



FOUNDER REGION, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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### 2022-2024 Region Board

Governor, Vicki Ham
Governor-elect, Elise Balgley
Secretary, Kristal Koga
Treasurer, Tess Albin-Smith
Directors:

District I, Lenore Colarusso
District II, Jackie DeVries
District III, Colleen Ganaye
District IV, Elaine Reed
District V, Teri Lynn Sato

Founder Region Website: www.si-founderregion.org SIA Website:

www.soroptimist.org

SI Website:

www.soroptimistinternational.org



### **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

February is the month to celebrate love, friendship and giving. In Founder Region, it is also known as "Fun for Fellowship" month with several events to learn more about our signature program and ways that you can donate to our foundation. Follow the February "Fun for Fellowship" <u>calendar</u> to give in small daily increments that can lead up to a larger donation.

Fellowship had a wonderful kick-off for their fundraising month with a Zoom event on the 4th. The evening was filled with information, Bingo, many donations and we were able to meet Crystal Kwok, a 2022 Fellowship recipient. If you were unable to attend, or want to share the program at a club meeting, you can view the recording here.

As Founder Region continues to "Bee the Dream!," planning for the 2024 Founder Region Conference is well underway. This year, we are excited to be back in San Ramon at the San Ramon Marriott. Because of the pandemic, it has been 5 years since we have had Conference at our "home" location. There will be more updates in early March when we publish the full Call to Conference. Please note that Caucus will be held this year on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 pm PDT via Zoom. There are two amendments to our bylaws to be presented. Then plan to attend Conference in May for a wonderful weekend with fellow



Founder Region Soroptimist members.

At our business meeting on Saturday at Conference we will be electing our 2024-2026 Founder Region and Founder Region Fellowship boards along with voting on our two amendments. Please do not miss this important election as we welcome new faces to our boards.

Saturday night we will have our installation for the 2024-2026 boards and continue with some dancing and a "Sing-a-Long". Don your finest "black and white" attire for this fun-filled event.

The Founder Region Board is looking forward to seeing many of you this coming Spring. Stay safe and well and be sure to tell your family and friends how much you love them.

Governor Vicki





### Fun for Fellowship

This month is designated as "Fun for Fellowship" to raise awareness and educate our members about Founder Region's Identifying Project. We have several ways you can have fun and participate in Fellowship activities in February.

- Plan now to invite your Fellowship Director to attend your club meeting in February to talk about Fellowship. First come, first served in reserving a date. Directors will be visiting all clubs throughout the biennium and we look forward to sharing our passion for Fellowship with all your club members.
- Of course, our directors will not be able to visit all their clubs in February, so we will be providing you with a PowerPoint presentation on Fellowship that you can present at your club meeting to educate your members about the Region's Identifying Project. (see below)

### Call for Sponsors

Founder Region Fellowship, Inc. invites you - Soroptimist Clubs, Soroptimist members and businesses in our communities - to become a **SPONSOR** of Founder Region Fellowship. Our vision is to improve the lives of women and girls locally and globally by awarding fellowships to women who will truly make a difference in the world. We offer grants to women attending educational institutions within our Region such as: UC Berkeley, CSU East Bay, St. Mary's College and University of Hawaii at Manoa to name a few.

We invite you to partner with us by contributing \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 to help support this program, so we can help more women in the final phase of their doctoral programs. There are several opportunities to advertise your business at our Friday night events. Anticipated attendance of 350 will include members from throughout Founder Region, our Official Visitor from our Federation, as well as local speakers and dignitaries, and will take place at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel.

Plan a Club Fundraiser on your own and donate the proceeds to Fellowship. How about Bunko or Bingo? Plan a social and have some fun while supporting Fellowship. We will also be providing you with a "Fun for Fellowship" calendar game that members can refer to every day during February and donate the recommended amount.

But wait, there's more...

- Fellowship Presentation for Clubs
- Script for Fellowship Presentation
- Fellowship Calendar Game



<u>Donate</u> \$75 (or more) to the 75 Year Diamond Jubilee Campaign anytime during the biennium.

