



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

**2019**

**FOUNDER REGION**

Soroptimist International of the Americas

**Forty-third Annual Region Conference**



# Conference Proceedings

San Ramon Marriott  
San Ramon, California  
May 3-5, 2019

***"Empowering Change"***

*Sylvia Crafton, Governor*

## The Forty-third Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings

The forty-third annual Founder Region Conference was held on May 3, 4, and 5th, 2019 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California.

### Friday, May 3, 2019

Registration opened at 8:00 am on Friday, May 3, 2019.

The Trade Fair opened at 8:00 am.

Governor Sylvia Crafton opened the conference at 10:00 am. She asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Governor Sylvia welcomed those in attendance to the pre-conference session, "Water Crisis and Climate Change Challenges – Empowering Change for our Future." She thanked everyone for investing valuable time in their Soroptimist journey. She introduced the Platform Party.

**Lower Left Tier:** Madalienne Peters, Legislative Advocacy Committee Member District IV (SI/Novato). Theo Tsoukalas, author of *Political Crisis and the Politics of Water Pollution Control*; and, Linda Witong, Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair District IV (SI/Marin County) and moderator of today's session.

**Lower Right Tier:** Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy 2017-2019; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; and, Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA President and Official Visitor.

Governor Sylvia then introduced Marissa Elder, the Digital Media Specialist who would be video-taping the Legislative Advocacy Program for future sharing at Soroptimist events, broadcasting stations, as well as internet channels. She also acknowledged the Committee members: Sandra Simms from SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc., Fredda Kaplan from SI/Novato, Carrie Domogalla from SI/Calistoga, and Angie Haramoto from SI/Maui.

Further acknowledgements went to Kathy King, Soroptimist International Treasurer-elect and Dona Gaddis Wolf, Soroptimist International of the Americas Fundraising Council Member. Finally, a warm welcome was extended to Jan-Pieter Verhoef, visiting Soroptimist from SI/Zwolle, Netherlands, as well as Terry Odongo, visiting Soroptimist from SI/Kakamega, Kenya, Africa.

She announced that the timekeepers for the day would be: Jacquelyn Wright and Ginnette Huot from SI/The Delta; and, the microphone monitors would be Kathi Reed and Ginny Smart also from SI/The Delta.

Governor Sylvia turned the program over to the Legislative Advocacy committee starting with Madalienne Peters and Linda Witong who introduced the morning session speakers.

Dr. Theo Tsoukalas, a researcher on drought, water management, and climate change in Marin County and California, spoke on the Perspective impact of the water crisis in the Bay Area and California.

Bev Bucur spoke on the Perspective impact of the water crisis within the United States.

**Recessed at 11:30 am**

**Reconvened at 12:00 pm**

At 12:00 pm, the "Water Crisis and Climate Change Challenges – Empowering Change for our Future." luncheon was reconvened in the Ballroom.

Governor Sylvia again introduced the Platform Party.

**Lower Left Tier:** Carrie Domogalla, Legislative Advocacy Committee (SI/Calistoga); Sandra Simms, Legislative Advocacy Committee (SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.); Elizabeth Emerson, Director of Evergreen Leaders Project, Speaker and Panelist; Nick Tipon, Faculty member of Point Blue Conservation Science, STRAW (Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed), Speaker and Panelist; Theo Tsoukalas, author of *Political Crisis and the Politics of Water Pollution Control*, Panelist; and Linda Witong, Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair District IV (SI/Marin County) and moderator of today's panel discussion.

**Lower Right Tier:** Rev. Sally Bingham, priest and canon for the environment in the Episcopal Diocese of California, Panelist; Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy 2017-2019; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; and, SIA President and Official Visitor, Elizabeth Di Geronimo.

The inspiration was given by Sandra Simms, (SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.); followed by the welcome given by Carrie Domogalla, (SI/Calistoga).

Governor Sylvia 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 SI President's Appeal: Women, Water and Leadership.

SIA President Elizabeth Di Geronimo introduced the Keynote speaker: SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, whose topic was "Women, Water, & Leadership" – Perspective on Global Impact.

