



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

**2018**

**FOUNDER REGION**

Soroptimist International of the Americas

**Forty-second Annual Region Conference**



# Conference Proceedings

San Ramon Marriott  
San Ramon, California  
May 4 - 6, 2018



*Pam Parker, Governor*

## The Forty-second Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The forty-second annual Founder Region Conference was held on May 4, 5, & 6, 2018 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California.

### Friday, May 4, 2018

Registration opened at 8:00 am on Friday, May 4, 2018.

The Trade Fair opened at 8:00 am.

Governor Pam Parker opened the Legislative Advocacy session at 10:00 am. She asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Governor Pam welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference Legislative Advocacy presentation, "Awareness, Advocacy, Action – Soroptimists STOP Trafficking". She thanked everyone for investing valuable time in their Soroptimist journey. She introduced the Platform Party.

**Lower Left Tier:** Linda Witong, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District IV (SI/Marin County); Andrew Chapman, Investigator II, Lake County District Attorney's Office; Lenore Colarusso, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District II (SI/24-680 [Walnut Creek]); Heather Hoffman, 3Strands Global Foundation; Sue Finch, Legislative Advocacy Chair (SI/Eel River Valley).

**Lower Right Tier:** Carrie Domogalla, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District III (SI/Calistoga); Kathy Wilson, Spokesperson, New Day for Children; Elle Snow, Founder, Game Over; Kathy King, SIA Secretary/Treasurer; Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor.

Governor Pam thanked District I Committee Member, Dafna Kapshud and District VI Committee Member, Sandra Simms, who were not able to be here today, for their support and work on the committee.

Governor Pam turned the program over to Chair Sue who introduced the panelists for the Legislative Advocacy program.

Heather Hoffman is the Director of Urban and Community Education with 3Strands Global Foundation - PROTECT. She looks forward to implementing their PROTECT curriculum in all 58 counties of California schools and managing that project. This will allow for almost 2 million students as well as staff and County Stakeholders in 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades to be educated on how to identify the vulnerabilities preyed on by traffickers and exploiters. 3Strands Global is a non-profit organization established to combat human trafficking through prevention education, reintegration, and engagement initiatives. They are empowering a global community to combat human trafficking through their growing network of government and law enforcement agencies, individuals, organizations, corporations, and non-profits all working together. Their vision is to have a "world free of human trafficking".

Andrew Chapman, Investigator II, Lake County District Attorney's Office Investigator, has been a police officer in California for over 20 years. He has worked numerous specialized investigative assignments throughout the state including California Department of Justice Intelligence Liaison, Gang Investigations, Special Investigations and his current assignment as a District Attorney Investigator. Throughout his career, Investigator Chapman has conducted numerous human trafficking/pimping/pandering investigations. He focuses on the victims of Human Trafficking and their viability as prosecution witnesses as well as their vulnerability as victims during law enforcement investigations.

**Recessed at 12:15 am**

**Reconvened at 12:45 pm**

At 12:45 pm, the "Awareness, Advocacy, Action – Soroptimists STOP Trafficking" luncheon was reconvened in the Ballroom. Governor Pam announced that there were envelopes with tickets inside on each table. The tickets were \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00. The winner will receive a \$50.00 bill and the proceeds will go towards contributions to the panelists' organizations. The Inspiration was given by Linda Witong, entitled "Me Too". The Welcome was given by Lenore Colarusso. Governor Pam introduced Kathy Wilson, Spokesperson for New Day for Children.

Kathy has been working with New Day for Children since its inception 9 years ago. She is the primary spokesperson and wears a lot of other hats as this is a small non-profit. New Day for Children is a residential program for 10-18 year-old girls in Northern California who have been rescued from trafficking. These girls just want to be normal and trauma is their common denominator, but their story does not need to define them. Girls in the program are their own best advocates and support system. This program is in need of gift cards, transportation, or auction items.

**Recessed at 1:30 pm**

**Reconvened at 2:00 pm**

Governor Pam reconvened the Legislative Advocacy program and introduced the platform party:

**Lower Left Tier:** Linda Witong, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District IV (SI/Marin County); Andrew Chapman, Investigator II, Lake County District Attorney's Office; Lenore Colarusso, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District II (SI/24-680 [Walnut Creek]); Heather Hoffman, 3Strands Global Foundation; Sue Finch, Legislative Advocacy Chair (SI/Eel River Valley).

**Lower Right Tier:** Carrie Domogalla, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District III (SI/Calistoga); Kathy Wilson, Spokesperson, New Day for Children; Elle Snow, Founder, Game Over; Kathy King, SIA Secretary/Treasurer; Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor.

Legislative Advocacy Chair Sue Finch invited Elle Snow to the podium. Elle Snow has been recognized by Congress and Senate members for her work in the anti-trafficking movement. A survivor of domestic sex trafficking, she is helping to lead the battle against commercial sexual exploitation. Elle has trained hundreds of social workers, medical staff, youth groups, community members, foster parents, victim advocates and law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. She is a member of the Survivor-Leaders Institute and the National Survivor Network. She is also co-creator of *Jane Doe in Wonderland*, a play written by Dell' Arte students. Elle is a speaker on the Rebecca Bender Initiative Speakers Team and is Board President of Game Over, the anti-trafficking non-profit organization she founded.

Elle told her story and how she became involved in the anti-trafficking movement. She now trains law enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies. She works for the Law Office of Erick L. Bauer, who was instrumental in shutting down Backpage.com.

What can we do?

- If we see something, say something
- Become trauma-informed
- Mentor and support
- Economic stability
- Lobby for laws that address the demand
- Prevention and awareness are key

Chair Sue invited Lisa and Linda from SI/Vacaville to the podium who presented Elle with a \$3,000 donation to Game Over. Governor Pam read a letter from Carrie Domogalla, Legislative Advocacy Committee member, about trafficking. She invited the clubs from District III, who have presented anti-trafficking proclamations to their respective cities, or have plans to present, to the front of the ballroom. President Nushi from SI/Calistoga read the proclamation. Governor Pam encouraged all clubs to present anti-trafficking proclamations in their cities by June 30, 2018. Governor Pam concluded the program by stating the following: "If you see something, say something. If you say something, you are doing something. If you are doing something, you are making a difference."

Governor Pam thanked the Legislative Advocacy Committee for the informational program and announced that the table raffle raised \$1,019, which will be donated to the presenter's non-profit organizations in their honor.

Governor Pam announced that after a short break, delegates were requested to return for a Delegates Briefing at 4:15 pm. She also stated that all Fellows were invited to attend a 5:30 pm reception to meet the Fellowship recipients. She further stated that the "No Host" cocktail reception would begin at 6:00 pm

in the Ballroom Lobby with the Dinner and Awards Program beginning at 7:00 pm.

Conference Coordinator Linda made announcements relative to the Conference.

Governor Pam introduced Region Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier who held a Delegates Briefing and then a briefing for the Pages and Timekeepers Briefing.