**LEARN MORE** 

### **NEW SPONSOR LEVEL**

### Elite Biennium Sponsor: \$25,000

(Become An Elite Sponsor For Two Years)

- Logo prominently displayed on Fellowship website for 2 years
- Official Sponsor at all Fellowship events
- Opportunity to be a Silent Observer during Fellowship Interviews

SOROPTIMES YEARS

Diamond Jubilce

Fellowship Board
President - Kris Chorbi
Treasurer - Danelle Tegarden

Fellowship Directors:
District I - Billie Knight
District II - Dana Holve
District III - Laurie Gallian
District IV - Laura Middlemiss
District V - Angie Burgarin

#### Website:

www.founderregionfellowship.org

2022.2024Fellowship@gmail.com Treasurer Email:

FRFellowshipTreasurer2022.2024@gmail.com
Address:

3505 Pine Street, Eureka, CA 95503

See more information about becoming an Elite Biennium Sponsor on our website.

Please contact President Kris Chorbi if you are interested in this next level support opportunity.



### **SPONSOR LEVELS**

Marquise Level \$1,000 Includes signage at Fellow Reception and logo on social media)

Jubilee Level: \$2,500 (Includes 1/2 page black/white ad in Fellowship Program, signage at Fellow Reception & Award's Gala, logo on website and social media)

### Diamond Level: \$5,000

- ◆ Premium Full Page Color Ad in Fellowship commemorative program booklet
- Premium banner placement around convention area (sponsor to provide banner)
- Premium logo placement on all media mentions
- Option to provide promotional item on tables during Fellowship Dinner & Gala (sponsor provide 350 items)

### Black Diamond Level: \$10,000 (Fellowship Grant Sponsor)

- ♦ Name on Fellowship Grant Certificate and on screen during presentation
- ◆ Premium Full Page Color Ad in Fellowship commemorative program booklet
- Premium banner placement around convention area (sponsor to provide banner)
- Premium logo placement on all media mentions
- Option to provide promotional item on tables during Fellowship Dinner & Gala (sponsor provide 350 items)
- Logo listed on website in perpetuity



### Fundraising - Chair Gina Moore

Happy Valentines Month! I have had emails asking me where to go to find our members' Laurel Society accounts, and what level they were at. So, I thought this would be a great way to help everyone access that information:

Go to Soroptimist.org, log on to your Member login, go to the Blue tab at the top "For Clubs and Members", once you click on that, a small tab appears below it, go to

"Donate/Fundraise" and click on it, you then scroll down until you see that Big Blue button

that says DONATE, right under Make Dreams Come True, click on it and it will take you to your Laurel Society account, it shows you your level, amount and all your payments. It looks something like this:

We Appreciate your Support of Soroptimist's global Dream Programs

Because of you, we will be able to invest in the dreams of more women and girls who need our help.

Please indicate below where you would like to designate your gift:

Laurel Society Donations including Tribute

donations.

Your Laurel Society presently totals \$0.00 and you are at the Diplomat level.

Hope this helps everyone, please feel free to email me with any questions at ginamoore1861@gmail.com.



### Membership - Chair Lyn Lurbe

It's February!

There are so many things to look forward to this month. It's National Heart Month, according to the American Heart Association, it's the month to show love with Valentine's Day, and it's time to support our women scholars by supporting our Founder Region Fellowship! It's all about the HEART this month.

Have you ever been at a low point in your life, depressed at the things that you are experiencing, and you don't know when it will pass but confident that someday it will, and you'll

be all good again! I'm sure you have. For some of us, that someday doesn't come around soon enough, and the days continue to pass us by, keeping us in that rut.

That's what our targeted women and girls face each and every day of their lives. Uncertainty, abandoned, silenced, trapped, are all situations they believe they cannot get through until someone comes along and lift's their spirit, shows them the way, encourages them to seek assistance and support from others, proves to them that they have a support person/group that believes in them and in their dreams.