Governor Sylvia thanked SI President Mariet and informed her that Founder Region clubs have so far contributed \$7,982.50 to the December 10<sup>th</sup> President's Appeal. She also announced that the table raffle raised \$938.00 (less the \$50 award), which will also be donated to the SI President's Appeal. The winner of the \$50.00 was Gloria Soderbery (SI/Pittsburg).

Just before the break, Fellowship President Pam Parker drew names for Fellows. The winners were:  
Michelle Bowen of SI/Windsor  
Sharon Redd of SI/Humboldt Bay  
Barbara Young of SI/Santa Rosa  
Cheryl Poncini of SI/Oakland-The Founder Club  
Reyna Toriel, N/A  
Kathy Besio-Borg of SI/Healdsburg  
Geraldyn Cordova of SI/Guam  
Arlene Bordallo, of SI/Guam

**Break at 1:45 pm**  
**Resume at 2:00 pm**

Legislative Advocacy Chair Linda Witong introduced Nick Tipon who spoke about water crisis and climate change from the Perspective on Traditional Environmental Knowledge of Native People.

A panel discussion took place with Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, Elizabeth Emerson, Reverend Sally Bingham, Theo Tsoukalas, Nick Tipon, Elizabeth Di Geronimo, and Bev Bucur. A question and answer period followed.

Governor Sylvia thanked each of the speakers and panelists and presented each with a butterfly token symbolizing their commitment to "Empowering Change."

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements relative to the Conference.

**Break at 4:00**

Governor Sylvia 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 6:15 pm in the Ballroom Lobby with the Dinner and Awards Program beginning at 7:00 pm.

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

***Recessed at 4:30 pm***

At 5:30 pm, the Founder Region “Fellow” Reception was held in the Outside Ballroom Patio for Fellows only to meet the 2019 Fellowship recipients. At 6:15 pm, the Reception began in the Ballroom Lobby.

At 7:00 pm Governor Sylvia declared the Forty-third Annual Conference of Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas in session.

Governor Sylvia announced that the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance will be provided by De Anza High School, CA-20145, all female Air Force JROTC. She then introduced past Governor Susan Joyce who led us in the singing of the National Anthem and “God Bless America”.

The Community welcome was given by Sean Wright, Mayor of Antioch.

Governor-elect Kris Chorbi gave the official response.

District I Fellowship Director Cheryl Poncini gave the Inspiration.

District III Fellowship Director Teri Malkin gave the Welcome on behalf of the Fellowship board.

Governor Sylvia introduced the Platform Party:

**Upper Left Tier:** Alana Siegner, Fellowship Recipient; Crystal Arbuthnot, District V Fellowship Director/Treasurer; Mika Nakashige, Fellowship Recipient.

**Upper Right Tier:** Julia Garcia, Fellowship Recipient; Jan Schults, District II Fellowship Director/Secretary; Kate Pennington, Fellowship Recipient; Teri Malkin, District III Fellowship Director; Saalem Adera, Fellowship Recipient.

**Lower Left Tier:** Dr. Sean Wright, Mayor of Antioch; Nancy Weber, District IV Fellowship Director; Sigrid Luhr, Fellowship Recipient; Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; Lisa Ann Pauahi Ho’okano, Fellowship Recipient; Pam Parker, Fellowship President.

**Lower Right Tier:** Theresa Burrue Stone, Fellowship Recipient; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director; Michelle Phillips, Fellowship Recipient; SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen; SIA Official Visitor and President Elizabeth Di Geronimo; and Governor Sylvia Crafton.

Governor Sylvia 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 Crystal Arbuthnot or they could start their Fellow Monthly Giving Plan. The proceeds will go towards Founder Region Fellowship.

At 8:00 pm, Governor Sylvia turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Pam Parker. President Pam welcomed everyone to the Fellowship Awards Banquet.

President Pam then acknowledged and recognized the Past Fellowship Presidents in attendance:

Bobbi Enderlin 2016- 2018. Her theme was “Education Creates Shining Stars.”

Barbara Lanier 2008-2010. Her theme was “Reach for the Stars.”

Dion Weaver 2006-2009. Her theme was “Investing in the Future, One Woman at a Time.”

Mary Ann Redden 2004-2006. Her theme was “Getting It Done Together.”

