

2025-2026 Club Year

Founder Region Newsletter

Putting the Puzzle Together



Issue 1 Volume 2

July Governor's Message

Here we are at the beginning of another Soroptimist year. Happy New Year to all of us.

I believe your District Directors are going to be writing about “tips” for Soroptimist in the remainder of this newsletter, so I will give some tips of my own.

Never be discouraged and never give up. If club's fundraiser didn't do so well this time look for key learnings, do some rearranging of the event, and try again. That person you have asked three times to come to a club meeting with no luck, try again. She may just be ready.

Don't limit yourself or your club. Stretch, try something new. You've never been on the Live Your Dream committee before; try it out. Your club has never done a Dream It Be It project before; carefully plan one and see how it goes. I'm not suggesting that you waste time or take inappropriate financial risks. Just be open to new ideas and new things to do.

Enjoy your Soroptimist membership. The things we do in Soroptimist are not always a laugh riot; there is a lot of hard work. But if you focus on the enjoyment of helping a woman achieve her dream, getting a high school girl off to a better start in life, or having fun with your Soroptimist friends, the work seems easier.

Appreciate yourself and others. We are all volunteers doing the best we can with whatever task is at hand. Sometimes things don't go perfectly or get done exactly how we would like them to be done. That's okay. It can be a lesson learned. Thank yourself and the other people involved and move on to the next thing with new knowledge.

Let's all try these things, and we will truly have a happy new year.

See you soon,

Governor Elise

Fundraising- Chair Joy Swank

Greetings and Happy July fellow Soroptimists,

I know many clubs go dark this month, but my job is year-round.

This month I would like to encourage you all to become [Stargazers](#)!

The cost is small, the benefits large for women and girls. For as little as \$5.00 a month you can have a tremendous collective impact on our mission of improving the lives of women and girls.

What is five dollars? Times it by over a thousand women and we are talking big money. [Enrollment Form](#)

I have the Stargazer list and can tell you exactly how many members you have signed up. We have five clubs with one member, and several clubs with 14-16 signed up as monthly donors.

Madam Presidents, thank you for encouraging your members to do whatever they can do to make Founder Region the Star of Stargazers! You will get a lovely little Stargazer pin too! Yay, I do love those pins. Thank you for making a difference.

Best wishes, Joy Swank

Membership- Chair Angie Haramoto

Aloha Soroptimist of Founder Region, in last month's newsletter, I included an invitation to New Club Orientation, I hope someone from your club was able to attend. If you missed it, I downloaded the presentation for your club to review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. [PRESENTATION LINK](#)

Programs-Chair Gov.-elect Jackie De Vries

It's a New Club Year, and the Possibilities Are Endless!

Welcome to a fresh Soroptimist club year—full of opportunity, connection, and impact!

I hope you all left the Sunday program at our May Conference feeling revitalized and ready to take on the year ahead. That energy and inspiration will carry us far as we continue our mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

Live Your Dream (LYD) Awards: Let's Get Ready!

Mark your calendars—the LYD online system opens August 1st! Be sure to check out Maida's article for excellent ideas on where to find applicants in your community and beyond.

Some clubs consistently receive more applications than others. That's where our fantastic LYD Chair and District Representatives can help by sharing applications. It's a team effort! Please review each application for eligibility as they arrive—early review makes a huge difference.

And remember: a woman doesn't have to live in your town to be eligible. Maybe she shops there, works there, or plans to move there after finishing school. What matters most is that we're empowering women to Live Their Dreams. When one of us succeeds, we all succeed.

"S" Clubs: Support the Next Generation

Our "S" Clubs will soon be up and running again. If your club has ever considered starting one, now's the time—grants are available to help make it happen. Let's invest in the next generation of women leaders.

Dream It, Be It: Let This Be the Year!

Is this the year your club launches a Dream It, Be It project? If you're ready, Chair Jackie is happy to help you get started. Let's inspire confidence and dreams in girls across our region.

Violet Richardson Award: Your Timeline, Your Choice

For those clubs participating in the Violet Richardson Award, the closing date is up to you—November or December. Updated resources and the new scoring sheet are available online.