Show your support for them and for each other. Strengthen the muscles of your heart and lift each other's spirits up! That's our Soroptimist Way!

### From The Heart

"To strengthen the muscles of your heart, the best exercise is lifting someone else's spirit whenever you can."



### Public Awareness - Chair Kris Chorbi

<u>Canva</u> is a user-friendly graphic design platform that allows you to create a wide range of visual content, including social media graphics, flyers, posters, presentations, and videos. It provides a large library of templates, images, icons, and fonts, making it easy to customize your designs.

SIA has developed a <u>guide</u> to walk your club through the *Canva for Nonprofits* application process. After just a few steps, you'll be ready to don your graphic

design hat and spruce up your club's marketing materials in no time!

### Trv It!

Each month SIA provides a customizable Canva template that clubs can post on their social media sites. <u>Customize January's graphic</u> to show that you stand against trafficking.



Submit your club event details to kchorbi5@yahoo.com by the 10th of each month for sharing in this newsletter.

### **Program Report - Chair Elise Balgley**

By now, your clubs have selected the recipients of your Live Your Dream Award(s) and Violet Richardson Award(s) for this club year. Great work and many thanks to Live Your Dream Region Chair Debbie Coles and the District chairs as well as to the District Violet Richardson Award chairs.

Did you know that, for every 30 Live Your Dream Awards given in our Region, SIA gives the Region \$3000.00. This is in addition to the \$5000.00 award for the Region Live Your Dream winner. This means that if, as a Region, there are 120 Live Your Dream Awards given, the Region receives \$12,000.00. This funds a \$3000.00 award to each District winner. Again, that is in addition to the

\$5000.00 award to the overall Region award winner. This is why it is important for every club to participate and to give as many Live Your Dream Awards as you can. Keep up the good work; we are getting there.

Get started early. Be thinking about identifying your club's 2024-2025 Live Your Dream Award chair now. Once that person is identified, she can begin learning about the process and be ready to hit the ground running next fall. I know many clubs go dark during July and August. The SIA Live Your Dream portal opens in August. Let's get a jump on that.

Your club may have a great idea for a new project but be in need of some financial help to complete it. Remember that club grant applications are due by March 1, 2023. Take advantage of the opportunity to potentially obtain funding for your club's project. Don't miss out.

Be sure to report your Dream It Be It projects online to SIA no later than June 1, 2024. No need to wait though. If your club has completed a project turn it in.

Of course, keep those Big Goal Accelerator Projects going. Lots of excellent ideas out there. The results are amazing. Let me know if I can help in any way.

Hope to see you all soon at Founder Region Conference in May!



### "S" Club - Chair Joy Swank

Happy February "S" Club fans from your lovely Founder Region "S" Club chair, Joy Swank

The March 1 deadline is looming for your "S" Club seniors to apply for the "S" club Outstanding Senior Award.

The application can be found on the Founder Region website, Programs, "S" clubs here.

Club Presidents please remind your "S" Club advisors to send this information to their school contacts very soon. Teachers are busy and need lots of notice for this award deadline.

Also, please refer to page 21 of the Founder Region roster and make sure your "S" Clubs are listed. 15 Clubs in Founder Region are sponsoring "S" clubs, as listed below.

Dist.I-0 Dist. II -5, Dist. III- 5, Dist. IV -2, Dist. V -3

Hats off to SI/ The Delta, they are presented the Dream It, Be It program to their ""S Clubs. Super idea! I know SI/Vacaville wants to use this approach next year for sure. Thanks District Director Jackie for the great suggestion.

Thanks everyone for all you do to improve the lives of our "S" Club girls.



### Dream It, Be It - Bev Gomer

Have you lost your audience? Do students appear to be zoning out in the middle of a Dream It, Be It session? Well it's to be expected. The seven sessions, which make up the DI,BI curriculum, are designed to take from 50 to 75 minutes to complete. This can be A LONG time for girls (and some adults) to focus!

