



FOUNDER REGION, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

January 2024 Volume 2. Issue 7

## **JANUARY NEWS**LETTER

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Welcome 2024! After taking a short time off to devote to family, I am now back to club and region activities in full swing! The women and girls we are committed to helping face many challenges and obstacles and that makes our work even more important. I am so proud of our clubs in Founder Region as we continue to use our resources to aid many women and girls in need.

We are now entering our awards season. Hope-

fully, each club is in the process of selecting their

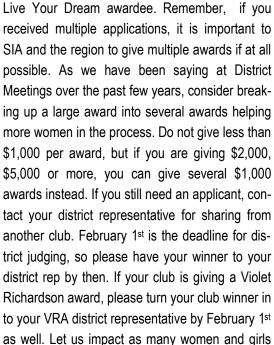
helping half a million women and girls achieve their goals by 2031!

Our 2024 Conference planning is underway so mark your calendars for May 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information as we have it available.

Happy New Year to all of you and may 2024

be an amazing year for you and for your club. Governor Vicki

\*\*\*Note: If you do not know the name of your district representative for our awards, look it up in the roster found on the Resources page on the Founder Region website!



#### 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



### Fun for Fellowship

Happy New Year Founder Region!

As we begin a new year, we hope you will plan something special to celebrate Fellowship in February. Next month is designated as "Fun for Fellowship" month 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)

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** 

#### MEET CRYSTAL KWOK 2022 Fellowship Recipient

Crystal Kwok holds a PhD in Performance Studies and an advanced Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is an award winning filmmaker who established her career in Hong Kong as an actress, writer, director, and controversial talk show host. Her debut feature film, *The Mistress*, won the Audience Choice Awards at the Deauville Asiatic Film Festival and her Cable TV and RTHK radio talk show pushed boundaries in Hong Kong, addressing socially sensitive topics around sexuality and the body.

She has taught courses in Women and Film/ Media at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and currently is a lecturer at the University of Hong Kong. Her latest film production, *Blurring* the Color Line, examines race-relations between the Chinese and Black communities.



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
Email:

2022.2024Fellowship@gmail.com Treasurer Email:

FRFellowshipTreasurer2022.2024@gmail.com
Address:

3505 Pine Street, Eureka, CA 95503



This documentary was streamed nationally on PBS under America ReFramed and has won multiple awards including Best Documentary at the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Film Festival, Courage Award at DisOrient Film Festival, and the Mira Nair Rising Female Filmmaker Award at the Harlem International Film Festival. Through both creative and scholarly work, Crystal is committed to breaking boundaries and amplifying voices of women and marginal communities.

### February Event

The Fellowship Board will be holding a region-wide Zoom event for "Fun for Fellowship" month on **Sunday**, **February 4th**, to learn more about Fellowship and have some fun!

- Hear from past Fellowship Winner Crystal Kwok
- Download a Bingo card to play for prizes & learn about our Region's identifying project
- All donors during event will be entered into a drawing for an instant Fellow if total contributions equal \$1,000 (Those are great odds!)

Register in advance for this meeting.

Click this <u>link</u> to get your Bingo Card.

Just print one of the pages to play!



### Fundraising - Chair Gina Moore

Happy New Year!!!

Let's start off Fundraising with a Bang! I know I have talked about Laurel Society, Founders Pennies, and Club Giving but another way to fundraise is through Facebook. If you use social media, you may have noticed that it has its own fundraising platform. It is an incredible way to invest in the dreams of women and girls, get your

family and friends involved, and raise awareness!

How to get started:

- Create a Facebook Fundraiser (https://www.facebook.com/fund/soropti mist/)
- Share your story and invite your Friends to give
- 3. Ask Friends for Direct Support
- 4. Thank your Donors

Finally, for your Birthday create a Fundraiser to help provide hope and opportunity to women and girls around the world; you couldn't give a better gift. Here's to an amazing 2024.



### Membership - Chair Lyn Lurbe

#### BE A CANDLE

This month, I was fortunate enough to attend a Soroptimist Christmas party aside from my own club's party. It was simple, fun, and enjoyable with really good food, good company, and a beautiful setting right on the water. There were so many favors per person on the table because with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the party coordinator forgot to assign one-two members to take charge of the favors, so the members who attended made favors for everyone and

each person had at least ten favors (maybe more) on the table! FUN! One of the favors caught my attention, it was a small handmade wooden box with a rolled poem inside. The poem reminded me of who we are as a Soroptimist, and it read.

#### Be A Candle

A candle is but a little thing,
It starts with just a bit of string,
yet rolled and formed with a patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand,
Until complete, red, blue, or white,
it gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string, Each deed we do, a simple thing, Yet day by day if on life's strand, We work with a patient heart and hand, It gathers joy, makes dark days bright, And gives a warm and lovely light.

This holiday season and for the days to come, continue to BE A CANDLE for someone!



### Public Awareness - Chair Kris Chorbi

New Year, New Zoom

Dress up your next Zoom meeting with a <u>beautiful new background!</u> Whether you want to sparkle or show off Soroptimist colors, there is an option for you! Need help applying your Zoom background? <u>Learn more</u>.