### ***Recessed at 4:45 pm***

At 5:30 pm, the Founder Region “Fellow” Reception was held in the South Courtyard for Fellows only to meet the 2018 Fellowship recipients. At 6:00 pm, the Reception began in the Ballroom Lobby.

Governor Pam declared the Forty-second Annual Conference of Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas in session at 7:00 pm.

Governor Pam announced that the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance will be provided by De Anza High School, CA-20145, Air Force JROTC. She introduced past Governor Susan Joyce who led us in singing the National Anthem. For our entertainment, she invited the audience to sing “I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar” by Helen Reddy. The Community Welcome from Ryan Sundberg, Humboldt County 5th District Supervisor, was read by Kelly Sanders, President of SI/Humboldt Bay. Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton gave the Official Response. District III Fellowship Director Fawn Williams gave the Inspiration and District VI Fellowship Director Rena Borja gave the Welcome on behalf of the Fellowship Board.

Governor Pam introduced the Platform Party.

**Upper Left Tier:** Bev Gomer, District II Fellowship Director (SI/Martinez); Kate Kamdin, Fellowship Recipient; Linda Bradbrook, District IV Fellowship Director (SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast); Nancy Ortiz, Fellowship Recipient.

**Upper Right Tier:** Anne Karing, Fellowship Recipient; Sharon Valenti, District V Fellowship Director (SI/Fort Bragg); Elise Harb, Fellowship Recipient; Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; (SI/Guam); Kora Iechad-Remoket, Fellowship Recipient.

**Lower Left Tier:** Rachael Gartner, Fellowship Recipient; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director/Secretary (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club); Priscila Leal, Fellowship Recipient; Fawn Williams, District III Fellowship Director/Treasurer (SI/Clearlake); Lori Wiley, Fellowship Recipient; Bobbi Enderlin, Fellowship President (SI/Benicia).

**Lower Right Tier:** Jill Hunter, special guest (SI/Vacaville); Past Fellowship President Barbara Lanier (SI/El Cerrito); Past Fellowship President Mary Ann Redden (SI/Antioch); Past Fellowship President Dion Weaver (SI/Pittsburg); SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King, and Governor Pam Parker (SI/St. Helena Sunrise).

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Fellowship Treasurer Fawn Williams or they could use it to start their Fellow Monthly Giving Plan. The proceeds will go towards Founder Region Fellowship.

Governor Pam turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin. President Bobbi welcomed everyone to the Fellowship Awards Banquet and noted that Fellowship is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Each attendee received a commemorative pen and a special program in celebration.

President Bobbi thanked Deanna Hanks for her donation of decorative Soroptimist pins for the silent auction and announced the winners of the Fellowship Drawing:

Carole Dippel – SI/Oakland-The Founder Club

Jina Rojas – SI/Guam

Arlene Bordallo – SI/Guam

Vicki Nash – SI/Vacaville

Hope Cohn – SI/Rio Vista

Elaine Kawasaki – SI/Oakland–The Founder Club

Pam Parker- SI/St. Helena Sunrise

Each of the following women was awarded \$10,000.00 and shared information about their studies and future plans:

Rachael Gartner	Social Welfare	UC Berkeley
Elise Harb	Vision Science	UC Berkeley
Kora Iechad-Remoket	Political Science	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Kate Kamdin	Astro Particle Physics	UC Berkeley
Anne Karing	Economics	UC Berkeley
Priscila Leal	Applied Linguistics	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Sanam Mozaffari	Vision Science	UC Berkeley
Nancy Ortiz	Public Health	UC Berkeley
Maura Stephens	Anthropology	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Lori Wiley	Special Education	University of Hawaii, Manoa

President Bobbi gave her closing remarks.

Governor Pam thanked Fellowship President Bobbi and her directors for choosing such worthy recipients. She congratulated the recipients and new Fellows. She also thanked the membership for their support of the Founder Region Fellowship program and announced that \$1,268.00 was raised from the table drawing. President Bobbi drew for a Fellow which went to Teresa Zimney (SI/Napa).

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Pam announced that we were in recess at 10:30 pm and will reconvene at 8:30 am Saturday morning for the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting.

## Saturday, May 5, 2018 – Fellowship Business Meeting

The Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting convened at 8:30 am.

President Bobbi Introduced the Platform Party.

**Lower Left Tier:** Shannon Richards, Laws & Resolutions Chair, Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; Sharon Valenti, District V Fellowship Director; Linda Bradbrook, District IV Fellowship Director; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian.

**Lower Right Tier:** Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director/Secretary; Bev Gomer, District II Fellowship Director; Fawn Williams, District III Fellowship Director; SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King; Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor; Bobbi Enderlin, Fellowship President.

Adoption of Fellowship Credentials Report

Credentials Chair Debbie Scaife (SI/ Eel River Valley) presented Fellowship Credentials Report #1.

### Fellowship Credentials report #1:

Clubs in Founder Region: 52

Clubs Eligible to Vote: 51

Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1

Clubs Registered: 49

Total Voting Clubs: 49

Delegates Registered:

Fellowship President 1

Fellowship Directors 5

Club Delegates 124

Total Delegates 130

Quorum for Opening Session 66

Fellowship Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

The minutes of the FRF Business Meeting held at the Founder Region Conference in May 2017 were published in the 2017 Conference Proceedings and distributed to the membership. On May 5, 2018, a



copy of those minutes was also placed on each table for review by FRF Business Meeting attendees. The minutes were adopted as presented.

President Bobbi declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She introduced the Microphone Monitors: Laura Middlemiss and Nancy Woods; and timekeepers: Sue Galliani, Sharon Redd, Tosha Martins-Bowling and Janice Stewart. President Bobbi called Laws & Resolutions Chair Shannon Richards to the podium to read the proposed amendment to the Fellowship Bylaws:

### **Proposed Founder Region Fellowship Bylaws Amendment 2018**

Founder Region Fellowship Bylaws Article VIII (Finances), Section 1 (The primary sources of income include:

This article shall be amended by adding item f. Wills and Legacies, to read as follows:

#### **Article VIII Finance**

Section 1. The primary sources of income include:

... f. Wills & Legacies including contributions to the Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fund.

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

**Advantages:** Clarifies that donations made via wills, trusts and other estate giving, including donations to the Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fund, are income for the Fellowship award program administered by Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.

**Disadvantages:** None

**Financial Impact:** Anticipated zero cost to Founder Region Fellowship and Founder Region. Potential revenue source for additional Fellowship awards in future years.

**Rationale:** Current bylaws language does not specifically address estate giving by the donor. This is a gap which the FRF Board determined should be addressed.

President Bobbi ask for discussion; there was none, so she called for the vote. The proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section 1 was approved.

Treasurer Fawn Williams provided a two-page Treasurer's report, which covered the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018. The following highlights are noted: Income: \$117,042.37; Expenses: \$154,176.69; Net Income: \$- 37,134.32; Total Liabilities & Equity: \$485,065.64. The Treasurer's Report will be submitted for financial review.

