



FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
2020 Virtual Business Meeting
May 2, 2020
Via Zoom Conference

Governor Sylvia opened the session at 6:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first and hopefully last Virtual Founder Region Conference due to our shelter in place from the Covid19 pandemic. She introduced President Pam who continued our Founder Region Fellowship Annual Business Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

- I.** President Pam welcomed everyone to one of the longest Fellowship Business Meetings stating that it had started with the Caucus Conference Call on March 22, 2020 and is concluding tonight. She thanked everyone and hoped that everyone joined in to the Fellowship Awards Celebration and Presentation last night (May 1, 2020.)
- II.** President Pam stated that our FR Fellowship Treasurer's Report for July 1, 2018-March 31, 2020 will be submitted for financial review and is available to membership upon request.

III. Adoption of Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Credentials Chair, Loretta Tognoli (SI/Ukiah):

Clubs in Founder Region	54
Clubs Eligible to Vote	52
Clubs Not in Good Standing	2
Clubs Registered	49
Total Voting Clubs	49

Delegates Registered:

Fellowship President	1
Fellowship Directors	6
Region Officers	4
District Directors	6
Club Delegates	144
Total Delegates	161

Quorum for Opening Session	81
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Credential Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
2020 Virtual Business Meeting
Page 2**

IV. Adoption of Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #2 was presented by Credentials Chair, Loretta Tognoli (SI/Ukiah):

Clubs in Founder Region	54
Clubs Eligible to Vote	52
Clubs Not in Good Standing	2
Clubs Registered	50
Total Voting Clubs	50
Delegates Registered:	
Fellowship President	1
Fellowship Directors	6
Region Officers	4
District Directors	6
Club Delegates	147
Total Delegates	164
Quorum for Opening Session	83

Credential Report #2 was adopted by the delegates.

V. Minutes of the Previous Business Meeting

The minutes of the FRF Business Meeting held at the Founder Region Conference on May 4, 2019 were approved via the on-line voting.

VI. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2020

The following 6 (six) FRF 2020 proposed bylaw amendments were presented and each were voted unanimously to adopt.

**ARTICLE V, Directors and Officers
Section 3**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 3. A secretary and treasurer shall be elected from the incoming FRF Board of Directors at their first meeting held after the election.	Section 3. A secretary shall be elected from the incoming FRF Board of Directors at their first meeting held after the election.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Financial Impact: None.

Rationale:

NOTE: Please see Proposed Bylaw Amendment ARTICLE V. Section 4 for Advantages, Disadvantages and Rationale.

FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP

2020 Virtual Business Meeting

Page 3

VI. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2020 cont.:

ARTICLE V, Directors and Officers

Section 4 (new) – as amended

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
	Section 4. A treasurer shall be elected from the membership at the annual conference beginning in 2022. For the 2020-2022 biennium, the treasurer shall be appointed by the incoming Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) President from applications submitted by members of Founder Region. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the board of directors.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: The FRF Board of Directors cannot always be guaranteed that a board member will have an accounting background and thorough knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting skills. Having someone serving in the position of treasurer will also free up the time previously spent by a FRF District Director who held the position and allow her/him to serve in the District Director position to which they were elected without adding additional responsibilities.

Disadvantages: The first biennium that this would be effective would require an appointment to the position, which would require that the Incoming FRF President be prepared to appoint a member with adequate accounting skills.

Financial Impact: None. Because of the region re-districting, the number of district directors will be reduced to five rather than previously having had six directors. Adding an (appointed) elected treasurer would mean that the number of members of the FRF board would remain at six plus the President.

Rationale: Elected district directors for FRF may or may not have qualifying accounting skills which would allow for one director to serve as the FRF treasurer. By having an elected treasurer from the membership, the board will be assured that there will be someone with accounting skills to ensure that bookkeeping is done properly.

NOTE: Addition of this Section will require a renumbering of Sections in ARTICLE V.

**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
2020 Virtual Business Meeting
Page 4**

VI. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2020 cont.:

**ARTICLE V, Directors and Officers
Section 5**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 5. Nominations. Each club may submit the names of regular members to the Founder Region Nominating Committee. Each District in Founder Region shall thereafter elect one (1) member from that district to be a director. Nominations and elections shall be in accordance with Founder Region Bylaws.	Section 6. Nominations. Each club may submit the names of regular members to the Founder Region Nominating Committee for treasurer and director. Each District in Founder Region shall thereafter elect one (1) member from that district to be a director. The Founder Region membership, beginning in biennium 2022-2024, shall thereafter elect one (1) member of Founder Region to be treasurer. Nominations and elections shall be in accordance with Founder Region Bylaws.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: The FRF Board of Directors cannot always be guaranteed that a board member will have an accounting background and thorough knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting skills. Having someone serving in the position of treasurer will also free up the time previously spent by a FRF District Director who held the position and allow her/him to serve in the District Director position to which they were elected without adding additional responsibilities.

