. Your Fundraising committee is very busy with this right now. Many thanks to Lisa Schibler, Dawn Shepherd, Heather Ellison, and Wendy MacDonald.

Money raised goes to support our Dream Programs that are making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our communities and around the world.

Yay you! We are selling more raffle tickets at the conference, and a few other items to help raise money. I urge you to become a Laurel Society member through monthly giving, and a Stargazer too which will be added to your Laurel account. I know I am asking you for money, give if you can, the need is great.
See you at conference,

Thanks for all you do! Warmest regards, Joy Swank

Angie Haramoto, Membership Chair
SI/Maui

- Promote our Dream Programs, as we know how these are the number one way to attract new members!
- Increase awareness of our brand-unifying Dream Programs and the impact they have on women and girls. Use SIA’s *Live Your Dream Award* and *Dream It, Be It* Publicity Kits to get you started.
- Promote your club with a downloadable and customizable news release or template to create your club brochure.
- Use SIA’s social media and website guidelines to help boost your club’s publicity efforts.

The opportunities for leadership development provide professional growth gained through volunteering in leadership roles and attending leadership development training offered by SIA. Members grow personally through friendships with club members, relationships in your region, and connections with members from diverse countries and backgrounds. Another impactful way to support recruitment efforts is to host monthly, quarterly, or annual meet and greets for new or prospective members using Zoom, Teams, in-person meetings, or another channel of your choice. It’s a great way to engage and welcome them into the Soroptimist community.

Please join us at Region Conference for more ideas about recruiting new members

Jackie De Vries, Program Chair
SI/Vacaville

Who is ready to ROCK! I hope you are because I would love to see all of you at the Founder Region Conference especially Saturday night where we can celebrate all of our hard work, while partying like Rock Stars!

YOU are the piece of the puzzle that made us so successful in our Live Your Dream Awards this year. We have a record number of awardees.

SIA was so impressed by our increase that they wanted to know what we had done. Maida and I told them it was all of our members, doing their best to give more awards, sharing awards with the Reps. And our amazing Reps. We are doing our name FOUNDER REGION proud. On Saturday we will have a drawing for which club will receive \$1,000 to give an additional award next year!

I have been having the Big Goal Accelerator projects coming in from SIA- keep it up! Turn in your reports as soon as you finish the project. Remember how Violet Richardson says “It’s what you do that **counts**.” That is so true, and you are doing great projects in your clubs, so let’s make them **count**!

My club just finished a session on Dream it, Be it with one of our “S” clubs at their meeting. It was very well received. It did solve the problem of how do we get the girls to come- we went to them. If you need any help on Dream it, Be it contract Chair Jackie Arnold.

The Sunday Awards celebration at the conference promises to be as inspiring and heart-warming as it always is. Think of how much \$5,000 will mean to the Live Your Dream district winners. And the region winner is sure to put that \$7,000 to good use.



Sue Pretzer, Public Awareness Chair
SI/The Delta

The 49th Annual Founder Region Conference is Almost Here!

Get ready, Soroptimists! The countdown is on, and we’re just *weeks away* from an unforgettable weekend of inspiration, connection, and celebration. Wondering what’s in it for you? Let’s break it down:

- ♥ **Connect** with passionate, purpose-driven Soroptimists from across Founder Region.
- ♥ **Learn & Be Inspired** by our incredible Fellowship honorees and the amazing work they’re doing.
- ♥ **Shine Your Light** as an essential piece in the powerful Soroptimist puzzle—we're stronger together!

SHARE YOUR MOMENTS!

Capture the magic! Post your favorite conference highlights and photos using **#SoroptimistPuttingThePuzzleTogether** and spread the joy.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!

April 20–26 is all about *you*! Let’s honor our outstanding members who give their time, heart, and energy to uplifting women and girls everywhere. Together, we’re changing lives—and that deserves a huge THANK YOU!



