



## September Governor's Message

Like anything that is worth doing, Soroptimist can be hard sometimes. Am I doing enough for my club? Are the other members involved in my club? Is my club doing enough? How can we do all these things? I want to give you some thoughts to hopefully avoid discouragement and burnout.

You, the individual member, are not alone. There are always other members in your club. Turn to them for support. Your club is not alone. There are 7 to 10 other clubs in your district who are sources of information and support. There are four other districts and 45 other clubs in Founder Region, all of whom have the same goals. This is a support system available for you to use.

Don't be afraid of or avoid the resources which Founder Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas, and Soroptimist International have for us. Those resources are not intended to "control" your club or to use resources your club doesn't have right now. They are tools available for your use. Take advantage of them. This newsletter is one of those resources. There is lots of good information here.

Don't look at involvement at the Region or Federation level as taking away from your club. That involvement adds strength to your clubs. Come to the District Meetings in October. You may learn something either from the formal presentations or from simply talking to the other members attending. In November, attend your Presidents' Round Tables. More opportunities to learn and get support. Region Conference will be on May 1-3 in San Ramon. From July 22-25, 2026, will be SIA's Biennial Convention in Incheon, South Korea. Your advance planning can start now.

Failing all else, call or email me. I listen well and am a great cheerleader.

See you soon.

**Governor Elise**



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

**October-** 10/3 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Soroptimist **District Meetings-** 10/4 (D I & II), 10/11 (D III & IV), and 10/18 (DV)

**November-** LYD online system closes 11/15

**December 1-** Nominations due for Region Board and Fellowship Board SIA Grant applications open.

**January 15-** Early LYD submissions due for opportunity drawing ticket

**February 1-** LYD and Violet Richardson Awards due to District Reps.

**March 24-** Call to Caucus (virtual)

**May 1-3-** Region Conference-San Ramon Marriott

**June-** Leadership Trainings, June 6- DI & DII, June 13 DIII & IV, and June 20 (DV virtual)

# PILLARS

## Fundraising~Joy Swank, Chair

Happy September Soroptimist Friends,

One of my favorite months, my sister, oldest son and two grandsons are Sept. babies! Yay!  
My guess is you are busy launching your new club year. Up to your eyeballs in fundraising too. Many clubs have super ideas and are willing to share them. Let me know if you need any suggestions or want me to highlight your club

### Speaking of fundraising:

You recently received **Fellowship tickets**, please do support this fabulous region program. No other Region in SIA has such a program. Hats off to the brilliant women who started this many, many years ago.

Happy fall to all, warmest regards

Your lovely Fundraising chair Joy Swank

## Membership~ Angie Haramoto, Chair

### Your Voice Matters! - Because it does.

The Founder Region District Meetings will be here soon, and SIA has some important information for us. A presentation will be made at the District Meetings by the Membership Committee Reps. Your District Directors serve on the Membership committee. Be sure and attend to hear all of the results of the membership survey.

## Programs~ Jackie De Vries, Chair

**LIVE YOUR DREAM** Here is the handy LYD Tool Kit: [LYD Toolkit](#)

LYD District Reps: District I- [Jennifer Chiarelli](#), District II- [Judy Lloyd](#), District III- [Nancy Glitner](#), District IV- [Debbie Coles](#), and District V- [Wendy MacDonald](#) Live Your Dream Chair- [Maida Herbst](#)  
Keep up the good work.

**REMEMBER-** submit your Club winner by Jan. 15 to your Rep. and your club will receive an additional entry into the conference drawing.

### **VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARDS**

*Please welcome our newest Violet Richardson Rep- Laurie Gallian for District III!*

**Violet Richardson Reps:** District I- Carol Dippel, District II-Jan Schults, District III- Laurie Gallian, District IV-Dyann O'Brien, and District V- Rene Tokanaga

**Reminder-** there is a new application online and new judging sheets [EVALUATIONS](#)

## Public Awareness~ Sue Pretzer, Chair

### Is Your Club Brochure Ready to Shine?

When was the last time you refreshed your club's brochure? Now's the perfect moment!

SIA has created a stunning, professional bi-fold brochure template that's fully customizable, easy to print, and designed to help you showcase your club in the best light. Just add your club's details, highlight our inspiring Dream Programs, and you're ready to start attracting new members!

The brochure is available as a PowerPoint file for simple editing—no design experience needed.

Need a hand? Have questions?

Laurie Sutton, our Communications and Publications Manager, is just an email away at [laurie@soroptimist.org](mailto:laurie@soroptimist.org). She's happy to help!