Disadvantages: The first biennium that this would be effective would require an appointment to the position, which would require that the Incoming FRF President be prepared to appoint a member with adequate accounting skills.

Financial Impact: None. Because of the region re-districting, the number of district directors will be reduced to five rather than previously having had six directors. Adding an (appointed) elected treasurer would mean that the number of members of the FRF board would remain at six plus the President.

Rationale: Elected district directors for FRF may or may not have qualifying accounting skills which would allow for one director to serve as the FRF treasurer. By having an elected treasurer from the membership, the board will be assured that there will be someone with accounting skills to ensure that bookkeeping is done properly.

**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
2020 Virtual Business Meeting
Page 5**

VI. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2020 cont.:

**Article V, Directors and Officers
Section 2**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 2. There shall be six (6) directors who are representatives of the six (6) districts of Founder Region. They shall serve for a biennium or until their successors take office.	Section 2. There shall be five (5) directors who are representatives of the five (5) districts of Founder Region. They shall serve for a biennium or until their successors take office.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: Updates to reflect new redistricting for Founder Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale: To bring Directors and Officers current in regards to redistricting, voted on at 2019 Conference, effective July 1, 2020.

**Article V, Directors and Officers
Section 9. Vacancies. b.**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 9. Vacancies. b. If a vacancy occurs in the office of director, the FRF Board of Directors shall appoint a director from the membership of the designated district vacated to serve until the annual meeting where an election to fill such a vacancy is held, providing the nominee meets the requirements as set forth in these bylaws. A vacancy or vacancies on the board shall be deemed to exist in the event of a death, resignation, or removal of any director, or if the authorized number of directors is increased.	Section 10. Vacancies. b. Director If a vacancy occurs in the office of director, the FRF Board of Directors shall appoint a director from the membership of the designated district vacated to serve until the annual meeting where an election to fill such a vacancy is held, providing the nominee meets the requirements as set forth in these bylaws. A vacancy or vacancies on the board shall be deemed to exist in the event of a death, resignation, or absence/ removal of any director, or if the authorized number of directors is increased.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: To allow “absence” as opposed to only “removal”

Financial Impact: None

Rationale: To allow “absence” as opposed to only “removal”

FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP

2020 Virtual Business Meeting

Page 6

VI. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2020 cont.:

ARTICLE V, Directors and Officers

Section 9. Vacancies. c. (new)

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
	Section 10. Vacancies. c. Treasurer If a vacancy occurs in the office of treasurer, the FRF Board of Directors shall appoint a treasurer from the membership of FR to serve until the annual meeting where an election to fill such a vacancy is held, providing the nominee meets the requirements as set forth in these bylaws. A vacancy or vacancies in the office of treasurer shall be deemed to exist in the event of a death, resignation, or absence/ removal of treasurer.

Proposed by: The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors

Advantages: To allow “absence” as opposed to only “removal” as it applies to the newly proposed method for selection of treasurer and to ensure a successor is appointed/elected.

Financial Impact: None

Rationale: To allow “absence” as opposed to only “removal” as it applies to the newly proposed method for selection of treasurer and to ensure a successor is appointed/elected.

NOTE: Addition of this Section will require a renumbering of Sub-sections in ARTICLE V. Section 10.

VII. Announcement of the of the 2020-2022 of FR Fellowship Directors

District I – Billie Knight, Soroptimist International of The East Bay

District II – Dana Holve, Soroptimist International of Vacaville Twilight

District III – Nushi Safinya, Soroptimist International of Calistoga

District IV – Crystal Arbuthnot, Soroptimist International of The Redwoods

District V – Denise Ridge, Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation

VIII. Year End Director and President Reports - see attachments

President Pam called for any other business and seeing none, she called the 2019-2020 72nd Annual Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Schults
Secretary - Founder Region Fellowship
District II Fellowship Director
Sorooptimist International of the Americas
Founder Region Fellowship President's Report, May 2020
Pam Parker

I would truly like to thank Governor Sylvia for appointing me President of Founder Region Fellowship for 2018-2020. It has been such a rewarding experience these past two years. The biennium was filled with many things: opportunities, learning experiences, growth, expanding our program to more doctoral students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and two of the things I am most proud of - working together to bring changes for our membership to our Fellowship fundraising and introducing our new, beautiful Fellow pins....all the way to the tenth level!

