

# **Thirty-fifth Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings**

The thirty-fifth annual Founder Region Conference was held April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park, CA.

## **Friday, April 29, 2011**

Registration opened at 8:00 am on Friday, April 29, 2011.

The Trade Fair opened at 9:00 am.

Doors were open at 12:45 pm to the Ballroom.

Governor Linda Sue Hansen welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference session "Womenomics", at 1:00 pm; asked that all pagers be turned off; and introduced the platform party.

Governor Linda Sue gave a brief overview of the afternoon schedule. She introduced Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair Dion Weaver.

Legislative Chair Dion introduced featured speaker Kathleen Doub, Vice President and Regional Manager of Bank of the West, Investment Division. Kathleen gave a presentation on Investment Strategies.

Chair Dion then introduced P. Eileen Fisher, SI Martinez who gave a presentation on budgeting.

Chair Dion then introduced Joan Silva, SI Pittsburg who gave a presentation on Identity Theft.

Governor Linda Sue thanked the members of the Legislative Advocacy committee and our speakers.

A delegates briefing presented by Region Parliamentarian Linda McDoniels was held on Friday, April 29 from 2:45 – 3:00 pm.

Conference Coordinator Debbie Thompson made announcements.

Recess 2:50 pm

Governor Linda Sue declared the thirty-fifth annual conference of Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas in session at 7:00 pm.

The presentation of colors was provided by the National Guard Civil Air Patrol, Santa Rosa.

The National Anthem was sung by Susan Joyce, Past Governor.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Yvonne Maciel, President of Soroptimist International of Crescent City who gave the inspiration and Malia Anderson, President of Soroptimist International of Santa Rosa who gave the welcome.

Governor Linda Sue introduced the platform party, and the past governors in attendance. She also had the First Time Attendees stand. There were 64 first time attendees registered.

Governor Linda Sue announced that each table has bags of candy from the 1920s – this evening’s candy is “dum dums.” These were for sale at \$2.00 each. The winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards Founder Region Fellowship.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Director Terry Comiskey, standing in for Fellowship President Joyce Strand (who was present, but had laryngitis) who introduced past Fellowship Presidents who were in attendance. She welcomed everyone to the Fellowship dinner, “Keys of Knowledge.” She also announced that \$60,000.00 will be given away tonight. There were 71 Fellowship applications received, and six women will be receiving grants.

Director Terry announced that fifty-seven new fellows had been named this year and asked each director to announce the new fellows in their respective Districts. Presentations were made by Judy Lee, District VI; Tess Albin-Smith, District V; Linda Simon, District IV; Mina Byrne, District III; Terry Comiskey, District II, and Lynn Levin, District I.

Director Lynn announced the winner of the annual Dorothy Sarnes award, Deanna Hanks.

Director Lynn introduced recipient Yalda Asmatey whose field of study is Anthropology, at the University of California, Berkeley. Yalda shared information about her studies and future plans. Yalda received a \$10,000.00 award.

Director Terry introduced Patience Fielding, whose field of study is Education at University of California, Berkeley. Patience shared information about her studies and future plans. Patience received a \$12,000.00 award.

Director Mina introduced recipient Maria Hernandez whose field of study is Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley. Maria shared information about her studies and future plans. Maria received a \$10,000.00 award.

Director Linda introduced recipient Kimberly Hoang whose field of study is Sociology at University of California, Berkeley. Kimberly shared information about her studies and future plans. Kimberly received a \$10,000.00 awards.

Director Tess introduced recipient Sharon Bone whose field of study is Environmental Science at the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall. Sharon shared information about her studies and future plans. Sharon received a \$10,000.00 award.

Director Judy introduced a video about recipient Xiaoxiao Zhang whose field of study is Electrical Engineering at the University of Hawaii. Xiaoxiao was unable to attend our conference. Xiaoxiao received an \$8,000.00 award.

Governor Linda Sue thanked Fellowship President Joyce and her directors for picking such worthy recipients and congratulated the new fellows.

Deanna Hanks sold 50 pins for Fellowship today, and she announced winner Donna Ayres, who named Judy Richards as a fellow.

Governor Linda Sue congratulated the recipients and new fellows. She thanked Fellowship President Joyce and the directors for picking such worthy recipients. She thanked the membership for their support of the Founder Region Fellowship program. She thanked the hostess clubs for sponsoring this evening’s event.