This is where taking a *movement break* comes in. SIA has provided the following examples of movement break activities, which are included in the DI,BI Curriculum:

- ⇒ Box Breathing
- ⇒ Chair Action
- ⇒ Hiking
- ⇒ Padding
- ⇒ Shake It
- ⇒ Freeze and Justify
- ⇒ Family Portrait

Look at each Dream It, Be It session first and determine the best time for your pacing to have a movement break. Each break takes no longer than five minutes. Feel free to incorporate your own ideas. It's time to get moving!

Sign into the SIA website to access the curriculum here.







### SIA President Bobbi Enderlin

This is such a busy time for Soroptimist clubs all over the federation! Most of you have selected Live Your Dream Award recipients, and since this is our signature project we realize that all our hard work fundraising pays off at this time of year. The stories from our recipients make us realize how important this program is and we see the impact all over the federation.

In addition, it is time to think about investing in ourselves so that we make the best of our Soroptimist membership. If I hadn't invested in myself by attending region conferences, district meetings, federation and international conventions, I wouldn't be in this position! These meetings are to help you understand the big picture, see the impact of our clubs as a whole, and to inspire and educate us all. Until you see members from other clubs, areas and countries, you don't really see how it all works together. I hope to see you at the Founder Region conference in May and then at the 2024 SIA Convention in July - in Bellevue Washington. Meet with other Soroptimists around our federation and share your club stories. Come back to your club refreshed and excited about making sure all club members have an amazing club experience.

If you didn't step up to a leadership position this year, ask yourself why not? Be part of the decision making process at your club or region. There is excellent leadership training available to you - and we need new ideas and perspectives. So please consider taking on a leadership position in your club or region. As volunteers, we often think that someone else is going to take on these roles. There are so many excellent resources available to you - if you aren't sure, then ask about what it entails. Good luck!



Early registration for SIA's 48th Biennial Convention opens in the next couple weeks. In the meantime:



View info about airline and hotel discounts. Learn how you or your club can be featured in the convention program. Consider being a convention

sponsor. #SIAConv2024

### Region Leadership Spotlight

### Sylvia Crafton, Parliamentarian 2022-2024

I grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania and when I was a sophomore in high school, my Dad sold the farm which had been in the family since 1799, because it was too steep for modern equipment, and bought a beautiful farm in Ohio. I was not thrilled to give up my friendships in PA and move to OH, but I quickly made friends in my new school, and was even elected as Student Council President my senior year. This positive experience was empowering and opened my eyes and heart to the opportunities that come with changes - like moving and encountering new people and plac-

I met my husband, Andrew Crafton at the University of Akron, where we both played the French Horn. I was majoring in music education, and he majored in accounting; we married in 1980, shortly after I graduated. We stayed in OH for a year, where I did substitute teaching and occasional French Horn performance jobs; then Andrew took a job in Texas, so I was on the move again. In Texas, I taught French Horn lessons member

and did substitute teaching and then I got the bug to be SPOTEGHT in the travel industry and started working in Reservations at Continental Airlines.

Now, we could fly! Next, Andrew took a job in Guam in 1990; now, that was a major move! We played in community orchestras in both Texas and Guam, and we continue to play duets on our horns in our church services regularly.

When we moved to Guam, I made a few friends, but when I joined Soroptimist International of the Marianas, I finally felt like I belonged there. They put me to work right away on the games committee of our biggest fundraiser, called the "Battle of the Executives". It was a lot of work and a lot of responsibility and a lot of commitment, but it was also a lot of fun! I developed many friendships by working together on volunteer projects.

Because I worked for an airline, I was frequently the only Soroptimist member who could easily travel to conferences and conventions, so I had great opportunities to develop friendships with women from around the world who have a shared vision to improve the lives of women and girls. I was fortunate to be elected twice District Director for district served from 2008-2012; I was elected as Governor-elect in 2016, and enjoyed serving as Founder Region Governor for



the 2018-2020 biennium which unfortunately had a COVID pandemic lockdown overshadowing it's end-

I retired from United Airlines in 2014, and after Andrew retired, we decided it was time to move back to the states to be closer to family. In 2022, we settled in Babcock Ranch. FL - "America's first solarpowered town", and we love it here.