Your club winners are due by February 1 to your District Rep.

Let's make this year one to remember. The possibilities truly are endless!

Public Awareness-Chair Sue Pretzer

FIRST IMPRESSIONS MATTER

Welcome to July and a new Club year! It's time to take a closer look at your Club's social media page and perhaps make some needed changes! When someone visits your club's webpage, the opening lines shape their perception and can spark their curiosity. A compelling introduction welcomes guests, sets the tone, and invites engagement. It's your opportunity to convey the heart of your organization—its energy, values, and vision—right from the start.

Visitors may want more information about your Club, may want to view more posts, join your Club, donate, or get in contact. There are several ways to optimize your profile settings to ensure those actions are possible! Use the Intro space (the first thing that visitors see!) to inform about what your Club represents. Ideas for this space include your mission statement, a personal call to action to join, or a combination of both! Save contact information for the About section.

A quick glance around the Facebook pages of some of our Founder Region Clubs reveals what a good Intro section might look like. Check out these FB sites:

SI Richmond; SI Vacaville; SI Santa Rosa, SI Crescent City; SI Central Oahu.



DISTRICT I- DIRECTOR LAURA KOEHLER

I think my most valuable tool for success as a President of my club was to attend the President's Round Table meeting. The information you need is summarized in the agenda with dates, deadlines, links to materials for fundraising, programs and activities. I was able to ask questions in person to my District Director. It was a great opportunity to meet other Presidents in the District and be inspired. Often, a club would raise a problem they had encountered that was also a problem in my club. I could receive feedback from the District Director as well as creative solutions from another club.

DISTRICT II- DIRECTOR DANA HOLVE

One key tip for a successful club year is to include and delegate. When I was president, involving members in planning and giving them ownership of projects made a huge difference in engagement and energy. Clear goals and open communication kept us focused and connected. One of my favorite things is visiting other clubs. This is a great way to see how things are done differently and get fresh ideas. Anyone can visit another club, just ask! It's a simple way to grow, connect, and stay inspired. Your club has everything it needs to thrive. Believe in each other!

DISTRICT III- DIRECTOR NANCY KOSKI

SI/Clear Lake has been enhancing their community for 61 years. Where there is need, members seek to fill it, from building a gazebo in Austin Park in the 1980s, to contributing to Meals on Wheels during the early days of Covid lockdown; from supporting local organizations helping human trafficking survivors, to making blankets and new baby gifts for mothers and children in need. When a LYD applicant did not meet all requirements, the club created a special scholarship because they believed in her. Watch for their Mystery Dinner Theater event September 26, 2025. Have a delightful evening while supporting all their good works!

How does a club help its members feel valued and welcomed? Our club has struggled with that for some time. We are making a concerted effort to be more attentive, being sure to greet every member with a big smile and genuine happiness to see them at each meeting. Everyone needs to feel needed, so we are listening more, and being more active in recruiting our members to participate in fundraising and sit-n-stitch gatherings. The more we do together, the more appreciated we feel. We are still a work-in-progress, but I'm noticing more volunteering and willingness to participate.

DISTRICT IV- DIRECTOR CRYSTAL ARBUTHNOT

Happy Summer from your District Director here in Humboldt County. As we begin a new club year, I want to welcome you all into your new or maybe continuing year. Here are a couple tips I've learned when club President being: keep your meetings on track and focused on the business at hand; incorporate some FUN into them when you can and lastly, when things seem overwhelming: BREATHE!

I've truly enjoyed this first year of being your District IV Director. I look forward to working with the new incoming Presidents, some the same, some new and learning new things together. Have a great summer and see you at our first Round Table in August.

DISTRICT V- TERI LYNN SATO

Welcome to a New Club Year District V! A few key tips for a successful year: 1) Review your Bylaws and Procedures and update as soon as possible if necessary. 2) Set up your committees and ask for volunteers to chair or co-chair them. 3) Club Members: volunteer and take ownership in your club. 4) Get your budget done and approved for 2025-2026. 5) Have these three websites bookmarked: founderregion.org; soroptimist.org; soroptimistinternational.org 6) Schedule your club calendar meeting and events for the year in your own calendar. 7) Finally, enjoy each other's company and have a great year with our Soroptimist Mission! I'm here to support you!