**Get started now and let your club's story shine!**

[Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.](#)



## District I- District Director Laura Koehler

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, Districts I and II will be holding their District meeting at the Concord Senior Citizen Center. All members are encouraged to attend this informative event. This year our program will be focusing on Membership, as many clubs have reported difficulty maintaining existing membership and encouraging new people to join their clubs. Please join us to problem solve, produce new ideas and generate specific creative program ideas that will be engaging to all members and encourage new membership. Please be sure to submit registration for your club by September 24, 2025.

## District II- District Director Dana Holve

Soroptimist International of American Canyon 2018 supports seniors and promotes awareness. Last year, 102 butterflies were displayed to symbolize the 102 intimate partner violence cases in American Canyon. This October, the club will expand its Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Campaign with bold lawn signs, business displays, and educational resources highlighting the impact of intimate partner violence. Two art structures, one at the library and another at a central location, will serve as reminders and share information on how to take action. Through these efforts, SI/American Canyon 2018 fosters hope, resilience, and unity while confronting intimate partner violence.

## District III- District Director Nancy Koski

District III clubs are buzzing with activity, planning events and fundraisers, checking their LYD portals for applications, and so much more.

- In addition to planning for their big Spring fashion show, luncheon, and silent auction, SI/Novato is co-hosting District III & IV Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> and hosting the Meet & Greet the night before.
- SI/Calistoga is planning their Spring Crab Feed for March 7, 2026.
- SI/Napa is holding a "Funding Your Future" workshop on September 17, for women to learn about available scholarships and grants in the Napa Valley. And they are gearing up for their big Lobsterfest on October 18.
- And don't forget SI/Clear Lake's "A Taste for Murder & Wine" event September 26.
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## District IV- District Director Crystal Arbuthnot

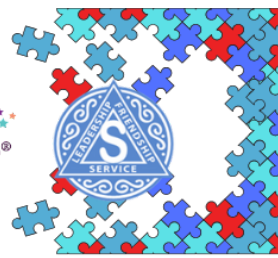
Greetings from Dist. IV the focus this month is SI/Crescent City located the farthest north, in Del Norte County., Crescent City Club – President Linda Perry

They hold the famous "Cow Chip Bingo" as one of their fundraisers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This tradition has been going on for years and is what helps fund their scholarships to seniors. They are doing a new fundraiser this year during breast cancer awareness month – "Bras for a Cause" – which will be raffled off along with other prizes and the fund will benefit local women meet uncovered medical expenses. Even though this club is the farthest north, they still manage to send a few members to conference every year and organize the annual memorial grove.

## District V- District Director Teri Lynn Sato

Hafa Adai! (the traditional greeting in the Chamorro language of Guam and the Mariana Islands, meaning "hello" or "welcome")

SI/Guam, chartered March 8, 1978; is located across the Pacific Ocean 3,817 miles from Honolulu; 5,810 miles from Oakland. Led by President Grace Bordallo, 24 members strong, they have commenced advertising the Violet Richardson Awards with a news release in their Pacific Daily News. Their fundraiser is on its way too! To start the year off, with their club talent, they are selling hand sewn potholders and hot pepper jelly. Let us know if potholders might interest you. Also, Congratulations and Thank You to member Joiz Salas for your second-level Fellow. Thank you, SI/Guam, for your service and making a difference to empower women and girls in Guam.



## Dream It, Be It- Jackie Arnold-Chair

It's the start of another exciting Soroptimist year, and that means it's the perfect time to start planning your Dream It, Be It programs! Now is the season to get your Dream It, Be It chairs in place, gather your teams, and begin shaping the opportunities that will inspire girls in your community. There is plenty of time to plan, create, and deliver meaningful projects that will empower the next generation to dream big and believe in themselves. Founder Region is here to support you every step of the way, and we can't wait to see the creativity, passion, and impact your clubs bring forward this year. Let's make this Dream It, Be It season our best yet!

## Live Your Dream- Maida Herbst-Chair

Now is the time to recruit Live Your Dream applicants! Use this link to give potential applicants more information <http://bit.ly/LYDA-apply>

The application system (formerly known as the portal) opened to applicants on August 1. Please make sure the correct club LYD chair is listed on your online club roster, so she receives all the important communications from SIA.