President Pam also acknowledged Deanna Hanks, recently deceased, as a special friend of Fellowship whose personal pins were donated by past Governor Susan Joyce in order to auction at this Conference; thus, continuing to raise money for Fellowship.

Each of the following women was awarded \$10,000.00 and received special Congressional Certificates and/or Commendations from the following:

Special Certificate from Founder Region Fellowship.

The Honorable Mike Thompson, CA Congressional District 5.

The Honorable Kamala Harris, CA Senate.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, CA Senate.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, CA Congressional District 12 and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The awardees shared information about their studies and future plans:

Saalem Adera	Hydrology	UC Berkeley
Erika Brown	Public Health	UC Berkeley
Julia Garcia	Social Health/Media	Saybrook University
Lisa Ann Ho'okano	Curriculum Studies	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Sigrid Luhr	Sociology	UC Berkeley
Mika Nakashige	Chemistry	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Kate Pennington	Political, Reproductive Urban Economics	UC Berkeley
Michelle Phillips	Sociology	UC Berkeley
Alana Siegner	Energy and Resources	UC Berkeley
Theresa Burruel Stone	Education	UC Berkeley

President Pam gave her closing remarks

Governor Sylvia thanked Fellowship President Pam 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 \$1,001.00 less the \$50 award was raised from the table drawing. The winner of the \$50 was Mari Avedano of SI/Novato.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Sylvia announced that we were in recess at 9:30 pm and will reconvene at 8:00 am Saturday morning for the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting.

## Saturday, May 4, 2019 – Fellowship Business Meeting

The Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting convened at 8:10 am and was adjourned at 9:13 am. The full minutes of the meeting are attached following the Proceedings.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann Redden made announcements relevant to the Conference.

## Saturday, May 4, 2019 – Founder Region Business Meeting

Governor Sylvia called the Founder Region Business Meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Governor Sylvia 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:** Elise Balgley, District I Director; Bev Gomer, District II Director; Joy Swank, District III Director.

**Upper Right Tier:** Barbara Young, District IV Director; Dyann O'Brien, District V Director; Kristal Koga, District VI Director.

**Lower Left Tier:** Terry Enns, Region Nominating Committee Member and Elections Chair; Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer; Pat Eileen Fisher, Region Secretary; Sheila Bearden, Laws and Resolutions Chair; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian.

**Lower Right Tier:** Kris Chorbi, Region Governor-elect; Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy; SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen; SIA President and Official Visitor Elizabeth Di Geronimo; and Sylvia Crafton, Region Governor.

Credentials Chair Louise Agnew presented the Founder Region Credentials Report #1.

### Founder Region Credentials Report #1:

Clubs in Founder Region: 53	Delegates Registered:
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1	District Directors 6
Clubs Registered: 48	Club Delegates 123
Total Voting Clubs: 46	Total Delegates 133
	Quorum for Opening Session 67

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

Governor Sylvia called upon Secretary Pat Eileen to read the Conference Standing Rules on page 26 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 Sylvia called upon Secretary Pat Eileen to read any corrections to the conference program:

Page 25 After Dona Gaddis Wolf; replace Fundraising Council Member, 2018-2019 with 2018-2020.

Secretary Pat Eileen 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 Sylvia announced that there were 53 first time attendees registered and asked them to rise and be recognized. She then acknowledged the importance of the role of the pages and asked them to stand and be recognized. She also announced that the timekeepers were Jay Villalta-Romiti and Jackie Buccellato; and, the microphone monitors were Margie Rognlien and Cara Begley.

She then introduced the stewards for conference: Cara Begley, Governor's Steward; Stephanie Helberg, Governor-elect's Steward; Jacqueline Wright, SIA President and Official Visitors Steward; Jay Villalta-Romiti, SI President's Steward; and, Gina Moore, SI Director of Advocacy's Steward.

Governor Sylvia called upon Secretary Pat Eileen to read the greetings and correspondence. Secretary Pat Eileen read the letters of official greetings from SIA President and Official Visitor, Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA Executive Director & CEO Liz Lucas and SI Future Africa Federation Taskforce Chair Mary Muia.