As we go through the changes at various stages in our lives, like a butterfly, we may stumble and fall as we emerge from one stage to another, and that is ok. As we learn and grow, we will achieve new goals, gain maturity, and thereby we continue to Empower Change.

### Walk for Women

Have you heard of SIA's new movement, Walk for Women? Grab our limited edition #LYDWALKFORWOMEN Tshirt as we prepare for the official campaign launch in March. Order your shirt by February 10 to receive it in time for International Women's Day!

The Walk for Women is a worldwide event during March to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day. Get moving, share your #WhylWalk, and help spread awareness about the stories, struggles, and strength of women!

https://www.bonfire.com/walk-forwomen/





# Founder Region Call to Caucus Conference Call 2024



### **TUESDAY, MARCH 26**

### **Club Presidents and Conference Delegates**

Please join us for the Region Caucus Conference Call where you will have the opportunity to learn about the proposed amendments to Founder Region Bylaws that will be voted on at our 2024 Conference in May.

Voting/Elections Timeline:		
March 5	Call to Conference released	
March 5	Candidate resumes released	
March 5	Proposed Bylaws Amendments released	
April 5	Deadline to submit video if Candidate not attending Conference (2 minutes)	
April 8	Delegates registration deadline - included in club registration	
May 4	Candidate Speeches (2 minutes)	
May 4	Voting at Conference	
May 5	2024-2026 Post Conference Board Meetings	

2024 Founder Region Conference May 3 - 5, 2024 San Ramon Marriott 2600 Bishop Dr., San Ramon, CA 94583

### TIME OFCALL:

6:30 pm - California time

3:30 pm - Hawaii time

11:30 am March 27 - Guam/Saipan

Please <u>register</u> in advance of the Caucus Conference Zoom

(Ctr/+ Click to follow link)

Once registered, you will receive the instructions to join the meeting via Zoom.

**Download** the proposed amendments in advancefrom the <u>conference</u> page on the Founder Region website.

All members are welcome.

www.si-founderregion.org

### **For Information Contact:**

Laws & Resolutions Region Chair

Sheila Bearden - shebehere@aol.com

or

Governor Vicki - vickiham01@gmail.com



# SOROPTIMIST®

**Investing in Dreams** 

# Committee Sign-Ups

## FOUNDER REGION IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO SERVE ON REGION COMMITTEES IN 2024-2026.

Please complete this form indicating the committee you are willing to serve on and return to Governor-elect Elise Balgley, or send by email to ebalgesq@aol.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 under the Resources tab or in the Founder Region roster. **Be a part of this exciting biennium!** 

Pillar of Success Committees:	4		
Program:	Joina		
Live Your Dream	000		
Dream It, Be It	committee		
☐ Violet Richardson		20166	
Public Awareness			
Fundraising			
Region Specific Committees:			
☐ "S" Club	Redwood Memorial Grove	Laws & Resolutions	
Legislative Advocacy	Financial Review	Committee Chair	
at a Constitution of the c		HARALAGOTORIA MATERIALES HARALAGOTO	
NAME:			
CLUB:			
ADDRESS:	CITY:		
STATE/TERRITORY:	ZIP:		
	HOME PHONE:		
EMAIL:			
Return to Governor-elect Elise Balgley: 40255 Bonica Rose Terrace; Fremont, CA 94538 or email to ebalesq@aol.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.

**Violet Richardson** - This committee requires representatives from each district who are responsible for coordinating and administering the judging for the award at district level for presentation at Region Conference.

**Membership** - A committee of at least one member from each district which serves as a resource for clubs needing assistance with recruitment and retention; acting under the direction of the Region Board in cooperation with Federation for extension, formation, orientation and nurturing of new clubs in the Region.