District I, Director Laura Koehler

When I attended my first conference, I remember being reluctant to go to the Legislative Advocacy sessions. I'm embarrassed to say that I thought they would be boring. What surprised me the most was how interesting the lectures were and how relevant they seemed to be. From clean water to Human Trafficking to Safeguarding - Cyber & Personal etc., they provided me with a greater understanding of those issues. I am surprised at how many times I have discussed these issues with friends and acquaintances. The advocacy sessions and the fellowship scholarships make Friday one of my favorite days at the conference.

District II, Director Dana Holve

You're Invited to the Founder Region Conference!

District II clubs—SI/American Canyon 2018, SI/Antioch, SI/Central Solano, SI/The Delta, SI/Dixon, SI/Rio Vista, SI/Vacaville, SI/Vacaville Twilight, and SI/Vallejo—join us for an inspiring and impactful Founder Region Conference! Connect, collaborate, and celebrate the incredible work we do together. Bring your **Pillar Poster** to highlight your club's achievements. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow, and strengthen our mission while enjoying fellowship with fellow Soroptimists. Mark your calendars and be part of something great—I am excited to see you there!

District III, Director Nancy Koski

Dear District III Club Presidents,

We look forward to seeing you and many of your members at Region Conference in Concord May 2-4. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your club's successes and learn what other clubs are doing. It is especially valuable for newer members to meet so many Soroptimists and be immersed in the fantastic works of our organization in our region, and in SIA, and SI. It is so inspiring to see the worldwide reach of our efforts to lift up girls and women who might not otherwise have the resources to improve their lives. You are sure to come away with renewed enthusiasm for what we are all working towards. See you at Conference!

District IV, Crystal Arbuthnot

Greetings from District IV Director Crystal. Come join us at this year's Founder Region Conference at the Concord Hilton. We have a jam-packed program all weekend. A lot of fun things are planned – like the Friday morning legislative advocacy program on domestic violence and then it continues with the Fellowship program that night. After the business on Saturday you can enjoy the Directors lunch program and then party it up that night at the “Founder Region Rocks” event where we'll dance it up to the rock n roll classics. Be sure to attend Sunday Awards program where we will shed “happy tears” as we listen to the amazing women and girls sharing their stories. We look forward to seeing you all there.

District V, Teri Lynn Sato

Aloha and Hafa Adai District V!

May 2-4 is almost here! **#Soroptimistputtingthepuzzlettogether!** In addition to the traditional informative Business Meetings and our wonderful Trade Shows, we hope to see some early arrivals at our Thursday evening Meet and Greet! We have a great program planned for Fridays' Legislative Advocacy, and our Fellowship Awards Gala & Dinner! Let's cheer on District V's Cindy Rasmussen, our Fellowship Director! Saturday Luncheon is all about our clubs and then PAARTY as Founder Region Rocks Party! Have you emailed me your Rock Song? Sunday Memorial Service and Region Awards will close out the conference. District V Rocks, my friends!

Registration forms for Leadership training will be sent in May

Leadership Training, 2025

Putting the Pieces of the Leadership Puzzle Together

Save the Dates

District I,II, and III- Saturday, June 21- Concord Senior Center, Concord
District IV- Saturday, June 7 -Red Lion Inn, Eureka
District V- Sunday, Oct. 19- location in Maui TBD

All incoming officers should plan on attending, and all club members are encouraged to attend to learn about roles they may be interested in.

DISTRICT MEETINGS FOR 2025

DISTRICT I & II- SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2025
DISTRICT III & IV- SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 2025
DISTRICT V- SATURDAY, OCT. 18, 2025

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

Soroptimist International of El Cerrito

British Tea Time

Save the Date! May 17th, 2025, 2:00PM~4:00PM
Christ Church East Bay, 2138 Cedar Street, Berkeley

Enjoy a lovely afternoon with friends. Choose from a selection of fine teas, warm scones served with jams, tea sandwiches filled with savoury fillings, and traditional English cakes. Relax while listening to live music. Bid on our exciting silent auction items.

Tickets: \$50
Silent auction bidding opens March, 2025!