Governor Linda Sue announced that the Timekeepers and pages need to be in place at 7:45 pm.

\$536.00 was raised from the “dum-dums” table opportunity drawing.

Conference Coordinator Debbie announced lost items and collected money for Fellowship. Raffle tickets for Sunday’s raffle can be given to Susan Lau, Fundraising Chair, who will have a table on Saturday in the Trade Fair area.

Governor Linda Sue announced that the Founder Region Fellowship Annual meeting would convene at 8:00 am Saturday morning.

Recessed 9:47 pm

## **Saturday, April 30, 2011**

The Founder Region Fellowship Annual Meeting was held from 8:00 to 9:00 am. The minutes of the meeting are attached.

The Founder Region Business Meeting convened at 9:16 am Saturday morning.

Governor Linda Sue asked that all cell phones be turned off, identified the delegate area, and asked that those who were not delegates to move from the area and introduced the platform party.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Credentials Chair Barbara Young who gave the first credentials report.

Clubs in Founder Region	56	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	55	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	1	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	54	Club Delegates	149	
Total Voting Clubs	54	Total Delegates	159	Quorum: 81

Chairperson Barbara moved the adoption of the credentials report. The first credentials report was adopted by a majority vote.

Secretary Bobbi Enderlin read the Conference Standing Rules and moved their adoption. The standing rules were adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Secretary Bobbi read the corrections to the conference program;

Page 2 – Official Visitor’s Page – Lynn Riepenhoff, is from SI Santa Rosa

Page 8 – Findings Report for Conference 2014, instead of 2013.

Page 16 – Rose Demostene Benson was from SI Healdsburg; Twila Ogletree was from SI Fort Bragg; Add the following to the list of deceased members: SI Guam, Ana San Nicolas; SI Waikiki, Verna Martin; SI Mendocino, Dee Lemos

Secretary Bobbi moved the adoption of the Official Program as corrected and subject to changes that may be necessary to expedite the business of the conference. The Official Program was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor Linda Sue acknowledged the pages for the conference.

Governor Linda Sue gave a WHOO award to Hazel Barbano, Soroptimist International of Marin County. She was 5 years old when Soroptimist was started – she is now 95 years old, and was planning to attend conference.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Nominations Chair Jay Villalta to give the Nominating Committee report. The following names were submitted as nominees to the 2011-2013 Founder Region Nominating Committee:

**District I**

Betty Hudson, SI Livermore  
Mary Gillespie Nunn, SI Oakland

**District II**

Dee Pruitt, SI East Contra Costa County

**District III**

Kathy Griffin, SI Benicia

**District IV**

Harriette Minear, SI Sonoma Valley

**District V**

Mary Ruth Rheinschild, SI Crescent City

**District VI**

Deborah Hack, SI The Marianas

Governor Linda Sue read each nomination by office, asking if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none; the chair declared the nominations closed.

Governor Linda Sue announced that according to Article IV, Section 2. b of the Region Bylaws, "In the event there is only one candidate for any office, election shall be by voice vote." Voting took place by voice vote for each office that was unopposed and Governor Linda Sue declared each unopposed candidate a winner, one by one. A paper ballot was required for the following office: District I Nominating Committee representative.

The District I nominees were introduced and gave a 2 minute speech about themselves.

Elections Chair Jay provided election procedures for the members of District I and those members were excused to vote at this time.

Governor Linda Sue thanked Chairperson Jay and her committee for their hard work.

Secretary Bobbi read letters of greeting from Sharon Fisher, President Soroptimist International of the Americas, Leigh Wintz, Executive Director of Soroptimist International of the Americas and Governor Sue Riney of Northwestern Region. Similar letters of greeting and best wishes were received from the Governors of the following regions: Camino Real, Desert Coast, Golden West, Sierra Pacific, and Western Canada.

Secretary Bobbi reported that the no one had yet offered to host the 2014 Conference. She extended the invitation to all clubs to offer to host the 2014 Conference in San Ramon.

Treasurer Pam Parker announced that copies of the Founder Region Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual were available in the conference program. The report is through March 31, 2011. She is available to answer any questions the membership may have.