Each of the Fellowship Directors gave a report about Fellowship activities from July 1, 2017 to the 2018 Founder Region Conference.

President Bobbi encouraged everyone to purchase Fellowship necklaces for a chance to win a Fellow. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

## **Saturday, May 5, 2018 – Founder Region Business Meeting**

Governor Pam called the Founder Region Business Meeting to order at 9:45 am.

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

**Upper Left Tier:** Dyann O'Brien, District V Director (SI/Eureka); Barbara Young, District IV Director (SI/Santa Rosa).

**Upper Right Tier:** Elise Balgley, District I Director (SI/Fremont); Pat Eileen Fisher, District II Director (SI/Martinez); Joy Swank, District III Director (SI/Vacaville).

**Lower Left Tier:** Crystal Arbuthnot, Region Nominating Committee Chair (SI/The Redwoods); Mary Ann Redden, (SI/Antioch); Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer (SI/Willits); Shannon Richards, Laws & Resolutions Committee Chair (SI/Napa); Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian (SI/EI Cerrito).

**Lower Right Tier:** Kris Chorbi, Region Secretary (SI/Eureka); Sylvia Crafton, Region Governor-elect (SI/The Marianas); Kathy King, SIA Secretary/Treasurer; Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor (SI/St. Helena Sunrise).

Governor Pam explained that Angie Haramoto, District VI Director (SI/Maui) was absent because she is being installed as Governor-elect at her Lions Club Conference in Hawaii.

Credentials Chair Debbie presented the Founder Region Credentials Report #1.

**Founder Region Credentials Report #1:**

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 51	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1	District Directors 5
Clubs Registered: 49	Club Delegates 129
Total Voting Clubs: 49	Total Delegates 138
	Quorum for Opening Session 70

Founder Region Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read the Conference Standing Rules on page 27 in the program. She stated that, in the interest of time and with no objections, she would not read the Standing Rules as they were listed in the program. She moved for the adoption of the Conference Standing Rules. The standing rules were adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read corrections to the conference program:

Page 16 – Under Program Awards, insert: “Barbara Stevenson “S” Club Award”.

Page 17 – Due to the legal name change to her maiden name, the District IV Live Your Dream Award recipient’s name should be changed from Lydia Rodriguez to “Lydia Blancas Lopez”.

Page 17 – Insert: “Barbara Stevenson “S” Club Award: Calistoga High School – Cynthia Cortez; Vacaville High School – Emily Cymanski”.

Page 17 – Name correction: under Fellowship Awards, “Kora lechad-Remoket”.

Secretary Kris 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 Pam announced that there were 53 first time attendees registered and asked them to rise and be recognized. She introduced the stewards for conference: Patti Dutton, Governor’s Steward; Mandy Marquez, Governor-elect’s Steward and Heather Bitner, SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy’s Steward.

Governor Pam declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She recognized the pages and announced the Microphone Monitors were Laura Middlemiss and Nancy Woods; and the timekeepers were Sue Galliani, Sharon Redd, Heather Bitner, and Janice Stewart.

Governor Pam gave a brief history of the Laurel Society. She reported that ten million dollars have been donated from 6,000 Laurel Society members since it began. She introduced Fundraising Chair Gina Moore who announced the following members have received a Laurel Society membership or received the next level recognition and were pinned by SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy: Nancy Woods (SI/Humboldt Bay) Attache Level; Donna Ayres (SI/Eureka) Envoy Level, Lillian Meyers (SI/Sonoma Valley) Diplomat Level. Chair Gina announced she had an accounting of member’s Laurel Society status if anyone wanted an update and thanked all for their donations.

Governor Pam called upon Secretary Kris to read the greetings and correspondence. Secretary Kris read the letters of official greetings from SIA President Dawn Marie Lemonds, SIA Executive Director & CEO Liz Lucas and Past Governor Marjorie Conley.

Governor Pam asked Secretary Kris if any clubs had volunteered to host conference 2021. Secretary Kris reported that SI/Benicia, SI/EI Cerrito, SI/Oakland-the Founder Club and SI/Tri-Valley volunteered to host the 2021 conference. Governor Pam asked a representative of the clubs to speak. It was moved by Secretary Kris and seconded to accept SI/Benicia, SI/EI Cerrito, SI/Oakland-the Founder Club and SI/Tri-Valley as host clubs for the 2021 Founder Region Conference. Governor Pam called for the question, which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed. Governor Pam reminded everyone that the host clubs for 2019 are SI/Antioch and SI/The Delta, and host clubs for 2020 are SI/Ukiah and SI/Marin County.

Governor Pam asked Credentials Chair Debbie if there were any changes to the credentials report. Credentials Chair Debbie read Founder Region Credentials Report #2.

### **Founder Region Credentials report #2:**

Clubs in Founder Region: 52	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 51	Region Officers: 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1	District Directors: 5
Clubs Registered: 49	Club Delegates: 130
Total Voting Clubs: 49	Total Delegates: 139
	Quorum for Opening Session: 70

Founder Region Credentials Report #2 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Pam declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She announced that the Microphone Monitors were Laura Middlemiss and Nancy Woods; and the timekeepers were Sue Galliani, Sharon Redd, Heather Bitner, and Janice Stewart.

Governor Pam stated that because Nominating Committee Chair Crystal Arbuthnot was running for office, Past Governor Mary Ann Redden would give the Nominating Committee Report and conduct the elections.

The following names were submitted as nominees for the 2018-2020 Fellowship Board:

- District I – Cheryl Poncini (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club)
- District II – Jan Schults (SI/The Delta)
- District III – Teri Malkin (SI/Rio Vista)
- District IV – Nancy Weber (SI/Novato)
- District V – Crystal Arbuthnot (SI/The Redwoods)
- District VI – Rena Borja (SI/Guam)

The following names were submitted as nominees for the 2018-2020 Founder Region Board:

- District I – Elise Balgley (SI/Fremont)
- District II – none
- District III – Joy Swank (SI/Vacaville)
- District IV – Barbara Young (SI/Santa Rosa)
- District V – Patti Dutton (SI/Humboldt Bay and Dyann O'Brien (SI/Eureka)
- District VI – Jill Arenovski (SI/Northern Mariana Islands) and Kristal Koga (SI/The Marianas)
- Treasurer – Vicki Ham (SI/Willits)
- Secretary – Pat Eileen Fisher (SI/Martinez)
- Governor-elect – Kris Chorbi (SI/Eureka)

Governor Pam read each nomination by district. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She stated that if there are none, the chair declares the nominations closed. Fellowship Board (District Directors) had no nominations from the floor, therefore, the nominations were closed. Region Board District Directors I, III, IV & V had no nominations from the floor; therefore, the nominations were closed. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Lenore Collaruso, SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek) nominated Bev Gomer from SI/Martinez for District II Director. Governor Pam asked if the consent from the nominee had been obtained and for resumes to be distributed to District II delegates. Governor Pam declared the nominations closed. Elaine Randall, SI/Maui nominated Wendy MacDonald from SI/Maui for District VI Director. Governor Pam asked if the consent from the nominee had been obtained and for



resumes to be distributed to District VI delegates. Governor Pam declared the nominations closed. She read the nominations for Treasurer, Secretary, and Governor-elect. As there were no nominations from the floor for these offices, she declared the nominations closed.