I had the pleasure of working with amazing women on our board of directors, meeting members from all over the region and having a role in selecting our amazing Fellowship recipients both years. These memories will never fade.

With our world turned upside down and sideways due to our shelter-in-place enacted because of the Covid19 pandemic, your Founder Region and Founder Region Fellowship leadership teams went above and beyond to bring us an unforgettable and outstanding virtual conference program. Every member of Founder Region should be very proud of the accomplishments made in the last few weeks before conference, bringing us all together when we had to be apart.

If you joined our virtual Friday night Fellowship Awards Celebration, you were part of a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" – being able to see so many smiling faces of members and our recipients, coming together in a way we would never have dreamed possible in 1948 when Fellowship began.

While we could not make presentations "in person", what a gift we were able to give our seven recipients – they met Sorooptimists virtually, they met each other virtually and they shared in our joy of supporting them not only financially but also our gift of empowering them with seeing all of us come together in a platform new to many of us. Our Fellowship board members plan to stay in touch with Jessica, Sharon, Derrika, Joanna, Katerina, Solange and Priscilla. Wouldn't it be nice if we could include them in next years' conference along with our 2021 recipients, celebrating Fellowship as well as our Sorooptimist 100th Anniversary?

Please read each of the Fellowship District Directors' reports – not just the one from your district. Reading these will open your eyes as to what happens in each district and you can see how all six districts rallied together to make our 2018-2020 biennium a huge success.

Each director has a list of Fellows (as we know it) and will continue to update the list and make any changes necessary. There will also be a PowerPoint presentation available to show our Fellows list.

As I said last year, and many of you know this but I am going to repeat it;

Founder Region Fellowship is the identifying project of Founder Region, Sorooptimist International of the Americas. Our mission is to advance the status of women through financial support in the final phases of their doctoral program. We can only continue to do this through fundraising, generous donations and sponsorships.

Our membership embraced our ideas, our goals and presentations in 2019-2020 and we are delighted that so many members have taken advantage of opportunities to contribute to Founder Region Fellowship using tax-smart strategies. We realize this is a long road ahead for our Fellowship program and we are proud to be the ones who started the path for future Fellowship boards to continue to pave the way.

We know that future Fellowship boards will continue with previous Fellowship board members' goals in giving substantial awards to our recipients as well as making sure our program thrives financially and becomes sustainable.

We always thank you from the bottom of our hearts – just as every previous Founder Region Fellowship board has done – for your generosity and your belief in our mission. We want to continue to empower women – just as we did in our virtual awards celebration and as we did at our 2019 Founder Region Conference. We want to succeed and make a difference in the lives of women this year, and every year, who in turn will make a difference in many lives of women in the future. Our recipients are our future.

Your current Fellowship board, as have others, gave the dedication, passion and enthusiasm tirelessly to move in an upward position to make Founder Region Fellowship the best it can be. Thank you to Directors Cheryl, Jan, Teri, Nancy, Crystal and Rena. You never stopped shining.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart and beyond for what you all do to make Founder Region Fellowship successful. I thank you for the opportunity to be able to join the ranks of amazing Past Presidents of Founder Region Fellowship.

Pam Parker
President, 2018-2020

FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP DISTRICT I FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISTRICT: 1

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR: Cheryl Poncini

DATE OF REPORT: April 15, 2020

COVERS THE PERIOD: July 1, 2018 – April 15, 2020

Number of Clubs in District I: Seven

Number of Fellows in District I: 126 Fellows

Number of Monthly Giving Participants: One

Funds Raised by District I at the 2018 & 2019 District Meetings:

2018: \$ 2,250.00

2019: \$ 2,830.00

Funds Raised since July 1, 2018, naming New Fellows or Leveling Up: \$5,500.00

New or Leveling Up Fellows for 2019-2020:

Carol Dippel – S/I Oakland-The Founder Club – 2nd Level Fellow
(Won at the District I Meeting in October 2019)

Sandra Garrett – S/I East Bay – 1st Level Club Fellow

Marlene Leverett – S/I El Cerrito – 10th Level Fellow

Julie Perales – S/I San Ramon Valley – 1st Level Club Fellow

Cheryl Poncini – S/I Oakland –The Founder Club – 7th Level Fellow

What I Love About Being the District I Fellowship Director: I enjoy working with members of the District I clubs as well as meeting Fellowship applicants who are obtaining a higher education which will help to improve the lives of others – particularly women and girls -- through example, work, and leadership.