Governor Sylvia asked Secretary Pat Eileen to provide the results of the Invitation to Host Region Conference in 2022. Secretary Pat Eileen reported that SI/Maui, SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. and, SI/Central Oahu volunteered to host the 2022 conference to be held in District VI. Governor Sylvia asked a representative of the clubs to speak. Denise Ridge, President of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. spoke on behalf of the three clubs indicating their acceptance of the invitation.

It was moved by Secretary Pat Eileen and seconded to accept SI/Maui, SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. and, SI/Central Oahu as host clubs for 2022 Founder Region Conference. Governor Sylvia called for the question, which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed.

Governor Sylvia then brought up some Old Business concerning Conference Hosting carried over from the 2018 Conference. SI/Oakland-The Founder Club, SI/El Cerrito, SI/Benicia, and SI/The Tri-Valley were confirmed to host the 2021 Conference. Subsequently, SI/East Bay approached and also volunteered to co-host the 2021 Conference along with the other clubs previously noted. Since the delegates had already been released, SI/East Bay's request had to be carried over to the 2019 Conference. We received a request from SI/Benicia to withdraw as of June 13, 2018, as there would be too many clubs hosting. Governor Sylvia called for a motion on the invitation of SI/East Bay to host first, followed by the request of SI/Benicia to withdraw.

It was moved by Secretary Pat Eileen to accept the invitation of SI/East Bay to be added as a Host Club for the 2021 Founder Region Conference. Governor Sylvia called for the question, which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Secretary Pat Eileen to accept the request of SI/Benicia to withdraw as a host to the 2021 Conference. Governor Sylvia called for the question, which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed.

Governor Sylvia thanked each club for their support and reminded everyone that the 2021 Conference will take place in Oakland at the Marriott Oakland City Center.

Then, concerning the 2020 Conference, a request was received on May 28, 2018 from SI/Novato who would like to be added as a host club along with SI/Marin County and SI/Ukiah. Governor Sylvia called for a motion.

Secretary Pat Eileen moved that we accept the invitation of SI/Novato to serve as host to the 2020 Conference. Governor Sylvia called for the question, which required a majority vote and declared the motion passed.

At this point, Governor Sylvia asked if there were any updates to the Credentials Report previously given. Credentials Chair Louise read Founder Region Credentials Report #2.



## Founder Region Credentials report #2:

Clubs in Founder Region: 53  
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 52  
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 1  
Clubs Registered: 48  
Total Voting Clubs: 47

Delegates Registered:  
Region Officers: 4  
District Directors: 6  
Club Delegates: 125  
Total Delegates: 135  
Quorum for Opening Session: 68

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

Governor Sylvia declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She announced the Microphone Monitors were Margie Rognlien and Cara Begley; and the timekeepers were Jay Villalta-Romiti and Jackie Buccellato.

Governor Sylvia stated that Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Tan was unable to attend and District II Nominating Committee Member, Terry Enns would be representing the committee and serving as the Elections Chair. Terry then gave the Nominating Committee Report:

The following names were submitted as nominees for the 2019-2021 Founder Region Nominating Committee:

District I – Billie Knight, SI/East Bay  
District II – Karen Jameson, SI/Diablo Vista  
District III – None  
District IV – Loretta Tognoli, SI/Ukiah  
District V – Mary Ruth Rheinschild, SI/Crescent City  
District VI – None

After reading each nomination, Governor Sylvia asked if there were any nominations from the floor. If there were none; the chair declared the nominations closed.

Region Board Districts I, II, IV, V, and VI had no nominations from the floor; therefore, the nominations were closed. SI/Vallejo nominated Jackie Arnold from SI/Vallejo for District III Nominating Committee and SI/Benicia nominated Mary Anne Branch from SI/Benicia for District III Nominating Committee. Governor Sylvia asked if the consent from the nominees had been obtained and for resumes to be distributed to District III delegates. Governor Sylvia declared the nominations closed.

Governor Sylvia asked the candidates for the 2019-2021 Founder Region Nominating Committee Nominees to line up in order of Districts and by alpha if more than one nominee. She stated that each candidate had two minutes to speak.

Governor Sylvia explained 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 Sylvia announced that voting for nominees that are unopposed shall be by voice vote.