Governor Pam asked the candidates for the 2018 -2020 Founder Region Board and Fellowship Board to line up starting with the Fellowship District Directors (I-VI), then the Region District Directors (I-VI), ending with Region officers –Treasurer, Secretary, and Governor-elect. She stated that each candidate had two minutes to speak.

Governor Pam announced that according to Article V, Section 5.2 Elections (a) of the region bylaws, “Voting shall be by ballot unless there is only one candidate for office; in such event, voting shall be by voice vote.” She stated that only delegates from respective districts may vote for their district. Governor Pam announced that voting for nominees that are unopposed shall be by voice vote.

Governor Pam announced the Fellowship Board nominees first. She announced the District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Cheryl Poncini the Fellowship Director, District I winner. She announced the District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Jan Schults the Fellowship Director, District II winner. She announced the District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Teri Malkin the Fellowship Director, District III winner. She announced the District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Nancy Weber the Fellowship Director, District IV winner. She announced the District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Crystal Arbuthnot the Fellowship Director, District V winner. She announced the District VI nominee and called for the vote. She declared Rena Borja the Fellowship Director, District VI winner.

Governor Pam announced the Founder Region Board District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Elise Balgley the District Director, District I winner. She announced the District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Bev Gomer the District Director, District II winner. She announced the District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Joy Swank the District Director, District III winner. She announced the District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Barbara Young the District Director, District IV winner. As there is more than one candidate for the District V Director position, delegates for District V will vote by ballot. As there is more than one candidate for the District VI Director position, delegates for District VI will vote by ballot.

Governor Pam announced the Treasurer nominee and called for the vote. She declared Vicki Ham the Region Treasurer winner. She announced the Secretary nominee and called for the vote. She declared Pat Eileen Fisher the Region Secretary winner. She announced the Governor-elect nominee and called for the vote. She announced Kris Chorbi the Region Governor-elect winner.

Governor Pam asked Credentials Chair Debbie Scaife if there were changes to the Credentials Report #2. Chair Debbie stated that there were no changes; therefore, no updated Credentials Report was needed.

Governor Pam introduced SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King and shared her biography. SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy gave her presentation entitled “We Believe in You”. A few highlights include:

- Nancy Drew, girl detective that showed girl power in the past.
- Girl power today is represented by women in industry, arts, government, science, sports, fiction and the changing world.
- SIA did the research on how we can help girls by surveys, focus groups, and in the UN and decided to launch the Dream It, Be It program.
- Dream It, Be It programs reached 20,000 girls in two years.
- Next Big Goal starts in 2021.
- 

SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy concluded her presentation with a quote from Bono, “When you invest in girls and women, they rise and they lift their families, their communities, their economics and countries along with them. They rise – and they lead.”

Governor Pam thanked SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy for her presentation and announced that a donation in her name would be made to the Laurel Society.

Governor Pam declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She announced the Microphone Monitors were Laura Middlemiss and Nancy Woods; and the timekeepers were Sue Galliani, Sharon Redd, Heather Bitner, and Janice Stewart.

Discussion time for each proposed amendment would be ten minutes. If a delegate wished for the discussion time to be extended beyond the ten minutes as provided in the standing rules, such delegate would need to make a proper motion to extend the time within the initial ten-minute period. Delegates could speak for or against an issue for a maximum of two minutes. The timekeepers would hold up colored cards to indicate the amount of time remaining. The green card would go up when there is one minute remaining. The white card would go up when there are thirty seconds remaining. The red card would be raised when the two minutes have expired and the delegate must STOP. When the ten minutes have been exhausted the timekeeper would so indicate, with the RED STOP card and the sound of a bell.

Governor Pam introduced Laws and Resolutions Chair Shannon who read the proposed amendment to the Founder Region Bylaws.

### **Founder Region Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2018**

#### **ARTICLE IX, Finance**

#### **Section 9.3 – Administrative Account**

**CURRENT LANGUAGE:** Section 9.3 Administrative Account. The administrative reserve shall be maintained at a minimum of \$12,000.00.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE:** Section 9.3 Administrative Account. The administrative reserve shall be maintained equal to nine (9) months anticipated expenses.

**Proposed by:** The Founder Region Board of Directors

**Advantages:** Does not provide a specific dollar amount, allowing for flexibility in future years, tied only to expenditure estimations.

**Disadvantages:** Does not provide a specific dollar amount.

**Financial Impact:** Unknown. Nine (9) months of anticipated expenses could be more or less than the current \$12,000; and the amount could vary biannually, depending upon the budget.

**Rationale:** Soroptimist International of the Americas recommends administrative reserve accounts be equal to nine (9) months anticipated expenses. This revision would keep Founder Region in line with SIA's recommendations.

Governor Pam stated the question was on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, ARTICLE IX, Finance, Section 9.3 – Administrative Account as read by Chair Shannon.

Governor Pam asked for any discussion. Vicki Ham, SI/Willits, moved to postpone the motion to amend Article IX, Section 9.3 of the Founder Region Bylaws proposed by the Founder Region Board of Directors indefinitely. The motion was seconded and opened up for discussion. Treasurer Vicki continued with more information about the language creating more confusion than clarity so the board suggested a vote be postponed until a new amendment can be proposed. There was no further discussion. Governor Pam called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Governor Pam introduced Treasurer Vicki who stated that the 2016-2018 Founder Region Treasurer's report and the 2018-2020 Founder Region Proposed Budget were included in the registration packets and if anyone had questions, to contact her during the break.

Governor Pam introduced the voting tellers: Billie Knight, Terri Enns, Mary Ruth Rheinschild, Karan Schlegel and Maile Kanemaru and explained the voting procedure.

Elections Chair Mary Ann Redden explained that voting for District V Director and District VI Director would take place in the Pleasanton/Danville rooms, located outside the ballroom to her left, until 12:30. Only delegates, region officers and district directors from clubs within each district may vote for the

candidates of their respective districts. Delegates should proceed to the voting rooms and make sure to have their name badge visible and credentials card with them.

Announcements: Gerri Humes, SI/Santa Rosa, will be circulating a “thinking of you” card for Past Governor Marjorie Conley who is 97 years old. Elaine Kawasaki, SI/Oakland-The Founder Club, is collecting unused toiletries for centers for the homeless. Governor Pam announced an “S” Club grant was awarded to SI/Clearlake for \$500 for a future “S” Club in their community.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Pam recessed the meeting for the Director’s Luncheon and presentations.