Proceeds fund the local scholarships & service projects of El Cerrito Soroptimists, a 501(c)(3) global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls. siofthedelta.org

SAVE THE DATE

YOU 2025 Founder Region Conference

May 2 - 4, 2025
Concord Hilton, Concord, CA
Host Clubs:
SI/The Delta, SI/Vacaville & SI/Vacaville Twilight

DON'T BE THE MISSING PIECE

These items will be sold at Conference!
Don't miss out.

SOROPTIMIST Founder Region
Investing in Dreams
Sparkly iron on bling for T-shirt \$20.00

Membership pin \$15.00

Square Puzzle pin \$10.00

"S" Club pin \$10.00

Pin Holder \$15.00

Save the Date

Soroptimist

Uncorked

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Tickets go on sale April 10th

Please visit our website siofthedelta.com after April 1st for details and ticket information

WHAT TO WEAR TO FOUNDER REGION CONFERENCE 2025

FRIDAY DAY	Legislative Advocacy Presentation Show your Soroptimist Pride!
FRIDAY NIGHT	Fellowship Awards Gala Dress to impress
SATURDAY DAY	Region Business Meeting Business casual
SATURDAY NIGHT	'Founder Region Rocks' Party Your choice
SUNDAY DAY	Memorial Service and Region Awards Session Business casual



Dream It, Be It- Chair Jackie Arnold

Dream big, believe in yourself, and make it happen! There are only a few more months left to turn in your Dream It, Be It project—don’t miss this incredible opportunity to take a step toward your future goals. Stay focused, stay inspired, and keep pushing forward. Your dreams are within reach, and we can’t wait to see what you achieve! I’d love to hear about some of your projects so I can share them with our region! If you have any questions or need support, please don’t hesitate to call or email Jackie Arnold at 707-631-1147 anytime. Have a happy spring!

Live Your Dream - Chair Maida Herbst

I can’t wait to see all of the club Live Your Dream club chairs at the Conference. You have done an amazing job this year and I hope you will consider serving as the LYD club chair again next year! If that is not possible, I know you will be a valuable resource for the next chair. I also look forward to seeing all of the district reps. SIA is so impressed by our increase in awards and the amounts that they will be writing about Founder Region in a blog- and that is because all of you, all pieces of the puzzle came together to make great things happen for our amazing LYD winners! I have been able to go to several LYD awards celebrations at clubs and it has been fabulous- thank you for inviting me.

“S” Club Chair- Dawn Shepherd

Hello and happy April to you all!

As the school year moves into spring, it is now time to ensure your “S” Clubs are working on nominations and elections for their Club Officers for the 2025-2026 school year. The “S” Clubs should hold nominations and elections in April. An installation of the new officers should take place in May.

Some clubs host an installation for the incoming “S” Club Officers at one of the Soroptimist Club meetings in May. However, it may be much easier to attend your S Club’s scheduled meeting and install the Officers there. Make it fun-bring pizza or some other goodies.

As the “S”-Club Liaison, you will want to install the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Provide each with a short explanation of their position and ask them to affirm they accept the position. See you all at Conference!



- **Conference- May 2 through May 4, 2025. Concord Hilton. All presidents received the Call, and it is posted on Founder Region Website- resources page**
 - **Plan on attending Leadership Training in June. Registration forms will be sent to Presidents.**
 - **Please do not schedule fundraisers during District Meeting times in October.**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FOUNDER REGION



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

“Solving Puzzles by Degrees”

Greetings Founder Region,

Are you excited about Conference? Your Fellowship board is thrilled to be presenting seven amazing women finishing their PhD's with our grants again this year. If you are a Fellow, you are invited to attend the Friday Fellowship Reception from 5:30 – 6:30 pm prior to the awards dinner; this is your opportunity to meet our awardees personally and ask them questions about their research. This reception is for **Fellows Only** (not club Fellows) so if you are not a Fellow, there is still time to donate \$1,000 to become a Fellow prior to the event.

Everywhere we go, we hear from members and non-members alike, what a wonderful award this is. I have said before, our ability to give these awards depends on **YOU!** Without your donations, we would not be able to give these awards to well-deserving women. And we truly appreciate your generosity to Fellowship.