Governor Sylvia announced the District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Billie Knight the District I winner. She announced the District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Karen Jameson the District II winner. She announced the District III nominees would be voted by ballot during lunch in the Elections room across the hallway from the ballroom. She announced the District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Loretta Tognoli the District IV winner. She announced the District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Mary Ruth Rheinschild the District V winner.

Governor Sylvia introduced SIA President and Official Visitor, Elizabeth Di Geronimo and shared a little of her biography. SIA President Elizabeth gave her PowerPoint presentation entitled "From Seedlings to Flowers: Growing Our Soroptimist Garden". She likened Soroptimist to a garden with our members and



supporters the gardeners, and our Dream Program recipients the seedlings that grow into beautiful flowers. However, without continued support and care, our recipients can fall backward, erasing their hard-earned progress. Preparing the garden is like getting ready for our Big Goal.

- We must recruit more members and raise funds to help 500,000 women and girls to access education.
- No matter how busy, there is always a way to do your part in maintaining a healthy garden.
- In Soroptimist we need to nurture our own plant as well and make it bloom.

SIA President Elizabeth concluded her presentation quoting Audrey Hepburn, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” She reminded everyone that our garden is about to enter its second century. The theme for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is: “Beautiful Past, Brilliant Future.” How much more do we want to do to ensure a brilliant future for our organization?

Governor Sylvia thanked SIA President Elizabeth for her presentation and announced that a donation in her name would be made to the Laurel Society.

Governor Sylvia invited everyone to quietly stand, stretch and be re-seated.

She then asked Credentials Chair Louise if there were any updates to the previous Credentials Report #2. There being none, the program continued with preparation for the proposed Bylaw amendments.

Governor Sylvia declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She announced the Microphone Monitors were Margie Rognlien and Cara Begley; and the timekeepers were Jay Villalta-Romiti and Jackie Buccellato.

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 was one minute remaining. The white card would go up when there were thirty seconds remaining. The red card would be raised when the two minutes had expired and the delegate must STOP. When the ten minutes had been exhausted the timekeeper would so indicate, with the RED STOP card and the sound of a bell.

Delegates were also instructed to indicate to the page at the microphone the purpose of their address to the chair as “For”; “Against”; “Information” or, “Amendment”. Duplicate motion forms were available at each delegates table for any motions or amendments.

Governor Sylvia explained that Sheila Bearden, Chair of the Laws and Resolution Committee would read the amendment; however, if there was no objection, the chair would not repeat the entire proposal – there being no objection the action was adopted.

Governor Sylvia introduced Laws and Resolutions Chair Sheila who read amendment #1.

### **Founder Region Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2019**

#### **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. An administrative reserve shall be maintained in a separate dedicated account. The administrative reserve will be built to a level sufficient to sustain operation expenses and obligations for a period of seven (7) months. Use of any portion of the

administrative reserve requires approval by the Region Board and must be reported at the annual Founder Region Conference.

**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. Seven (7) months of anticipated expenses could be more or less than the current \$12,000; and, the amount could vary biennially, depending upon the budget.

**Rationale:** An administrative reserve is maintained to ensure long term financial sustainability of the organization by providing a cushion against unexpected events, such as significant loss of dues revenue, or to meet unfulfilled contractual commitments. Soroptimist International of the Americas recommends administrative reserve accounts be equal to seven (7) months anticipated expenses. This revision would keep Founder Region in line with SIA's recommendations.

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

Governor Sylvia asked for any discussion. There being none, Governor Sylvia called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Governor Sylvia invited everyone to stand, stretch and be re-seated.

Governor Sylvia then asked Chair Sheila to read the proposed Resolution to amend Founder Region Procedures A. Districts.

### **Resolution to Change District Alignment**

Proposed By: The Founder Region Board

As recommended by:

District Realignment Task Force: Past Governors Pam Parker, Bobbi Enderlin, Dona Gaddis-Wolf, Amelia Benko, Sue Finch, Maryann Redden, Susan Joyce, Carol Steele.