***Recessed at 11:57 pm***

***Reconvened at 12:45 pm***

Governor Pam introduced the lunchtime platform party:

**Upper Left Tier:** Lyn Lurbe, Membership Pillar Chair (SI/Central Oahu); Barbara Lanier, Region Parliamentarian (SI/El Cerrito).

**Upper Right Tier:** Clara Oakes, Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair (SI/Vacaville); Gina Moore, Fundraising Chair (SI/Antioch).

**Lower Right Tier:** Secretary Kris Chorbi (SI/Eureka); SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King.

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Region Treasurer Vicki Ham. The proceeds would go towards the SIA Dream Programs through contributions to Club Giving and Laurel Society.

Governor Pam announced each club as the directors led the presidents’ processional of their district. She announced the “Shining Star” recipient from each club who received a star ornament and certificate.

Governor Pam introduced District IV Director Barbara Young who gave the Inspiration.

Governor Pam introduced District I Director Elise Balgley who gave the Welcome on behalf of the District Directors.

District I Director Elise Balgley announced that one club from each district would receive a donation to SIA Club Giving in their honor and encouraged everyone to read the region newsletter that was included in their registration packets. The District Directors read the club slogans and drew for the Club Giving donations.

Club Giving Winners:

District I	SI/Fremont
District II	SI/Antioch
District III	SI/Calistoga
District IV	SI/Windsor
District V	SI/Noyo Sunrise
District VI	SI/Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Pam called Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin to the podium who drew four fellows: Lenore Colarusso (SI/24-680 [Walnut Creek]), Judy Moon (SI/Martinez), Madalienne Peters (SI/Novato) and Cindy Rasmussen (SI/Waikiki).

Governor Pam announced the election results:

District V Director: Patti Dutton – 6 votes; Dyann O’Brien – 21 votes; Illegal votes – 1  
Governor Pam declared Dyann O’Brien the District Director, District V winner.

District VI Director: Jill Arenovski – 0 votes; Krystal Koga – 16 votes; Wendy MacDonald – 2 votes.  
Governor Pam declared Kristal Koga the District Director, District VI winner.

Fundraising Report: Governor Pam introduced Fundraising Chair Gina Moore, who announced more Laurel Society memberships and asked SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy to pin each one: Debbie Coles (SI/Arcata) Attache Level; Lisa Hilas (SI/Vacaville) Attache Level; and Dion Weaver (SI/Pittsburg) Envoy Level. Governor Pam announced that Gina Moore (SI/Antioch) had advanced to the Diplomat Level with

a generous anniversary gift from her husband. Chair Gina drew Lyn Lurbe's name for the New Member Sponsor Drawing, who will receive a \$1,000 donation to her Laurel Society account. Governor Pam announced that Founder Region had 100% participation in Club Giving, which was a first.

Governor Pam introduced Soroptimist Celebrating Success Chair Clara Oakes (SI/Vacaville). She reported that there were 24 entries from 12 clubs. The deadline is July 1, 2018, for the 2017-2018 club year entries. The following clubs were announced as the 2016-2017 region winners in each pillar category who would receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving and submission to SIA for federation judging:

- Program – SI/Diablo Vista
- Fundraising – SI/Benicia
- Public Awareness – SI/Vacaville
- Membership – SI/Benicia

Clubs who participated in Soroptimists Celebrating Success were SI/Benicia, SI/Crescent city, SI/Diablo Vista, SI/Dixon, SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Guam, SI/The Marianas, SI/Marin County, SI/Novato, SI/Rio Vista, SI/Vallejo, and SI/Vacaville.

Public Awareness Report: A video from SIA on Public Awareness was shown.

Membership Report: Governor Pam introduced Membership Chair Lyn Lurbe, who presented the Julia "Bess" Combs Membership Increase Award to SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek), who had the largest net growth and will receive a \$500 donation to Club Giving in their honor. She gave her report as of March 31, 2018:

Total members in SIA	31,287	2018
	32,782	2017
Totals Clubs in SIA	1,276	2018
	1,271	2017
Members in Founder Region	1,465	2018
	1,493	2017
Clubs in Founder Region	52	2018
	52	2017

Two clubs were chartered this year (SI/Vacaville Twilight and SI/Palau) and a third club, SI/American Canyon 2018, will be chartered on May 14, 2018, for a total of three new clubs in Founder Region. The new SIA Membership Campaign is called, "The Diamond Campaign – Shining Our Way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century" and will take place in four phases, leading up to our 100th Anniversary.

Governor Pam made several announcements. She reminded everyone to read the District Director's Newsletter, which was provided in the conference packets. The 2017 Wildfire Fund received \$22,382 in monetary donations and gifts cards. Donations were first given to eight members from SI/Santa Rosa, SI/Calistoga and SI/Vallejo who lost their homes. The remaining funds were given to three community foundations in Mendocino County, Napa County and Sonoma County

She thanked those clubs who donated funds to cover Elle Snow's speaker fee so she could present at our Friday Legislative Advocacy program. She also pointed out the "Working as One" poster that clubs signed at the District Meetings as their commitment to increased collective impact.

Governor Pam called on Governor-elect Sylvia to make an announcement. Governor-elect Sylvia announced the appointment of Pam Parker as the 2018-2020 Fellowship President.

SI/East Bay approached the microphone and volunteered to co-host the 2021 Conference as well as the other clubs noted previously. Governor Pam stated that the vote to accept their proposal would have to take place at the 2019 Conference since the delegates had already been released at lunch.

Governor Pam announced that \$925 was raised from the table drawing and the proceeds would go towards the SIA Dream Programs through contributions to Club Giving and Laurel Society.

### ***Recessed until 3:04 pm***

Governor Pam introduced SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King and Past Governor and Past SIA Director Dona Gaddis Wolf who gave a presentation entitled, "The Value of Being a Soroptimist" They talked about the top five values of being a Soroptimist:

1. Personal connection to the mission
2. Friendship and fellowship
3. Opportunity to volunteer in the local community
4. Being with other like-minded women
5. Being part of a global organization

They advised to disagree agreeably in club meetings and keep our mission in the forefront of club activities. Scenarios were then discussed at tables using Reverse Brainstorming strategy.

Governor Pam thanked them for their presentation. She called Fellowship President Bobbi Enderlin to the podium who announced that \$755 was raised from the silent auction for the Fellowship pins, and presented more Fellows. The following members received their Fellow or the next level: Danelle Tegarden (SI/Eureka), Madalienne Peters (SI/Novato) 3<sup>rd</sup> level, Kelley Slater (SI/Clear Lake) 3<sup>rd</sup> level, Sally Munger (SI/Clear Lake) 3<sup>rd</sup> level, Vicki Ham (SI/Willits) 3<sup>rd</sup> level.

Governor Pam announced that SI/Vacaville would deliver the leftover purses from the "Purse Party" fundraiser to a local women's shelter.

Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz made announcements relevant to the Conference.