We are just about sold out of our puzzle games. Each piece represents a \$10 chance to win a Fellow in one of our nine color games; puzzles are \$90 each and each puzzle holds 9 pieces for a chance to win a Fellow in nine different color games. Participating in the Fellowship games is an easy way for members to win a Fellow or level up and your participation in these games allows Fellowship to award our grants at Conference; donations from our membership are key to awarding grants.

We will have our beautiful T-shirts available at Conference or through our store on the Fellowship website. You can contact your Fellowship Director to purchase or you can check out [our store](#) on the “Home” page of the Founder Region Fellowship website.

Again we ask you to please consider signing up for monthly giving. This is a relatively easy way to bring your donation to \$1,000 for a new Fellow or level up. Forms are available on our website or scan the QR code on this page. We will also have the forms available for you at conference if you wish to sign up then.

Please contact your Fellowship Director with any questions you may have. She is always ready and willing to help.

President Vicki



Fellowship Board

President—Vicki Ham

Treasurer—Danelle Tegarden

Fellowship Directors

District I—Amelia Benko

District II—Kay Kelley

District III—Colleen Ganaye

District IV—Tess Albin-Smith

District V—Cindy Rasmussen

[Website:](#)

www.founderregionfellowship.org

[Email:](#)

vickiham01@gmail.com

[Treasurer Email:](#)

danelletegarden@gmail.com

[Address:](#)

3505 Pine Street, Eureka, CA
95503



OUR MISSION:

To advance the Soroptimist mission by awarding grants to outstanding women in the final phase of their doctoral program within Founder Region.



Architectural Tour

Wine Tasting & Auction

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Presented by Soroptimist International of - Mendocino Sonoma Coast, Inc (SI-MSC)

- Tour a selection of unique and artful homes on the Mendonoma Coast
- Sample outstanding Northern California Wines at the Gualala Arts Center
- Bid on wine and wine-related items at the Silent Auction



Photo by Terry Green

One featured house is the GREEN RESIDENCE on The Sea Ranch, CA. This custom home was created for an Architect and Artist and combines living and rest areas with a separation of creative work spaces. The house won an AIA Honor award in 2021.

TICKET PURCHASE OPTIONS:

- By check, Complete form and mail with enclosed envelope, or mail to SI-MSC— PO Box 1064—Gualala CA 95455
- Ticket Spice is our Credit Card vender. Place all C.C. tickets orders through them. *Ticket Spice Weblink?, phone number? and event number?*
- Over the counter weekend of event purchase, Friday May 12 —3-6pm and Saturday May 13th - 9am-12:30 pm , Gualala Arts (GArts) at Soroptimist Table
- Orders by mail or Ticket Spice prior to May 1, Ticket packets will be mailed to your mailing address provide.
- All orders received between May 1 & 11, will be packaged and held for will call at (GArts). During the listed hours.
- Ticket purchase includes, tickets, tour booklets, maps, and directions. It will be mailed to your billing/ mailing address soon after the week of April 20, unless you instruct otherwise.
- **Pre ordered tickets** between now and May 11, are **\$80.00 each**.
- **Weekend of purchase:** Friday May 12 —3-6pm and Saturday May 13th — 9am-12:30 pm @ Gualala Arts Center, Weekend of, pricing **\$100.00 each**.

Name (Please Print)	Descriptions	Quantity	\$ Amount
Address (Billing/Mailing)	Tour and Tasting Preorder \$80.00 per person		\$
State & Zip	Additional Donations Appreciated		\$
Phone # (Include for proper service)	Order Total		\$
Email address	Complete form and mail with check to SI-MSC,— PO 1064—Gualala CA 95455		

May 12, 5 - 7pm

● KORBEL CHAMPAGNE PREVIEW

Free event open to the public at Gualala Arts

46501 Old State Highway, Gualala, CA 95445

Friday night starts the weekend events with a Champagne tasting; previewing auction lots; making early bids. Guests enjoy champagne, strawberries, and hors d'œuvres.

● ARCHITECTURAL TOUR

May 13, 10am - 3pm

Tickets required

Visit our featured homes on this self-guided tour. Guests receive a map and tour booklet, and have the opportunity to speak with Architects and Designers about their design inspirations and creations.