Note to club LYD chairs, don't forget to sign the confidentiality agreement! You might be able to access your account, but you won't be able to see any submitted applications until SIA receives your confidentiality agreement. Use this link: [bit.ly/3HKSIEV](http://bit.ly/3HKSIEV)

The Application System has some changes. There is more financial information requested so there is potential for more blanks and need for follow-up with the applicants. Each club LYD chair should print out the new application to see the changes. [APPLICATION](#)

Clubs can now have co-chairs who both have access to the Application System. Email me if you want to add a LYD co-chair.

Eligibility - quickly review your applications as they come into your application system and if they are ineligible, update the Application System so you only have eligible candidates.

Please consider giving one more award if your club budget allows. A runner-up would be pleased to receive \$500 if she was not in your top candidates. We want to help more women live their dreams.

Thank you for all you do - we could not accomplish this without you.

Maida Herbst  
Founder Region Chair Live Your Dream Program  
707-337-7673 (before 8PM)  
[MaidaRHIA@aol.com](mailto:MaidaRHIA@aol.com)

For Newsletter questions/comments  
[founderregionemail@gmail.com](mailto:founderregionemail@gmail.com)

Mailing address: 7698 Surrey Lane,  
Oakland, CA 94605

## "S" Clubs- Dawn Shepherd-Chair

Hello Soroptimists!!!

Wow! The new school year has already started, hard to believe! I wanted to provide a little background on S-Clubs that you may want to share with your "S" Clubs.

"S" Clubs are service clubs within the High School. They follow the Soroptimist mission and members are selected to hold the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Not only do the "S" Club members learn valuable leadership skills, but they learn about Soroptimist and what we do. Each "S" Club has a Soroptimist liaison assigned to their club, as well as a school Faculty ("S"-Club) Advisor.

As an "S" Club Liaison you are the bridge between Soroptimist and the High School Club. Your role with the "S" Club and the High School is to bring awareness to our Soroptimist mission.

Liaisons should help their "S" Clubs create their own vision for their school year and help guide them in service projects of their choosing.

Now is the best time for all "S" Club liaisons to meet with the Advisor and "S" Club Board to introduce yourself and offer ideas that may help them at their school club recruiting fair.

I encourage all liaisons to attend the "S" Club meetings when you can, as it helps promote a healthy relationship with the school and encourages young people to be involved. Have a fun September!





## FELLOWSHIP REPORT

### “Solving Puzzles by Degrees”

Founder Region Fellowship is looking forward to the upcoming 2025 District Meetings in October. Please start preparing your club's basket, with at least a \$75 value, for our Fellowship Fundraiser. The theme is **“Solving Puzzles by Degrees!”** By now your club should have received your tickets for this fundraiser; \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Encourage your club members to purchase the tickets for a chance to win one of the beautiful baskets, or perhaps an instant Fellow; we will be drawing for Fellows as our ticket sales reach \$1,000. You can sell to others outside your club as well, so if you run out of tickets, be sure to contact your District Fellowship Director or President Vicki to receive additional tickets.

District Meeting will also be your opportunity to visit the Fellowship table and learn more about what we do and how you can help. Fellowship is funded almost entirely by the membership so we encourage you to consider making a one-time donation or 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. The Fellowship Directors will be on hand to help you with these transactions.

Fellowship will soon begin our process for selection of next year's grant awardees. We 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.

District Meetings will be your final opportunity to purchase your 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. The quilt will be on display at all three meetings; our drawing will take place after the District V Meeting in October.

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.

Please contact your Fellowship Director with any questions you may have regarding our fundraisers or Fellowship in general. She is always ready and willing to help.

We hope to see many of you next month at the upcoming meetings.

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](http://www.founderregionfellowship.org)

Email:

[vickiham01@gmail.com](mailto:vickiham01@gmail.com)

Treasurer Email:

[danelletegarden@gmail.com](mailto: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.



# FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP



## OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

### Opportunity Drawing to Benefit Founder Region Fellowship Program

Tickets on sale now  
through October 19<sup>th</sup>,  
2025 . The quilt will be  
displayed at all district  
meetings

The Drawing will be held  
at the District V Meeting  
in Maui, Hawaii

**TICKETS 1 FOR \$10.00**  
**3 FOR \$25**



The Quilt is 94 x 104 and can be used on either a Queen or King-size bed. It is made of the best quality 100 % cotton from the Asian fabric designed by Robert Kauffman. The batting is woven bamboo, and it is machine washable. The Quilt's design is called "One Block Wonder";

For Information about purchasing tickets  
before the district meetings, contact  
District II Director Kay Kelley  
[kaykelley221813@gmail.com](mailto:kaykelley221813@gmail.com)

Need not be present to win!



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Investing in Dreams