### ***Adjourned at 4:30 pm.***

A reception was held in the lobby of the Ballroom from 6:00 – 7:00pm. Governor Pam reconvened the meeting with Dinner at 7:00 pm. She recognized the Past Governors as they proceeded in:

Catherine Burns, Member of SI/Eureka - Founder Region Governor from 1978-1980. Her theme was "Let Us Grow" – escorted by SI/Eureka President Crystal Hull.

Susan Joyce, Member of SI/Dixon – Founder Region Governor from 1988-1990. Her theme was "We Are One in Service Spirit" - escorted by SI/Dixon President Ami Pretti.

Linda McDoniels, Member of SI/Folsom-EI Dorado Hills, Sierra Nevada Region – Founder Region Governor from 1998-2000. Her theme was "Making a Difference Together" – escorted by Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton.

Mary Ann Redden. Member of SI/Antioch – Founder Region Governor from 2002-2004. Her theme was "Achieve Growth by Sharing" - escorted by SI/Antioch President Jay Villalta-Romiti.

Sue Finch, Member of SI/Eel River Valley – Founder Region Governor from 2006-2008. Her theme was "Creating Magic Through Soroptimist" - escorted by SI/Eel River President Jo Anne Center.

Amelia Benko, member of SI/The Tri-Valley, Founder Region Governor from 2008-2010. Her theme was "Making a Difference Matters" - escorted by Charlotte Fernandez (SI/Tri-Valley).

Dona Gaddis Wolf, member of SI/Pittsburg – Founder Region Governor from 2012-2014. Her theme was "Share the Light of Soroptimist Service" – escorted by SI/Pittsburg President Marge Roglien.

Bobbi Enderlin, member of SI/Benicia, Founder Region Governor from 2014-2016. Her theme was "Share the Joy of Soroptimist" - escorted by SI/Benicia President Patricia Butler.

Governor Pam thanked them for their mentoring and continued service to Founder Region.

Governor Pam introduced the President of Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley, Jo Anne Center, who gave the Inspiration on behalf of the three host clubs: SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Eureka, and SI/Humboldt Bay.

Governor Pam introduced the President of Soroptimist International of Eureka, Crystal Hull who gave the Welcome on behalf of the three host clubs.

Governor Pam then honored all the Past Governors of Founder Region with a PowerPoint presentation.



Governor Pam introduced special guest, SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King and asked the audience to rise.

Governor Pam announced that on each of the tables there was an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets were \$2.00, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner would receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Vicki. The money raised during the dinner would go towards our region's contributions to SIA Dream Programs through Club Giving and Laurel Society.

Dinner was served.

After dinner, Governor Pam announced that \$1,047 had been raised in the table raffle and thanked everyone for their generosity.

She introduced Colleen Berumen as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the 2018-2020 Installation of Officers for the Founder Region and Founder Region Fellowship boards.

Past Governor Linda McDoniels installed the 2018-2020 Fellowship Board and the 2018-2020 Founder Region Board.

Following the installation, Sylvia Crafton gave her acceptance speech announcing her theme, "Empowering Change". She reflected on the special islands that comprise District VI, and the special honor it is to be the first Founder Region Governor from District VI. Highlights from Sylvia's expounding on her theme were as follows:

Soroptimists are "Empowering Change" in the lives of the women and girls we support. Soroptimists are "Empowering Change" in our own lives, in our clubs, in our communities, and in our world.

We can see we are "Empowering Change" within our own lives when we WORK AS ONE toward our common goals. We look inside ourselves, and we acknowledge the good and we seek to continuously improve our relationships with family, friends, co-workers, club members, and our communities. We let go of hatred, self-loathing, and pride as we give of self to others. This emboldens us and empowers us to rise above our circumstances and make the best of what we have with what we've been given. We are "Empowering Change" in the lives of our Live Your Dream Award recipients as we see a change in their confidence in themselves, change in their ability to further pursue their dreams through their own education and to be able to provide for their children. We empower their children to see the value given to their mother's education, well-being, and sense of self-worth. Soroptimists are "Empowering Change" within our communities when we are recognized for the good things we do in our communities. Lending a helping hand, being advocates for those who are victimized or otherwise supporting women and girls in our communities. Soroptimists are "Empowering Change" within our clubs when we invite new members and listen to their fresh ideas and we are renewed by their enthusiasm for our mission. We empower change when we use new technology and learn new ways of doing things. We can see we are "Empowering Change" with those who follow us - those we mentor and those who look up to us. We empower them by not holding them to the traditions of the past, and we allow them to take our successes to the next level.

Sylvia chose the butterfly as her token for the biennium to represent change. An unknown author was quoted: "If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies". And, District VI members were invited to reflect the theme "Empowering Change" with a beautiful dance to a rendition of the song entitled, "You Raise Me Up" by Celtic Women.

Governor Pam addressed the audience with her Outgoing Governor's Speech. She spoke about preparing for her future as a Past Governor and about the importance of our region Past Governors. She recognized each of the attending Past Governors with personal comments and a thank you. She shared the importance of our Past Governors being our Soroptimist foundation and that our past has created our future; we would not have achieved what we wanted without our past leadership. She emphasized our need for our vision for the future and how we need to continue to pave the way for future members and our organization. She shared that she wanted to be remembered for nothing more than someone who made a difference. This was her goal when she gave her Governor's acceptance speech and she believes she has met that goal, but in the passing of time, that goal has grown and continues to challenge her to do more, be more and give more. Her intent of her presentation was to share the

value of Past Governors and her hope that she will be considered a part of our Soroptimist foundation. She thanked everyone for the journey.

Governor Pam thanked Governor-elect Sylvia and members of District VI for their beautiful presentation in recognizing Governor-elect Sylvia's theme and the support of her District VI members. She thanked President Colleen for stepping in as the Mistress of Ceremonies and also thanked Past Governor Linda McDoniels for being an important part of Governor-elect Sylvia's installation of officers. Announcements were made by Conference Chair Linda. Governor Pam ended the evening by thanking all members and guests for being a part of such a special occasion and invited all to stay for music and dancing.

**Recessed at 10:00 pm**

## **Sunday, May 6, 2018**

Governor Pam reconvened the conference at 8:00 am Sunday morning with the Celebration of Service Memorial in remembrance of members we lost this last year. The service featured the names and photographs of the deceased in a presentation that included a yellow rose being placed in a vase, by either a club member or friend.