Debbie Derham, member of the Finance Committee reported that the budget and finances were reviewed and that the reports presented by Treasurer Pam are true and correct.

Governor Linda Sue inducted a new member – Elizabeth Sinofsky, Soroptimist International of Willits. Her sponsor is Jane McCabe, President of Soroptimist International of Willits.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Credentials Chair Barbara who gave the second credentials report.

Clubs in Founder Region	56	Delegates Registered:		
Clubs Eligible to Vote	56	Region Officers	4	
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	District Directors	6	
Clubs Registered	55	Club Delegates	153	
Total Voting Clubs	55	Total Delegates	163	Quorum: 83

Chairperson Barbara moved the adoption of the credentials report. The second credentials report was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor Linda Sue gave WHOO Awards to the following:

- Lottie Sonnier, SI Oakland for hosting a blanket party
- April Rovero, SI San Ramon Valley for her involvement with the National Committee for Prescription Drug Abuse, and speaking to young people about this issue
- Marcela Colrich, SI Diablo Vista for getting new members involved.
- Terri Price, SI Antioch, for seeing a woman in need and acting – she helped the waitress at their meeting finding a new job

Susan Lau, chair of the Fundraising Committee gave her report. She described the reason that she stays in Soroptimist is because of the awards we give to women through our fundraising efforts. She says the women always thank us for believing in them. Two clubs have a line item in their budget for Laurel Society memberships – and Susan and President Elect Pat from SIA presented Laurel Society memberships to Debbie Derham, SI Fremont and to Traci Giordano, SI Maui. Chair Susan also said she is collecting fundraising tickets for the baskets.

Recess 10:06 am

Governor Linda Sue reconvened the meeting at 10:21 am.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect Pat Donahue. The topic of President Elect Pat’s presentation was “Embracing Change”; she gave examples of the technology changes – Google, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Droids, Kindles, Blackberries. She shared the successes of former Soroptimist International of the Americas Women’s Opportunity Award Winners Lisa Boyd, 2010 winner and Lisa Culp, 2010 winner of the Ruby Award, and Talea Leman, the 2010 Violet Richardson Award winner. She discussed the changes these women have had to make in their lives. She asked the questions, “How does Soroptimist need to change?” Actually, a better question is ask is, “What is working, and how can we do more of it?” She gave examples of SI Desert Tucson in Arizona – they updated their club by changing their meetings to twice a month; they eliminated attendance requirements at meetings, and in May 2008 they inducted 20 new members. They now have over 50 members, and they changed their bylaws to reflect their new structure. SI Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska had a large club with less active members. They held a potluck in the evening, and solicited ideas from members on what they liked about the club, what needed to be tweaked, what new things they should try. They began a “Soroptimist After Hours” at the president’s house once a month that is purely social. Results of changes to clubs are many:

- More cohesion among clubs with regard to programs and projects

- More clarity in club purpose
- Increased public awareness
- More focused efforts on women and girls.

President Elect Pat told us that change will happen whether we like it or not! She had some suggestions for dealing with it:

- Try new things
- Don't be a stagnant club – “use it or lose it”
- Change is worth any discomfort
- The world around us is changing

We Must Be that Change!

Governor Linda Sue thanked President Elect Pat and announced that Founder Region will be making a donation of \$250.00 towards the Laurel Society in her name.

Governor Linda Sue asked all the First Time Attendees to stand – there were 64 first time attendees registered for this conference. All were given WHOO awards for attending.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Treasurer Pam to present the Julia “Bess” Combs Membership Increase Award. The club with the highest net growth with seven new members was Soroptimist International of The Marianas. \$500.00 will be donated in their name to the Annual Club Giving Campaign. All members that sponsored new members this year were put in a drawing – a Laurel Society membership will be given to Phyllis Gordon, Soroptimist International of Pittsburg.

Governor Linda Sue announced that Public Awareness chair Betsy Milan developed a CD with a press release that clubs can use to get publicity about this conference.

Executive Director Leigh Wintz announced that there is a monthly giving program available for members to donate to the Laurel Society. Anyone signing up for this program during conference will get a new Soroptimist bracelet designed especially for this program. Eleven members signed up.

Recessed at 11:25 am.

Governor Linda Sue reconvened the meeting at 12:40 pm for the “Just Imagine – Celebrate Success” Luncheon.