**Fundraising** - A committee consisting of a chair and representatives from each district who are responsible for overseeing the SIA/Region Program Fundraiser conducted at our annual conference.

**Public Awareness** - A committee of at least three members who assist clubs to increase the visibility of the organization and help to promote the awareness of Soroptimist within the Region. The chair works closely with Federation to develop and implement the necessary resources and strategies to meet public awareness goals.

**"S" Club** - a committee consisting of a chair and interested members. The chair coordinates the region activities of "S" Clubs at the direction of the governor.

Law and Resolutions - reviews current club bylaws to ensure compliance with region and federation bylaws and procedures. Chair confers with the governor as to proposed amendments and resolutions, and, working in conjunction with the Parliamentarian, previews and presents amendments to the region bylaws at the annual business meeting of the region.

**Legislative Advocacy** - coordinates the accumulation and dissemination of information of topics of interest related to our mission and established programs. Works with the governor on a program for Region Conference.

**Financial Review Committee** - A committee consisting of three Founder Region Soroptimist members who have at least two years of experience as an accountant or bookkeeper, and have served at least two years as a club or region treasurer. The committee shall be responsible for conducting the financial review of the Treasurer's Books at the end of each biennium.



Soroptimist International of Calistoga Crab Feed & Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

Our club is celebrating 68 years of service supporting projects dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in our community. Only because of your support have we been able to accomplish our mission.



Please plan to join us on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024, in a new venue for a return to our CRAB FEED & AUCTION—We are thrilled to be holding the event at the Boys & Girls Club of Calistoga!

SI OF CENTRAL SOLANO COUNTY
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND
SOROPTIMIST SPEAKEASY
THE ROARING
20'S

FEBRUARY 17, 2024 5:30 – 10:00 PM GREEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

DINNER • AUCTION • RAFFLE • MUSIC

AND MORE!

ROARING 20s THEME

\$135 PER PERSON RSVP by February 6, 2024

for more info: lynn.recknagel@sicentralsolano.com



Catch the glitz and glamour of Monte Carlo and support a great cause! May the Luck of the Irish be on Your Side....

\$75 ticket includes gambling chips, a glass of wine or beer, and plentiful hors d'oeuvres. Play the night away with Texas Hold'em, Let It Ride, Blackjack, Poker, and Money Wheel. Win fabulous prizes. Enjoy live music, magic, Celtic tarot card readings, and a silent auction.

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. www.sielcerrito.org

Buy tickets online. Silent auction bidding opens March 1st!

Scan the QR Code or visit: auctria.events/SoroptimistMonteCarlo





SATURDAY, 16 MARCH 2024 FROM 08:30-11:30

Whale Run/Walk 2024

Noyo Headlands Park

### **FOUNDER REGION LINKS**

Website
Facebook
Instagram
Twitter
Violet Richardson Award
"S" Clubs

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Treasurer Forms

### **SIA LINKS**

Website
Facebook
Live Your Dream
Dream It. Be It
Dream Big Campaign
Best for Women Newsletter

### SI LINKS

Website
President's Appeal
SI at the United Nations
2023 Convention-Dublin, Ireland



### CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating their anniversary!

2/2/2020 SI/ Oakmont Wine Country 2/9/1986 SI/ The Marianas 2/18/1956 SI/ Rio Vista



### Region Conference

### 2024 Conference

May 3 - 5, 2024

San Ramon Marriott
San Ramon, CA
Host Clubs:
SI/Novato, SI/Santa Rosa, &
SI/Oakmont Wine Country

### **2023 CONFERENCE PAGE**

Check out the 2023 conference page to view photos, presentations, recordings and the proceedings of the recent Founder Region Conference.

### **SIA** Convention

### 2024 Convention

July 24-27, 2024

Bellevue, Washington

Stay tuned for more info!

Video Hotel/Airline Info



### SI Convention

### 2027 Convention

**SIA Hosting** 

July 2027

More details to be announced.

**WEBSITE** 