Whereas, Founder Region Bylaws Section 3.2 (adopted May 6, 2017) state:

**Section 3.2** The territory of the Region is divided into districts. Such districts shall consist of at least ten clubs or 150 members per district. The territory to be contained in each district shall be determined by the Region Board of Directors. If the Region Board approves a change in districts, it shall submit the proposed change in district area at the next Region Conference. Only delegates affected by the proposed change may vote upon this resolution, and

Whereas, The June 30, 2018 census report referenced number of clubs and members in each district as currently defined:

District I = 7 clubs with 155 members  
District II = 6 clubs with 141 members  
District III = 13 clubs with 534 members  
District IV = 8 clubs with 193 members  
District V = 10 clubs with 223 members  
District VI = 9 clubs with 257 members, and

Whereas, Founder Region Procedures (amended August 19, 2018) state:

**A. Districts**

1. Districts shall be groups of clubs within the boundaries of the region comprised as follows:
  - a) District I: Alameda County and portions of Contra Costa County.
  - b) District II: Portions of Contra Costa County.
  - c) District III: Napa, Lake and Solano Counties.
  - d) District IV: Marin, Sonoma and portions of Mendocino County.
  - e) District V: Humboldt County, Del Norte County and portions of Mendocino County.
  - f) District VI: The state of Hawaii and the United States Territories of Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
2. District areas may be altered, additional districts may be created or districts merged upon written request to the region board by any club or district affected by such proposed alteration, or by the region board
3. The request shall include, but not be limited to, the following information for each district to be formed:
  - i. Number of clubs
  - ii. Number of members
  - iii. Geographic factors
  - iv. Economic considerations
  - v. Territorial limits
  - vi. Distribution of district funds, and

Whereas, There is an imbalance of number of clubs and number of members in districts which presents an imbalance of club representation and district director workload on the region board, and therefore be it

Resolved, That Founder Region Procedure **A. Districts** be amended by striking 1. a, b, c, d, e, f and replacing with:

1. Districts shall be groups of clubs within the boundaries of the region comprised as follows:
  - a) District I: Alameda County and portions of Contra Costa, and Solano Counties.
  - b) District II: Portions of Contra Costa, Solano and Napa Counties.
  - c) District III: Marin, Sonoma, and Lake Counties, and portions of Napa and Mendocino Counties.
  - d) District IV: Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, and portions of Mendocino County.

e) District V: The state of Hawaii and the United States Territories of Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau.

Resolved, The present District VI will retain its present geographic description and be renumbered V, and

Resolved, To strike item 3.vi Distribution of District funds, and

Resolved, This realignment would be effective with the 2020-2022 biennium starting July 1, 2020, and

Resolved, As new clubs are chartered they shall be assigned to a district by the Founder Region Board, and be it further

Resolved, Existing clubs are assigned to Districts as follows:

District I (11 clubs)

24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Benicia  
Diablo Vista  
East Bay  
El Cerrito  
Fremont  
Martinez  
Oakland – The Founder Club  
Richmond  
San Ramon Valley  
The Tri-Valley

District III (12 clubs)

Calistoga  
Clear Lake  
Healdsburg  
Marin County  
Mendocino Sonoma Coast  
Napa  
Novato  
St. Helena  
St. Helena Sunrise  
Santa Rosa  
Sonoma Valley  
Windsor

District V (9 clubs)

Central Oahu  
Guam  
Honolulu  
Kona  
The Marianas  
Maui  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Palau  
Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

District II (10 clubs)

American Canyon 2018  
Antioch  
Central Solano County  
The Delta  
Dixon  
Pittsburg  
Rio Vista  
Vacaville  
Vacaville Twilight  
Vallejo

District IV (11 clubs)

Arcata  
Crescent City  
Eel River Valley  
Eureka  
Ft. Bragg  
Humboldt Bay  
McKinleyville  
Noyo Sunrise  
The Redwoods  
Ukiah  
Willits

#### Advantages:

1. With a reduction of one District Director on the Founder Region Board, there will be reduced expenditures for travel, club visits and board meeting attendance, as well as conference travel and meal expenses.
2. There is a potential to reduce from four to three District Meeting events annually.
3. More equal distribution of clubs will more evenly balance the work of District Directors.
4. SIA funding of Live Your Dream Awards is based on the number of participating clubs and there is no impact to this funding with a reduction of the number of Districts. The region level judging of the Live Your Dream award can designate an at-large recipient from Founder Region as an additional recipient. This will allow us to continue to award 6 recipients as long as the number of participating clubs remains above 50.
5. The realignment in most cases puts clubs which are closer together in the same district.