Governor Linda Sue asked Elections Chair Jay if all eligible members had voted. She stated they had, and Governor Linda Sue declared the election closed.

District IV Director Jeannie Griffiths gave the inspiration.

District I Director Charlene Stamps welcomed everyone on behalf of all the Directors.

Governor Linda Sue introduced the platform party.

Governor Linda Sue introduced the past governors in attendance: Marge Connelly, Patsy Daniels, Del Nickerson, Carol Steele, Susan Joyce, Linda McDoniels, Mary Ann Redden, Cathy Mitchell, Sue Finch and Amelia Benko.

Governor Linda Sue announced that each table has “slow-poke” candy in honor of the Past Governors for sale at \$2.00 each. The winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards the Region Award Fund.

Governor Linda Sue asked Fellowship President Joyce Strand to come forward to announce the new Fellows from the opportunity Key drawings:

1. Bobbi Enderlin who gifted hers to Libbey McKendry (SI Benicia)
2. Karen Jones who gifted hers to Kathy Hahn (SI Vallejo)
3. Marianne Brooks (SI St. Helena)
4. Jill Hopkins (SI Central Solano)
5. Karen Schlegel (SI Calistoga)
6. SI East Bay who presented theirs to Sandra Johnson at the meeting
7. Jane Bartke (SI El Cerrito)
8. Carolyn Small (SI Santa Rosa)
9. Linda Reno (SI Mendocino Sonoma Coast)

Two additional drawings were held from the sale of Deanna Hanks pins, the winners were Sally Silvia, SI Central Solano County and Linda Reno, SI Mendocino Sonoma Coast.

Governor Linda Sue gave a brief overview of the Region project "Linda Sue's Books" – and was proud to report that clubs donated a total of 5,639 books in their communities; 847 books were brought to conference. Our Borders fundraiser earned us \$1,780.00 in books – plus we got 35% in discounts, so we were able to purchase 200 books. These books, plus the books brought to conference by members, will be donated to needy Title I schools in the Region.

Governor Linda Sue gave a WHOO Award to SI Kona for contacting a Borders store that was closing, and donating 1000 books to a shelter.

Governor Linda Sue again introduced the Past Governors and provided information about each of them and then presented the Past Governors with "red hat" WHOO awards. Governor Linda Sue announced that a donation to the Laurel Society will be made in the name of each Past Governor.

Governor Linda Sue announced a new Awards Binder for clubs to keep all of their awards and certificates. She introduced District I Director Charlene to present club awards and highlights of the clubs in District I. She was followed by all of the district directors presenting their club awards. Those clubs that received more than 40 points were entered in a drawing for a donation of \$500 to the SIA Club Giving Campaign. The following clubs were awarded donations: SI Oakland, District I; SI East Contra Costa, District II; SI Benicia, District III; SI Sonoma Valley, District IV; SI The Redwoods, District V and SI of Kona, District VI.

SIA President-Elect Pat presented three certificates to clubs that submitted applications to the Celebrating Success program – the Founder Region award winners are: Fundraising - SI of Humboldt Bay for the "Not Your Grandmother's Tea Party" project; Program – SI of Eureka for their Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to end Domestic Violence; Public Awareness - SI of Benicia for their "Planting the Seeds of Soroptimist" program. These three clubs will be submitted for the Federation Awards to be announced at the Soroptimist Invitational Leadership seminar in Hawaii in July.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Secretary Bobbi to provide a brief overview of Project Sierra, and to hold the drawing for the Founder Region Quilt that supports this project. Over \$3,000 was raised, and the winner of the quilt was Su Sneddon, Soroptimist International of Calistoga. The project has been a great success, and they have nearly reached their goal of 1 Million Pound Sterling (approximately \$2 million). The long term effect of this project will be far-reaching.