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

<i>Jane Parsons</i>	<i>SI/Antioch</i>
<i>Helen Estes</i>	<i>SI/Benicia</i>
<i>Ann Hansen</i>	<i>SI/Benicia</i>
<i>Patricia Moreira</i>	<i>SI/Benicia</i>
<i>Dariann Lopez</i>	<i>SI/Calistoga</i>
<i>Wanda Goforth Harris</i>	<i>SI/Clear Lake</i>
<i>Shirley Norenberg</i>	<i>SI/Crescent City</i>
<i>Gloria Martinucci</i>	<i>SI/El Cerrito</i>
<i>Marie Pike</i>	<i>SI/El Cerrito</i>
<i>Marilyn Hofstetter</i>	<i>SI/Eureka</i>
<i>Suzanne Gillam</i>	<i>SI/Kona</i>
<i>Lillean Holberg-Olson</i>	<i>SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast</i>
<i>Toni Wilson</i>	<i>SI/Mendocino-Sonoma Coast</i>
<i>Audrey Sheeley</i>	<i>SI/Richmond</i>
<i>Joyce Murphy</i>	<i>SI/Sonoma Valley</i>
<i>Conni Wilson</i>	<i>SI/Sonoma Valley</i>
<i>Valerie Testa Stewart</i>	<i>SI/St. Helena Sunrise</i>
<i>Irene Mary Heenan</i>	<i>SI/Vallejo</i>
<i>Phyllis Lorraine Neely</i>	<i>SI/Vallejo</i>
<i>Linda Sue Hansen</i>	<i>SI/Vallejo Gateway</i>

Governor Pam acknowledged two additional members whose information was not received in time for the program, and noted they will be officially honored at next years' service. They are Marella Colarich, SI/Diablo Vista and Shirley Fukumoto, SI/Central Oahu.

After the processional, Barbara Lanier (SI/El Cerrito) sang "Wind Beneath My Wings"

Governor Pam announced the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Memorial Grove Service will be held on June 10, 2018. She thanked the Memorial Grove Committee: Debbie Thompson, Dyann O'Brien, Crystal Hull, and Past Governor Kate Burns, all members of SI/Eureka.

Governor Pam introduced District III Director Joy Swank who gave the Inspiration.

Governor Pam introduced District V Director Dyann O'Brien who gave the Welcome on behalf of the Founder Region Board.

Governor Pam introduced the platform party:

**Left Tier:** Amelia Benko, Violet Richardson Award Chair and Past Governor; Elise Balgley, District I Director, Pat Eileen Fisher, District II Director; Joy Swank, District III Director; Barbara Young, District IV Director; Dyann O'Brien, District V Director.

**Right Tier:** Gina Moore, Fundraising Chair, Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer, Kris Chorbi, Region Secretary, Sylvia Crafton, Governor-elect; SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King; Pam Parker, Founder Region Governor.

Governor Pam announced that there was an envelope on each table with tickets inside for a drawing. The tickets were \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 7 for \$10.00; the lucky winner would receive a \$50.00 bill from Region Treasurer Vicki Ham. The proceeds would go towards the SIA Dream Programs through contributions to Club Giving and Laurel Society.

Governor Pam introduced Fundraising Chair Gina Moore who gave her report. She stated that Club Grants and Dream Programs were funded by donations. Founder Region had 100 % participation in Club Giving in 2017-2018 club year, which was a first time achievement for Founder Region. Laurel Society memberships help fund the dream programs and \$12,000,000 had been raised since 1994. She thanked everyone for their support and introduced her committee members: Lisa Foster, District I (SI/Tri-Valley); Karen Jameson, District II (SI/Diablo Vista); Karan Schlegel, District III (SI/Calistoga); Sandy Frazer, District IV (SI/Santa Rosa); Crystal Hull, District V (SI/Eureka); Jackie Pactol, District VI (SI/Central Oahu).

Governor Pam announced the chartering of our 53<sup>rd</sup> club, SI/American Canyon 2018 and introduced the club members in attendance.

Governor Pam introduced Governor-elect Sylvia Crafton as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the Dream Program Awards. In addition to her duties as Governor-elect, she serves as the Founder Region Program Chair.

Governor-elect Sylvia introduced the Region "S" Club Chair Suzanne Clark who announced the Barbara Stevenson "S" Club award winners: Emily Cymanski from Vacaville High School and Cynthia Cortez from Calistoga High School. Emily started a pen-pal program with special needs students at the local elementary school and created a women's empowerment mural. Cynthia started a campaign to put uplifting sticky notes all over campus. Both received \$500 and a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson.

Governor-elect Sylvia gave a brief history of the Ruby Award, which was named after the first president of the "National Soroptimist Club" in 1928, Ruby Lee Minar. It is given to women who, through their personal or professional activities, work to improve the lives of women and girls. She announced that the 2018 Ruby Award winner was Heather Sanderson, nominated by SI/Central Solano County. Heather started a "Girl Circle" program with PAL (Police Activities League). Governor-elect Sylvia announced we would be sending a \$500 donation to the SIA Club Giving program in her honor and on behalf of SI Central Solano County and presented her with a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson and a Ruby Star paperweight to remember us.

Governor-elect Sylvia gave a history of the Violet Richardson Award program, which began in 2000. Founder Region revamped the program in 2015 in order to recognize young women between the ages of 14 and 18 who make a difference through their volunteer service in their community and our world. The award was named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club founded in 1921 in Oakland, CA. This year, we had 37 clubs participate by honoring 43 young women. Governor-elect Sylvia introduced Chair Amelia who then introduced the district award winners. She asked each District winner or representative to sit in the chairs next to the dais and when prompted, share a bit about their service.

**Violet Richardson Award Recipients:**

District I	SI/Tri-Valley	Madeleine Wang
District II	SI/Diablo Vista	Cassidy Tshimbalanga

District III	SI/Central Solano County	Olivia Frenkel
District IV	SI/Windsor	Alejandra Perez
District V	SI/ McKinleyville	Gabby Pole
District VI	SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.	Mahealani Sims-Tulba

Chair Amelia introduced her committee members: Billie Knight, District I (SI/The East Bay); Lisa Schibler, (District II (SI/24/680 [Walnut Creek]); Patty Di Tomaso, District III (SI/St. Helena); Vicki Campbell, District IV (SI/Novato); Tess Albin Smith, District V (SI/Noyo Sunrise); and Kristal Koga, District VI (SI/The Marianas) and thanked them for their hard work. She shared Violet’s motto in life, which was “It’s what you do that counts”, and that’s how we feel about these deserving young women.

Chair Amelia introduced each Violet Richardson Award recipient and asked them to tell about their service work. Governor Pam presented each girl with a Violet Richardson Award certificate, a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson, a Dream It, Be It notebook, and a check for \$500.

Madeleine Wang, District I winner, established the “This Side Up Foundation” to raise money for organ donation. Cassidy Tshimbalanga, District II winner, started a project called a “Sisters Project” that works to rebuild schools in Africa. Olivia Frenkel, District III winner, is making an impact with Suisun Valley 4-H and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Alejandra Perez, District IV winner, volunteers for “Bring Change to Mind” – a non-profit organization dedicated to de-stigmatizing the negative connotations associated with mental illness. Gabby Pole, District V winner, is volunteering to serve the McKinleyville Community to have a positive impact on people’s lives. Julie Lee from SI/McKinleyville accepted the award on her behalf. Mahealani Sims-Tulba, District VI winner, has started a foundation called B.R.A.V.E. – Be Respectful and Value Everyone - to bring awareness to the problem of bullying to the Hawaii schools and community. Denise Ridge from SI/Waikiki accepted the award on her behalf.