#### Disadvantages:

1. Additional mileage will be incurred by some District Directors visiting more clubs than in the current district alignment.
2. Less opportunity for leadership positions for potential region leaders.

#### Information:

District boundaries were changed at the 1989 Founder Region Conference and became effective in 1990 at the beginning of the 1990-1992 biennium. At that time, the number of Districts was increased from 5 to 6 districts having 80 clubs at that time. In 1997 a restructuring of the District boundaries was completed.

Governor Sylvia then stated that the question was on the resolution to amend Founder Region Procedure A. Districts by changing District Alignment, as read by Chair Sheila.

Governor Sylvia recognized past Governor Bobbi Enderlin at microphone 1. She spoke in favor of the resolution as a member of the Region realignment task force. There being no further discussion, Governor Sylvia called for the question and stated that this required a 2/3 vote to pass. She declared the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Governor Sylvia introduced Treasurer Vicki who stated that the 2018-2020 Founder Region Treasurer's report was included in the registration packets and if anyone had questions, to contact her during the break.

She then asked Credential's Chair Louise if there were any updates to the Credentials. There being none, the Credentials Report previously adopted remained and the program continued.

Governor Sylvia introduced the voting tellers: Terri Enns, Linda Glantz, Helen Sager and Louise Agnew. Chair Terry explained the voting procedures and that the polls would be open from noon to 12:30 pm.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements relevant to the Conference.

Governor Sylvia recessed the meeting for the Director's Lunch.

## ***Recessed at 11:30 pm***

## ***Reconvened at 12:30 pm***

Governor Sylvia reconvened the Founder Region Conference at 12:30 pm.

Governor Sylvia welcomed everyone back and requested that all cell phones be turned off. She then presented those members who currently made up the Platform Party.

**Upper Left Tier:** Debbie Scaife, Soroptimist Celebrating Success Chair; Sheila Bearden, Laws and Resolutions Chair; and, Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian.

**Upper Right Tier:** Lyn Lurbe, Fundraising Chair; Jackie DeVries, Public Awareness Chair; Bobbi Enderlin, Membership Chair; and, Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer.

**Lower Right Tier:** Pat Eileen Fisher, Region Secretary; Kris Chorbi, Governor-elect; Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA President and Official Visitor.

Governor Sylvia 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 Dream Program Awards.

Governor Sylvia announced each club as the directors led the presidents' processional of their district. She then announced the "Empowering Change Award" recipient from each club who received a special certificate.

Governor Sylvia introduced District III Director Joy Swank who gave the inspiration.

Governor Sylvia introduced District II Director Bev Gomer who gave the welcome on behalf of the District Directors.

Governor Sylvia pointed out that we were "Empowering Change" this year with the club posters that were hung around the ballroom instead of a printed newsletter. She encouraged everyone to read the posters which reflected the wonderful work that clubs were accomplishing. She thanked District III Director Joy Swank and Public Awareness Chair Jackie DeVries for coming up with a creative way to show what the clubs were doing and reminded club presidents to take their poster home and use it as a Public Awareness resource.

Lunch was served at 1:00 pm. At this time Governor Sylvia invited Fellowship President Pam to draw for Fellows. The following Fellows were drawn:

Tosha Bowling of SI/Humboldt Bay

Susan Dever of SI/Central Solano County.

The District Directors began their brief reports reading each club's slogan and drew a club from each of their Districts. The winning club drawn would receive a donation of \$250 to Club Giving in their name. The winning clubs were:

District I	SI/Oakland-The Founder Club
District II	SI/Diablo Vista
District III	SI/Vallejo
District IV	SI/Windsor
District V	SI/Crescent City
District VI	SI/Kona



Governor Sylvia then introduced Bev Bucur, the SI Director of Advocacy as the keynote speaker for the luncheon. Her topic was about Soroptimist International work at the United Nations where we have Non-Governmental status as representatives. Her PowerPoint presentation: "Journey Around the World Through the U.N." was extremely informative.