Reaching Greater Heights in 2024 A Special New Years Message for Soroptimists!

WATCH VIDEO

#### In Memoriam

Susan (Lompa) Joyce Founder Region Governor July 1988 - January 1990

1984-1986 SI/A Growth and Development Committee Member 1986-1988 SI/A Growth and Development Committee Chair

**Soroptimist International of Richmond** Theme: "We Are One in Service Spirit"

She will be dearly missed.



Submit your club event details to <a href="mailto:kchorbi5@yahoo.com">kchorbi5@yahoo.com</a> by the 10th of each month for sharing in this newsletter.

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

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope 2024 is off to a great start for you and your clubs.

This is a busy time of year.

By now, your club Live Your Dream Award judging should be complete, and the results turned into your District Live Your Dream representative. I am hoping there will be great results in our Region this year.

For clubs doing a Violet Richardson Award, be sure to get your awardee's name(s) to your District Chair by February 1, 2024. I look forward to hearing about those amazing young women.

Keep going on your big Goal Accelerator Projects. I am hearing lots of highly creative ideas. That is exactly the process we need. Make sure to report your projects as you do them.

On March 1, 2024, Soroptimist Club grant applications are due. This is a great way to obtain funding for a project your club otherwise might not be able to complete.

As always, if I can be of any assistance on any of your "Program" questions, let me know. If I don't know, I will find out.

#### **Soroptimist Club Grants**

The application system is open and we are excited to read your <u>Big Goal eligible grant applications!</u> Be sure to apply by March 1 and review our <u>Tips For Applying</u> beforehand

# Let's Get Ready for Bellevue! Convention Registration

Early registration for SIA's 48th Biennial Convention will open soon! Stay tuned for details. #SIAConv2024.
Learn more.

### "S" Club - Chair Joy Swank

Most of you have been very quiet lately. I know our own Region Treasurer Tess is busy helping with her club's efforts to launch an "S" Club. Yay Tess and all of our fellow Soroptimists.

I would love to hear from more of you about how you are supporting the "S" Clubs in your area. Send me anything about your "S" clubs you would like to see in print next year.

Best wishes and Yay us as we continue to encourage and support our youth.

The "S" Club Outstanding Senior Award, specific to Founder Region, is offered solely for the purpose of honoring an outstanding high school senior who is a member of an "S" Club in Founder Region. Nominations for this award are submitted by clubs with the selection to be made by the "S" Club committee. The number and value of this annual award is to be determined by the Region Board. DOWNLOAD APPLICATION

DEADLINE TO APPY - MARCH 1 "S" Club Resources Page

For more information, contact the Region "S" Club Chair, Joy Swank, at

soroptimistjoy@gmail.com.



#### **NEW "S" CLUB LOGO**

### Dream It, Be It - Bev Gomer

There is a new provider for background checks. It is linked on this page. Check out the very helpful FAQs page.

All club members involved in any project working with youth, i.e., Dream It, Be It, need to complete a background check and the required training.

SIA recommends using the background check vendor Hire Image <a href="https://soroptimist.quickapp.pro/apply/applicant">https://soroptimist.quickapp.pro/apply/applicant</a>, but clubs are welcome to use another source.

## Dream It, Be It Evaluation Reports Reminder

In December 2023, SIA sent me a list of all clubs who have submitted their DI,BI reports starting July 1, 2023. Not a single club in Founder Region was listed! Clubs: please submit the DI,BI project report (link here) report their projects ideally within 30 days of project completion.

I have since completed the report for the Martinez Club. It was quick and painless.

- I read the Evaluation Worksheet first as recommended.
- I made a copy of the report so I could tally the responses before completing

- the online report, which sped up the process.
- I could have saved my work midway, but I finished before I needed to.
- I immediately received an email from SIA upon completion telling me that my report had been successfully received, with a PDF attachment of my report.

Don't delay in submitting your DI,BI Evaluation Report! Please contact me if you have questions or if I can help.





#### SIA President Bobbi Enderlin

It's the most wonderful time of the year! As Soroptimists, we usually take a deep breath in December and spend time with family and friends. I hope you all are able to do that. There are women and girls that don't have the means to celebrate much with their family and friends. This is a good time to look around your community and see what you can do to make someone else's holiday a nice one. Many of our clubs do a gift exchange, but more and more of you are bringing gifts to give out in your community. I am so proud of our Soroptimist organiza-

tion, because we are always looking for ways to help out. After the holidays are over, most of us are in the throes of fundraising, planning our Live Your Dream Award celebration events, working on our Dream It Be It programs and more. It is the most wonderful time of the year!

Don't forget to invest in yourself and plan to attend your region conference in the spring, and then off to Bellevue Washington for the 48th Biennial SIA Convention! We have lots of inspiration, education and fun planned as we hold our first face-to-face convention since 2018. Clubs will be invoiced in January 2024 for the "Mandatory Convention Fee" which helps us keep the cost down for

our individual members. If this fee is a hardship for your club, be sure and apply for the \$200 discount available through an application process. Any questions, please contact siahq@soroptimist.org.