WHOO Awards were given to the following throughout the meeting:

- Helaine Bowles, SI Benicia, who started an S Club in Benicia
- Hope Cohn SI Rio Vista – established the Rio Vista Youth Foundation, opened Fri and Sat for kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup>
- Linda Reno, SI Mendocino-Sonoma Coast who plays Secret Santa in her community
- Jessalee Raymond, SI Cloverdale, is a past Mayor of Cloverdale who is very active in her club and community
- Hannah Winan, SI Eureka who takes on the club awards and chairs joint committee between the two clubs
- Yvonne White, SI Arcata, always pushes the club to do bigger and better things
- Patty Schumacher, SI Kona, gave over 1000 books to women and children transition from the shelter
- Ranna Crus, SI Marianas, The Small Business Administration named her Financial Services Champion of the Year

Voting for the 2014 Hostess Club took place. Soroptimist International of Rio Vista will be the Hostess Club for the 2014 Conference to be held at the San Ramon Marriott. They will be assisted by Soroptimist International of Antioch, East Contra Costa, The Delta, and Pittsburg.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Credentials Chair Barbara who gave the third credentials report.

Clubs in Founder Region	56	Delegates Registered:	
Clubs Eligible to Vote	56	Region Officers	4
Clubs Not in Good Standing	0	District Directors	6
Clubs Registered	55	Club Delegates	155
Total Voting Clubs	55	Total Delegates	165

Chairperson Barbara moved the adoption of the credentials report. The third credentials report was adopted by a majority vote.

Nominations/Elections Chairperson Jay provided the following election results for Nominating Committee representative, District I:

Eligible to vote: 23; Number of votes cast: 23; Illegal votes: none; Necessary for election: 12  
 Betty Hudson received 9      Mary Gillespie Nunn received 14

Governor Linda Sue repeated Chairperson Jay's report and declared Mary Gillespie Nunn the Nominating Committee representative for District I. Governor Linda Sue introduced the elected members of the Nominating Committee:

District I: Mary Gillespie Nunn

District II: Dee Pruitt

District III: Kathy Griffin

District IV: Harriette Minear

District V: Mary Ruth Rheinschild

District VI: Deborah Hack

Governor Linda Sue announced that the 2011-2013 Chair of the Nominating Committee will be Carolyn Bolton from Soroptimist International of Oakland.

\$582.00 was raised from the table drawing.

Governor Linda Sue announced that due to time constraints, the workshop - *"Taking Your Club from Good to Great"* has been cancelled. The Additional Workshops will be held in the following locations:

*"So You are Interested in Going to SI Convention?"* – Bodega Room

*"Who's Running This Meeting Anyway?"* - Grand Ballroom

*"Recruit, then Retain Those Members"* – Cotati Room

Governor Linda Sue announced that the Founder Region Leadership meeting will be held on June 24-25, 2011 at the Flamingo Hotel, Santa Rosa. Deadline for hotel reservations will be May 13, 2011. The Call to Leadership will be out shortly.

Conference Coordinator Debbie made announcements.

The meeting was recessed at 3:27 pm.

Conference Coordinator Debbie, as Mistress of Ceremonies, opened the banquet at 7:00 pm hosted by Soroptimist International of Oakland.

The inspiration was given by Carolyn Bolton of Soroptimist International of Oakland.

The Club Welcome was given by Gwen Johnson, President, Soroptimist International of Oakland.

Conference Coordinator Debbie introduced the Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, Ernesto Olivares, who gave the community welcome. Governor-elect Dona offered the official response.

The buffet dinner began at 7:30 pm.

Vaudeville Acts by the clubs were the entertainment of the evening. An informal "roast" was provided to Executive Director Leigh Wintz who will be retiring in July, 2011.

\$548.00 was raised from the table drawing.

Recessed at 10:00 pm.

## **Sunday, May 1, 2011**

Governor Linda Sue reconvened the conference at 8:30 am Sunday morning with the "Remembrance of Service" memorial designed to celebrate the years of service contributed by those members who had lost their lives this past year. The service, a power-point presentation, featured the names and photographs of the deceased members.

*They will be missed in our hearts and remembered for their dedication to the ideals of Soroptimist:*

*Margaret "Teddie" Bidou*

*Margaret Pirkig*

*Evelyn Abrew*

*Verna Marie Riggins*

*Nicola Jo Johnson*

*Christie Babich*

*Borghild "Bea" Rott*

*Karen Troy*

*Mary Inez Wilson*

*Geraldine Alata McGovern Dunbar*

*Soroptimist International of Benicia*

*Soroptimist International of Benicia*

*Soroptimist International of Calistoga*

*Soroptimist International of Clear Lake*

*Soroptimist International of Cloverdale*

*Soroptimist International of Crescent City*

*Soroptimist International of Dixon*

*Soroptimist International of the East Bay*

*Soroptimist International of the East Bay*

*Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley*

*Sarah Joyce Stannard  
Twila Ogletree  
Ana San Nicolas  
Rose Demostene Benson  
Elise Ota  
Dee Lemos  
Maria Rosalie Coniglio  
Pauline Shewmaker  
Edith Zanelli  
Barbara Ideta  
Verna Martin*

*Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley  
Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg  
Soroptimist International of Guam  
Soroptimist International of Healdsburg  
Soroptimist International of Maui  
Soroptimist International of Mendocino  
Soroptimist International of Pittsburg  
Soroptimist International of Rio Vista  
Soroptimist International of Santa Rosa  
Soroptimist International of Waikiki  
Soroptimist International of Waikiki*

Governor Linda Sue encouraged clubs to send representatives to the Annual Memorial Grove Service on Sunday, June 12, 2011. This event is hosted by Soroptimist International of Eureka and Soroptimist International of Crescent City. There will be a brunch at the Elk Prairie Picnic Area, Prairie Creek State Park at 11:00 am, followed by the Memorial Service at the Campfire Center, 12:00 noon.

The inspiration was given by Treasurer Pam.

Secretary Bobbi welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board.

Governor Linda Sue introduced the platform party and introduced Chrisann Nicholson, S Club Chair, who introduced the Barbara Stevenson "S" Club Award winners Courtney Gray, from Vacaville, and Rebecca Davis, from Ferndale. The S Club committee will be hosting an S Club Youth Forum on September 17, 2011 in Benicia.

Program Council Dona Gaddis Wolf continued the morning awards program by presenting the Ruby Award. She explained the purpose of the award and reviewed past winners. This year, 55% of Founder Region clubs participated in this award program, donating \$9,650.00 to organizations these women are associated with. Dona introduced and shared the activities of this year's winner, Tricia Isayi, with "Operation Orphans International", sponsored by Soroptimist International of Martinez. After sharing the vision of her organization, Governor Linda Sue presented Tricia with a check for \$500 and a ruby shaped engraved paperweight.

Recessed at 9:00 am for Breakfast. Reconvened at 9:39 am.

Program Council Dona then gave a history of the Women's Opportunity Award which has since 1972. In 2009-2010, \$1.5 million was distributed to 1201 women by 1,033 clubs in 19 countries. Dona described the positive impact this program has had on women – from a survey of region winners from 2006-2007, 100% of the women said their self esteem and self-confidence had improved, and 89% said their standard of living had increase positively. Dona thanked the members of her Women's Opportunity Award committee. She then asked the recipients to come forward to share their goals, life experiences and receive recognition. Each winner was presented with a certificate and two checks, one for \$750 from Founder Region and one for \$3000 from Soroptimist International of the Americas. The district winners were: Margarita Vargas, District I, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Richmond; Amanda K. Schmidt, District II, sponsored by Soroptimist International of 24/680; Amber Westphal, District III, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Clear Lake; Maranda Maybee, District IV, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Windsor; Vonda Liles, District V, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Humboldt Bay; and Kathy Hanson, District VI, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Honolulu. The region winner whose name will be forwarded to Soroptimist International of the Americas was Margarita Vargas.

Margarita also received a HP laptop computer and a laptop case from Founder Region and an additional \$2,000 check from Soroptimist International of the Americas. In addition, SIA President-Elect Pat drew names from all the clubs in Founder Region, and presented a laptop donated by SIA Sponsor Jackson Hewett to Soroptimist International of Calistoga to give to their Women's Opportunity Award winner Zandra Smith.