Governor-elect Sylvia closed with a quote by Elizabeth Andres, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” She thanked Chair Amelia for her dedication and coordination of the award and congratulated the winners.

Governor-elect Sylvia asked each District winner of the Live Your Dream Award to come to the chairs to the side of the dais for the presentation of the awards and to remain during the presentation. She instructed them NOT to open the envelopes until they are told.

**Live Your Dream Recipients:**

District I	SI/Oakland-The Founder Club	Amber Benton
District II	SI/Pittsburg	Renee Lovelace
District III	SI/Central Solano County	Andrea Johnson
District IV	SI/Novato	Lydia Rodriguez
District V	SI/Eureka	Lauryn Brawley
District VI	SI/Maui	Chalace Feliciano

Governor-elect Sylvia thanked our Live Your Dream Chair, Lou Sablan, who could not attend conference, for doing an awesome job on this life-changing award program. She announced that all 52 clubs in Founder Region participated in the Live Your Dream Awards. She also introduced the committee members: Jennifer Logan, District I (SI/Fremont); Jan Schults, District II (SI/The Delta); Brenda Crandall, District III (SI/Clear Lake); Michelle Bowen, District IV (SI/Windsor); Karen Lorenzo, District V (SI/Humboldt Bay); Rene Tokunaga, District VI (SI/Central Oahu) and thanked them for their good work.

Governor-elect Sylvia spoke about the benefits of education, which serves as a catalyst for women and girls. Since 1972, Soroptimists have provided cash grants to more than 30,000 women who have overcome poverty, teen pregnancy, illness, and addiction. Our program strategy includes 100% club participation, honor more women, provide more funding to recipients, support recipients beyond a financial award, and provide ongoing support to past recipients.

Governor-elect Sylvia announced that the recipients would be getting a special Congressional Certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson. She then introduced each recipient and asked them to speak about their journey and future plans.

Amber Benton, District I winner, is from Albany and is currently studying Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. Renee Lovelace, District II winner, is from Oakley. When she first applied, Renee was studying at Los Medanos College but is currently attending San Francisco State University preparing for a Bachelor Degree in Liberal Studies. Andrea Johnson, District III winner, is from Fairfield and working on her Associate Degree in Human Services at Solano Community College. Lydia Blancas Lopez, District IV winner, is from Novato and is currently at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy studying Culinary Arts. Lauryn Brawley, District V winner, is from Crescent City, and attends College of the Redwoods and has been accepted at Humboldt State University studying several branches of science with an emphasis in Education. Kris Chorbi from SI/Eureka accepted the award on her behalf. Chalace Feliciano, District VI winner, is from Makawao, HI, and is studying Education. She loves children and has a goal of inspiring young people to discover their love of learning. Elaine Randall, President of SI/Maui, accepted the award on her behalf.

Governor-elect Sylvia introduced Vicki Sanders as our special guest and our 1999 Founder Region award recipient from SI/The Marianas, who was at that time studying Mechanics at the Aviation Institute. Vicki shared some of her life experiences and accomplishments since winning the award.

Governor-elect Sylvia announced that each recipient received a \$1,500 check from Founder Region; 5 recipients received a check for \$3,000 from SIA and 1 recipient received a check for \$5,000 from SIA and a \$500 gift card for Best Buy from Founder Region. She announced that the region winner was Amber Benton from District I. Governor-elect Sylvia closed with a quote from Oprah Winfrey, "Step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create." She thanked Suzanne, Amelia, and Lou for chairing their respective committees and encouraged the winners to stay in touch and let us know about their success.

Governor Pam resumed presiding and congratulated the winners. She announced that the survey for conference would be emailed to everyone this year.

Governor Pam asked those clubs who had raffles to come forward and announce their winners. She announced that \$818 had been raised from the final table drawing and would be donated to the SIA Dream Programs through contributions to Club Giving and Laurel Society.

Governor Pam announced the Coloring Contest winners: Mamie Bramlett (SI/Kona), Sharon Maropati (SI/Vacaville), Jessica Cates (SI/Guam), Virginia Bell (SI/Kona), and Heather Bitner (SI/Humboldt Bay) who would receive a \$100 donation to the Laurel Society or Fellowship in their name.

Governor Pam invited Fellowship President Bobbi to the podium one last time who named more Fellows: Sharon Redd (SI/Humboldt Bay), Cheryl Poncini (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club), Donna Hubert (SI/Fremont), and Nancy Tan (SI/The Marianas) 2<sup>nd</sup> level. She thanked them on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Pam announced Cindy Rasmussen (SI/Waikiki) the winner of the Conference Incentive drawing who will receive free registration and meals to the 2019 Founder Region Conference.

Governor Pam called to the podium Fundraising Chair Gina Moore, who gave her report on the "Shine Your Brightest" Opportunity Drawing. She stated that there were 51 baskets donated and the winner of the 100% Raffle Ticket Sales contest was SI/Healdsburg who would receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving on their behalf. She also presented a special pin to all clubs who donated to Club Giving. The basket winners had been drawn and she announced their names and which club provided the basket they won.



Governor Pam welcomed Registration Chair Lisa Dallam (SI/Humboldt Bay) who presented the Forty-second Annual Founder Region Conference attendance report:

International Officers	0	Club Delegates	130
Federation Officers	1	Other Soroptimist	165
Region Officers	4	Guests	48
District Directors	5		
Fellowship President	1		
Fellowship Directors	6	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>360</b>

Conference Coordinator Linda made her final announcements. She made an announcement of “Lost and Fines” and thanked the host clubs for their hard work, Floor Chair Laura Middlemiss and Host Clubs Chair Donna Ayres. The presidents of the host clubs came forward and Governor Pam thanked and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.

Governor Pam gave her final thank-yous to the following: SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy King, Region Committee Chairs and members, Pages and Time Keepers, Credentials Chair Debbie Scaife, Registration Chair Lisa Dallam, Floor Chair Laura Middlemiss, Stewards Patti Dutton, Mandy Marquez and Heather Bitner, Trade Fair Chair Elaine Reed, Audiovisual Co-chairs Kris Wiley & Tess Albin Smith, Conference Treasurer Kelley Slater, Photographer Donna Queen, Host Clubs: SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Eureka, and SI/Humboldt Bay, Conference Coordinator Linda Glantz, and finally the Founder Region Officers and Directors, Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier and the Fellowship Board.

Governor Pam gave her closing remarks and asked SIA Secretary/Treasurer Kathy to join her in leading the Soroptimist Pledge.

Governor Pam adjourned the Forty-second Annual Founder Region Conference at 11:45 am.

***Kristin Chorbi***  
***Founder Region Secretary (2016-2018)***