Happy New Year!

Share the Joy of Soroptimist!

Bobbi Enderlin

2023-2024 SIA President Member SI/Benicia



### Region Leadership Spotlight

I was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan, the youngest of four children. Go back through the bios and you will find that Governor-elect Elise was born in that same town; I guess we were destined to travel this road together.

I had a happy childhood with many girls my same age in my neighborhood. We played games in the street, ran tin-can telephone lines between our houses, and my father put an ice-skating rink in our backyard every winter. I was very fortunate in that I was able to attend my kindergarten through sixth grade years at Henry Ford's inventive school called Greenfield Village. He had built this attraction from historical buildings he relocated to this 200-acre site. I attended chapel every morning and classes in one room schoolhouses where tourists would often peek in the windows and be amazed that real people were in the buildings. It was an incredible experience and I continue to attend reun-



ions with my classmates every couple of years.

My family moved to Manhattan Beach, CA when I was

15. That was a rough move for me starting high school in a new state when my friends for years still lived in Dearborn. I became active in clubs like the Math club, French club, CSF, and I was treasurer of my high school "S" Club. After graduating, I went to UCSB and graduated with a degree in Lighting Design & Technical Theatre. Not wanting to travel with theatre groups, I changed careers to the accounting field because of my love for math, never to look back at theatre.

Fast forward, I got married, moved to Fremont, had four children of my own and spent about 30 years in corporate accounting. I didn't have much time for outside activities of my own, but I made sure I was able to attend my kids' sporting events and went on every field trip I could possibly fit in. However, life with my first husband was less than wonderful and, fortunately, end-



ed in divorce. I married my current husband, Roger, and after we both retired, we moved to Willits for a much slower paced life.

I got involved in Soroptimist shortly after moving to Willits. Soroptimists allowed me to get out and meet new friends and get involved in the Willits community. Because Willits had a very small club, I wanted to branch out and get into leadership which brought me to the Founder Region board. My years on the board have been the best for me. I have learned so much about myself and have made the best lifelong friends. I am truly grateful for this journey and I very much enjoy being your current governor.

#### Live Your Dream Reminders

Reminder: All *Live Your Dream* Awards Club Reports are Online Only!

As your club makes your final decisions about the *Live Your Dream Awards*, be sure that you follow the updated reporting process by report-

ing your club's participation online through the online reporting form. The questions are virtually unchanged from the transmittal of the past, but we have created a step-bystep video and handout to help you navigate the new form. Reports are due February 1 (if your region has district judging) or February 15 (if your region does not have district judging). Questions?

#### **Live Your Dream**

Debbie Coles, Chair

District I - Carolyn Bolton

District II - Dana Holve

District III - Maida Herbst

District IV - vacant

District V - Wendy McDonald





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

## Whale Run/Walk 2024

Noyo Headlands Park

Proceeds benefit Soroptimist of Benicia Safehouse in partnership with SafeQuest and projects and programs for women and girls education and training



### 6TH ANNUAL SIP WITH SOROPTIMIST

An evening of Wine Tasting, Food and Music

Raffle | Silent Auction | Wine Pull | Whiskey Tasting

Saturday, February 3, 2024 6:30-10 pm The Clock Tower, 1189 Washington St. Benicia

For tickets: Eventbrite.com \$85.00 per ticket

# **BUNCO**

### **TOURNAMENT**

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF ANTIOCH



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 NOON - 3:00PM

\$20.00

FOR TICKETS
CONTACT
MARY ANN
REDDEN:
925-586-3161



DELTA VILLA ESTATES
CLUBHOUSE
1900 VENICE LANE
OFF E. 18TH ST & ATHENS
ANTIOCH
PLEASE PARK IN DESIGNATED
AREAS ONLY
NO PARKING ON THE STREET

- **SNACKS**
- RAFFLE PRIZES
- **DOOR PRIZE**

Soroptimist International of the Delta



Share the Love **BUNCO** 



Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Doors open 5:30 p.m. BUNCO starts at 6:30 p.m.

Brentwood Senior Center 193 Griffith Lane

Cash prizes
Raffle baskets
Door prize

\$35
Tickets include:
BUNCO and dinner

Tickets at: Gursky Ranch or any Soroptimist Member

Donate new women's socks and receive an extra door prize ticket!

#### **FOUNDER REGION LINKS**

<u>Website</u> <u>Facebook</u> <u>Instagram</u> <u>Twitter</u> <u>Violet Richards</u>

<u>Violet Richardson Award</u> <u>"S" Clubs</u>

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!

12/9/1995 SI/ St. Helena Sunrise

1/8/1954 SI/ Crescent City

1/9/1954 SI/ Arcata

1/9/1982 SI/ Eel River Valley

1/28/2005 SI/ Windsor



### 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!

<u>Video</u>



### SI Convention

#### 2027 Convention

**SIA Hosting** 

July 2027

More details to be announced.

**WEBSITE** 