Dream It, Be It, Chair Jackie Arnold

Hello dear Soroptimists! Welcome to July—a fresh month and Club year! The perfect time to renew our commitment to empowering women and girls through our Dream It, Be It programs. July 1 marks the beginning of our Soroptimist year, and together, we can create brighter futures, build confidence, and open doors of opportunity for those who need us most.

Remember, every act of kindness, mentorship, or support makes a difference. Let’s set our goals high and dream big, because with our Soroptimist spirit, there’s nothing we can’t achieve. Here’s to a fantastic July and an incredible year ahead—let’s make it one of purpose, progress, and powerful positive change. Dream it, believe it, be it!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions! jarnoldnow@gmail.com

Live Your Dream, Chair Maída Herbst

Where can clubs find eligible Live Your Dream applicants?

Some of our Founder Region clubs find many eligible LYD applicants. Most of these clubs have established relationships with their local schools and certified job training programs. What if your club is in a community that does not have schools or certified training programs?

Attendees at the recent Founder Region Leadership Trainings discussed this difficult issue and many suggestions emerged. Has your club considered the following suggestions?

- Churches - may know of a qualified applicant
- Childcare facilities - may know a head of household woman who is back in school
- Vocational/technical training schools for any skill i.e. massage and beautician training, auto repair, electronics, plumbing
- G.E.D. programs for women who are completing their high school graduation
- Send out a public service announcement to your local newspaper and radio
- Post flyers in public gathering places

Consider contacting schools and certified job training programs in a nearby town to see if any scholarship candidates live in your area. The woman may live in your community but is receiving her education elsewhere.

Another suggestion from the Leadership Trainings is to partner with near-by Soroptimist clubs who have a lot of applications. Your club can offer to help review applications for a club who has “extras”. Please contact me at MaidaRHIA@aol.com if you want names of clubs who consistently receive many applications.

The application portal opens for the applicants on August 1, 2025. Get ready to promote your club’s program by going to the SIA link on recruiting applicants for the information you need. bit.ly/445RFRE

August 1- Live Your Dream Online System Opens

August- Presidents’ Roundtable- TBD- Directors will contact Presidents

Call to District Meetings 45 days prior to District Meeting

October- District Meetings- District I & II, Oct. 4th, District III & IV, Oct. 11, District V, Oct 18

November- Presidents’ Roundtable- TBD- Directors will contact Presidents

LYD online system Closes on November 15th

Violet Richardson Application due between November and December- club’s option

December- Nominations due for Founder Region Board and Fellowship Board.

Grant submissions to SIA begins

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GIFT.COM



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

“Solving Puzzles by Degrees”

Greetings Founder Region,

As you begin the new club year, you will be working on your 2025-2026 club budget. Please consider making Fellowship contributions a line item in your club budget so you can plan your support of our Region’s identifying project.

- Donate \$1,000/year and name a Fellow every year
- Donate \$500/year and name a Fellow every 2 years
- Budget for more than one Fellow/year to honor more members
- Donate any amount in honor of your board members for their service
- Update your bylaws to make Fellowship your club’s **“charity of choice”** for memorial contributions for members and their immediate families
- Honor your members with donations to Fellowship for club milestone anniversaries and special recognitions

Fellowship will soon begin our process for selection of next year’s grant awardees. We will be opening the application portal on September 15th and hope to be able to give more awards. However, to give more awards, we need our donations to increase. 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.

Don’t forget to purchase your opportunity drawing tickets for a chance to win the beautiful **“One Block Wonder”** quilt made by District II Fellowship Director Kay Kelley. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and can be purchased directly from Director Kay. Our drawing will take place after the District V Meeting in October. Please refer to the May Founder Region newsletter for information and a photo of the quilt.

Our beautiful T-shirts are still available for purchase. You can contact your Fellowship Director to purchase one 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 below.

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.