Photo by Terry Green

The Green Residence

● WINE TASTING & AUCTION

May 13, 3 - 5:00pm

Tickets required

The Wine Tasting and Auction complements the day by providing outstanding Northern California wines for tasting and thoughtfully-chosen food from local businesses and the Art Center Kitchen. Guests can bid on many special wine-related silent auction items. Bidding starts at 3pm and closes at 4:45pm. Winning bids are announced at 5pm; ticket-holder need not be present to win.

SPONSORS:



***Soroptimist International of Mendocino-Sonoma Coast** is part of an international, volunteer organization working together to transform the lives of women and girls. As sponsors of the Architectural Tour, SI-MSC raises money to promote educational programs, activities, grants, and scholarships in the local community.*

P.O. Box 1064 Gualala, CA 95445 Ticket questions (707) 684-1145



***Gualala Arts** has been promoting public interest and participation in the arts since 1961. As sponsors of the Wine Tasting and Auction, they raise funds to support local art shows, music and theater performances, and the global Harmony Summer Adventure Camp.*

46501 Old State Highway, Gualala, CA 95445 Wine tasting questions only 707-884-1138



Second Annual Spring Time Tea Party

*Scroptimists International
Oakmont Wine Country*

Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 12:00 noon
Oakmont East Recreation Center
7902 Oakmont Drive
Santa Rosa, CA

This event sells out quickly! Reservations are required.

- High tea sandwiches, scones, multiple desserts including our “snowy” cream puff swans, back by popular demand.
- This year we are also offering champagne at \$5.00 per glass.
- Hat contest with prizes (participation is optional)
- Raffle table
- Fun!

Cost: \$ 60.00 per person

For Reservations:

deniseb.siowc@gmail.com or

707-623-7413



Quick Start Guide



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC. ®

Leading a *Dream It, Be It* project has a lot of important pieces, so we have provided this streamlined handout to help get you started and to ensure that you have everything covered!

Questions? Email us at program@soroptimist.org.

Form a planning committee.

Bring together members who have the passion and time to drive the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a *Dream It, Be It* project.

Review the available [resources](#).

Request the most up to date curriculum by emailing program@soroptimist.org.

Complete SIA's Standards for Working with Youth.

All members working on site as part of a *Dream It, Be It* project must comply with SIA's [Standards for Working with Youth](#).

Conduct a community assessment.

Determine what support services already exist for girls in your community. Identify the needs of girls in your community and how *Dream It, Be It* can address those needs.

Build community partnerships.

Connect with schools, youth organizations, places of worship, and social service agencies that work with girls. Develop relationships with these potential community partners and determine which organization has a need that can be fulfilled with *Dream It, Be It*.

Organize a girls advisory group.

When girls are actively involved in the planning of projects for them, the project is more likely to be a success as their expertise will help shape a project tailored to their specific audience.

Select a model.

Choose to hold a one-day conference or small group mentoring sessions.

Create a budget and raise funds.

Consider reaching out to local businesses identified in your community assessment for support.

Confirm dates and location and recruit participants.

Work with your community partners to identify girls who would benefit from *Dream It, Be It* and invite them to participate.

Identify speakers.

Refer to your community assessment and consider which organizations may have staff who could be influential to girls as speakers or leaders in the local community. Consider other influential community members who might be interested in getting involved.

Adapt the curriculum.

Working with your planning committee and the girls advisory group, review and adapt the curriculum to fit the needs of your audience. Make necessary changes to the curriculum sessions to ensure they are more relevant to the girls you'll be working with.

Facilitate *Dream It, Be It* curriculum sessions with girls.

This is the fun part!

Evaluate.

Have girls complete the [Dream It, Be It Evaluation Form](#) after the final session.

Report.

Submit your Project Report to SIA headquarters through the [Dream It, Be It Club Reporting and Evaluation Form](#) by **June 30**.

Use the [Dream It, Be It Planning Guide](#) to help keep you organized, add target dates, and add notes!