Thank You to my District I clubs for your support of the Fellowship program and for making my four years as your Fellowship Director interesting and fun!



FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT
Jan Schults, District II Director
2018-2020

- District II is made up of six clubs and has approximately 139 members.
- We have a total of 134 Fellows past and present from Level 1's to Level 3's.
- There is only one member taking advantage of the Monthly Giving program working towards becoming a Fellow or moving to the next level.
- This biennium District II raised \$8,030.22 between District Meeting raffle ticket sales, February Fun for Fellowship, merchandise presales at our Funtastik Fellowship Finds store and the Warrior Bobblehead fundraiser.
- \$10,000.00 has been raised in naming Fellows and those leveling up since July 2018. I anticipate pinning 7 more (an additional \$7,000.00) once the shelter in place is over.
- District II has awarded four new Fellows since July 1, 2019 through raffle ticket drawings:
 - Mary Ann Redden – SI Antioch, received her 3rd Level pin.
 - Bev Gomer – SI Martinez, received her 2nd Level pin.
 - Linda Velarde – SI Pittsburg, received her 1st Level pin.
 - Nora Brown – SI Pittsburg, received her 1st Level pin.

I have loved serving as District II's Director for this biennium as it has given me the opportunity to not only be part of a great team of women who I admire, but the opportunity to help 17 women receive Fellowship awards to achieve their Doctoral degrees in their field of study.

Thank you District II for always welcoming me into your club meetings and events. I'm thankful to have been given this opportunity to garner new skills and ideas to support women who will make a difference by attaining their educational goals.

Thank you so much.

**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP
DISTRICT III DIRECTOR REPORT**

DIRECTOR Teri Malkin

DATE: 4/15/2020



13 CLUBS with 287 Fellows in District III

MONTHLY GIVING SIGNUP: Two

DISTRICT III FUNDS RAISED

Fellows New or Level Up

2018-2019 \$16,000

2019-2020 \$19,300

Fellowship District Meeting Raffle Tickets and other sales

2018 \$5,630

2019 \$7,912

**NEW FELLOWS or Level Up as of
7/1/2019**

1st Level Susan Korcz – SI American Canyon

1st Level Kristen Einberger - SI American Canyon

1st Level Helen Kennedy-Lazar, SI Benicia

1st Level Patricia Butler, SI Benicia

1st Level Penny Stell, SI Benicia

2nd Level Sandra Franchini, SI Benicia

3rd Level Francis Harkins, Benicia

1st Level Sissy Coffen, Benicia

1st Level Mary Beutner, SI Central Solano

2nd Level Fawn Williams, SI Clearlake

1st Level Barbara Bulkley, SI Dixon

1st Level Andrea Knowlton, SI Napa

1st Level Wanda Apel, SI Rio Vista

1st Level Meri Wheeler, SI Rio Vista

2nd Level Hope Cohn, SI Rio Vista

1st Level Jennifer Klingbeil, SI St. Helena

1st Level Noreen Fetzner, SI St. Helena

1st Level Cindi Milani – SI St. Helena

1st Level Yvonne Vosti – SI St. Helena

5th Level Pam Parker -SI St. Helena

6th Level Pam Parker -SI St. Helena

1st Level Ulrike Wilmoth, SI St. Helena Sunrise

1st Level Mary Dickey, SI Vacaville

1st Level Nancy Bennett, SI Vacaville

2nd Level Brandi Palomo, SI Vacaville

Twilight

2nd Level Dana Holve, SI Vacaville Twilight

2nd Level Jackie Arnold, SI Vallejo

3rd Level Jackie Arnold, SI Vallejo

1st Level Shelee Loughmiller, SI Vallejo

1st Level Simone Lane, SI Vallejo

1st Level Lisa Gutierrez-Wilson, SI Vallejo

It has been an honor for me to serve the last two years as District III Fellowship Director. Thank you to the Clubs in District III and their members for their generosity and ongoing support of Founder Region Fellowship.

Nancy Weber
Fellowship Director District IV
Director's Report
April 2020

District IV currently has 10 clubs. Two clubs, Oakmont Wine Country and West Sonoma, were chartered this year. The two new clubs are not yet Fellows and the remaining 8 clubs are Fellows.

Number of Fellows: 117 with two more being named in May for a total of 119

We have 2 monthly giving participants

Funds raised at District Meeting

- 2018 District Meeting - \$2223: Named 2 Fellows
- 2019 District Meeting - \$2165: Named 2 Fellows

Total of funds raised from July 2018 to March 2020

- \$18712, with 13 Fellows being named. Does not include the \$2K from Novato for 2 Fellows TBA in May.