Program Council Dona then gave a history of the Violet Richardson Award, begun in 2000, named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first Soroptimist president in 1921. She said that in the federation in 2009-2010, 765 clubs honored 892 girls, with donations of \$248,579.00 to the girls, and \$124,758.00 to their volunteer organizations. The federation also donated \$58,500.00 bringing the grand total to over \$400,000. Dona thanked the members of her Violet Richardson Award committee. Dona asked the young women or their sponsoring club representative to come forward to share volunteer activities and receive recognition. Each winner or representative was presented with a certificate and a \$250 check from Founder Region by Governor Linda Sue. The district winners were: Kiara Howard, District I, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Oakland; Mahnoor Umair, District II, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Martinez; Meghan Gallagher, District III, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Napa; Allyson Ahlstrom, District IV, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Santa Rosa; Amy Harney, District V, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Mendocino and Roselle Pasetes, District VI, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Guam. The region winner whose name will be forwarded to Soroptimist International of the Americas was Allyson Ahlstrom. Allyson was awarded \$1,000 by Soroptimist International of the Americas with matching funds to her organization, *Threads for Teens*.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Sarah Williams, the 2010 Founder Region Violet Richardson award winner, and Sarah provided an update on her "Creative Kindness" project – providing "cuddle blankets" to foster children. She has collected over 5000 blankets for foster care children, and has partnered with Sleep Train to help distribute them, as well as Girl Scouts of America for their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Her program will be spread to all 50 states with the help of these two organizations. Founder Region presented over 800 blankets to Sarah for her program, and told her we had made over 1,752 blankets that were given away in our local communities.

Governor Linda Sue introduced Soroptimist International Fundraising Chair Susan Lau who explained the new procedures for the Program Fund basket opportunity raffle. She also announced that over \$13,000 was raised through the generosity of the membership. Susan thanked her committee members and the three hostess clubs for their assistance with the opportunity drawing. Fifty-six (56) baskets were donated by the clubs.

Registration Chair Susie Ertell gave the attendance report:

International Officers	0	Fellowship Directors	6
Federation Officers	1	Club Delegates	149
Executive Director	1	Other Soroptimist	170
Region Officers	4	Guests	60
District Directors	6		
Fellowship President	1	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>398</b>

Governor Linda Sue thanked her region committee chairpersons, hostess clubs and conference committee members.

Governor Linda Sue adjourned the Thirty-fifth Annual Founder Region Conference sine die at 11:23 am.

Bobbi Enderlin  
Founder Region Secretary

**FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP, Inc.**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 30, 2011**  
**ROHNERT PARK, CALIFORNIA**

Meeting called to order by Founder Region Fellowship President Joyce Strand at 8:01  
Introduction of the platform party  
All Fellowship District Directors present  
First Credentials Report – Credentials Chair Barbara Young  
Minutes from 2010 Fellowship annual meeting filed in Conference Proceedings report

**Treasurer's Report**

TREASURER LINDA PRESENTED THE 2010 -2012 FELLOWSHIP BUDGET – Funds in checking account - \$71,060.39

Funds in CDs as of 4/26/11 - \$442,510.85

Disbursed 4/29/11 - \$60,000.00 (not reflected in budget)

Total funds 4/30/11 – \$453,571.24

**Amendments**

Discussion of the two amendments proposed by Founder Region Fellowship board

Amendment 1 – a) read

b) approved

Amendment 2 – a) read

b) motion to amend the amendment proposed by Sue Finch Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley to amend the proposed amendment to Article VIII

Section 1 by adding “clubs/individuals who have made donations using the four-year cycle shall be permitted to continue their donations until their \$1,000 goal has been attained or their four-year period has elapsed. This proviso shall terminate on June 30, 2015.”

c) Second by Elise Balgley Soroptimist International of Fremont (Tri Cities)

d) amended amendment approved

**Directors' Reports** – District I Director Lynn Levin– All clubs participated in Fellowship

District II Director Terry Comiskey – Few clubs in District but great support for Fellowship

District III Director Mina Byrne– 16 new Fellows in the District this year

District IV Director Linda Simon – Director's challenge helped increase Fellowship funds

District V Director Tess Albin-Smith – goal is to have every club list Fellowship as line item in budget

District VI Director Judy Lee– All clubs participated.

Soroptimist International of Central Oahu is pleased  
that almost all the club members are Fellows

**Other business:**

Fellowship special recognitions and WHOO awards presented by President Joyce to:  
Soroptimist International of 24-680 for space in club's storage unit for Fellowship archives  
Joan Wacker of Soroptimist International of Pittsburg for providing the game keys for our  
Keys of Knowledge fundraiser

Director Tess Albin-Smith for her invaluable tech support – creating the Fellowship  
website, video conferencing, and SKYPE connections for candidate interviews

Director Linda presented a gift of an owl necklace to President Joyce from the Fellowship  
board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54

Terry Comiskey, Secretary  
Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.