New and leveling up Fellows for 2019-2020

- Madalienne Peters - SI Novato, 4th level, (Conference 2019 drawing)
- Lucy Barnett – SI Santa Rosa, 2nd level, District Mtg drawing
- Jeanne Kerns – SI Santa Rosa, 2nd level, District Mtg drawing
- Maida Herbst – SI Sonoma Valley, 1st Level, Donation (paid in June, 2019)
- Maida Herbst – SI Sonoma Valley, 2nd Level, Donation (paid in June, 2019)
- Maida Herbst – SI Sonoma Valley, 3rd Level, Donation (paid in June, 2019)
- Jean Hopeman – SI Sonoma Valley, 1st Level, Club Donation
- Rose Foster – SI Ukiah, 1st Level, Club Donation
- Joan Mora – SI Windsor, 2nd Level, Donation
- Two Fellows TBA in May for SI Novato, 1st Level, Club Donation (paid in April, 2020)

As District IV's Fellowship Director, it has been my pleasure to work with strong, smart women, who team together with purpose and gratitude, to improve lives of vulnerable women and girls. Thank you, District IV Soroptimists, for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as your Fellowship Director and thank you for your very generous support of the Fellowship program!

**Crystal Arbuthnot
Fellowship Director District V
Director's Report
April 2020**



District 5 started with a total of 10 clubs and currently has 9 clubs. All clubs in my district are Fellows.

Number of Fellows: 163 with one more being named later this year for a total of 164

We have 2 monthly giving participants

Funds raised at District Meeting

- 2018 District Meeting - \$3100: Named 3 Fellows
- 2019 District Meeting - \$3100: Named 3 Fellows

Total of funds raised from July 2018 to March 2020

- \$10350.00: named 8 Fellows as 3 clubs paid half a fellow, so they will finish donating next year.
- total of \$16,550 raised with 14 Fellows being named.

New and leveling up Fellows for 2019-2020

- Lorraine Murphy-SI Fort Bragg, 1st level, District Mtg drawing
- Cori Reed-SI Eureka, 1st level (gifted by Elaine Reed), District Mtg drawing
- Pam Parker-SI St Helena, 6th level, District Mtg drawing
- SI Eureka-TBD, Donation
- Amie McClellan-1st level, SI Redwoods, monthly giving

Being Fellowship director has allowed me to meet a lot of new people and allowed me to get out of my comfort zone to learn new things, especially public speaking.

Thank you for investing in me and giving me the opportunity to serve as your Fellowship director. It's been a pleasure.

**Rena Borja
Fellowship District Director, District VI
Director's Report
April 2020**



District 6 started with a total of 9 clubs with 5 in Hawaii, 2 in Guam, 1 in Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, and 1 in the Republic of Palau. Six clubs are Fellows.

Number of Fellows: 115 members with one being nominated by their club before biennium ends.

We have 5 monthly giving participants

Total funds raised at District Meeting

- 2018 District Meeting -\$3150 Named 3 Fellows and club fellows \$4000
- 2019 District Meeting -\$3035 Named 3 Fellows

Total of funds raised from July 2018 to March 2020

- \$14185: named 8 new Fellows and level up Fellows

New and leveling up Fellows for 2019-2020

- Teri Sato-SI Honolulu 1st level, District Mtg drawing
- Lyn Lurbe-SI Central Oahu 2nd level, District Mtg drawing
- Rena Borja-SI Guam 3rd level, District Mtg drawing
- Anita Haban-Nakamaejo-SI Waikiki 4th level, Club
- Arlene Bordallo-SI Guam 2nd level, Conference drawing
- Geri Cordova-SI Guam 1st level, Conference drawing
- Thelma Ai'Wohi-SI Central Oahu 1st level Club
- Wendy McDonald-SI Maui 1st level, Club
- Elaine Randall-SI Maui 2nd level, Club
- Esther Roberts-SI Honolulu monthly giving
- Elise Carmody-SI Central Oahu monthly giving
- Lisa Johnson-SI Honolulu monthly giving
- Rena Borja-SI Guam monthly giving

The people I have met and interviews with candidates and the generosity of all Soroptimists in founder region and of course the many friends made are among the reasons why I did Fellowship Director second time around. I have enjoyed the four years as District 6 Director.

Thank you to all the members in my district who have invited me to their meetings and events in the various islands. Thank you for the fellowship with other directors and have learned and loved time with them.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Aloha
Masulang!