Governor Sylvia then introduced SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen who invited everyone to the 21<sup>st</sup> International Convention to be held July 18-21 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A short movie described the area and the wonders of Malaysia.

Governor Sylvia called on Nominating Committee Chair Terry Enns to announce the election results:  
District III Nominating Committee: Mary Ann Branch – 7 votes; Jackie Arnold – 31 votes; Illegal votes – 0

Governor Sylvia declared the Founder Region Nominating Committee Representatives as follows:

District I	Billie Knight
District II	Karen Jameson
District III	Jackie Arnold
District IV	Loretto Tognoli
District V	Mary Ruth Rheinschild

After giving permission to destroy the ballots, Governor Sylvia announced that past Governor Amelia Benko of SI/The Tri-Valley would serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Governor Sylvia announced that \$863.00 less \$50 prize was raised from the table drawing at lunch. The winner of the \$50 was Mary Ann Redden of SI/Antioch.

**Recessed at 2:30 pm.**

**Reconvened at 2:52 pm.**

Governor Sylvia called everyone's attention to the pink flag ribbon on quite a few name badges of the attendees this year. She explained that ribbon identified a member or contributor of the Laurel Society, a prestigious recognition program for Soroptimist members.

She then invited Fundraising Chair Lyn Lurbe to the podium to announce the members who would be receiving new pins and which level they had achieved. Governor Sylvia asked SIA President Elizabeth to pin the following members:

Elise Balgley, District I Director	Attaché Level
Jay Villalta-Romiti (SI/Antioch)	Attaché Level
Kris Chorbi, Governor-elect	Attaché Level
Barbara Young, District IV Director	Envoy Level
Vicki Ham, Region Treasurer	Envoy Level
Jackie Pactol (SI/Central Oahu)	Envoy Level

Chair Lyn also announced that Gloria Soderbery (SI/Pittsburg) and Laurine Kaiser-Gallian had signed up for the Laurel Society monthly giving program. Governor Sylvia thanked everyone for their participation in this important program.

Governor Sylvia invited Chair Lyn to draw for the new member sponsor contest. The sponsor's name drawn was Mari Avedano (SI/Novato). Mari will receive a \$1,000 donation to the Laurel Society in her name.

Governor Sylvia next introduced Soroptimist Celebrating Success Chair Debbie Scaife (SI/Eel River Valley). She reported that there were 27 entries from 15 clubs. The deadline is July 1, 2019 for the 2018-

2019 club year entries. The following clubs were announced as the region winners in each pillar category who would receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving and submission to SIA for federation judging:

Program – SI/Rio Vista  
Fundraising – SI/Rio Vista  
Public Awareness – SI/Crescent City  
Membership – SI/Central Oahu

Clubs who participated in Soroptimists Celebrating Success were: SI/American Canyon 2018, SI/Antioch, SI/Central Oahu, SI/Central Solano County, SI/Crescent City, SI/Dixon, SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Eureka, SI/Guam, SI/Humboldt Bay, SI/Martinez, SI/Novato, SI/The Redwoods, SI/Rio Vista, and SI/Willits.

Governor Sylvia introduced Public Awareness Chair Jackie DeVries who used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the importance of a strong brand and how that is instrumental in helping us grow our impact, recruit new members and attract donors and corporate sponsors.

Governor Sylvia asked the assembly to stand, stretch and be re-seated.

Governor Sylvia invited Membership Chair Bobbi Enderlin to share some ideas for growing our Membership. Her PowerPoint presentation stressed the role of the clubs to increase member recruitment and retention and the role of the Region in chartering new clubs in order to meet our Big Goal. She announced that we currently have four possible new clubs for chartering: Sebastopol will charter as West Sonoma County; Ukiah is meeting to form Ukiah Twilight; Oakmont, a senior living community in Santa Rosa is having informational meetings; and, Hayward area is another possibility.

Membership reported as of March 31, 2019:

Total members in SIA	30,590	2019
	31,287	2018
Totals Clubs in SIA	1,270	2019
	1,276	2018
Members in Founder Region	1,449	2019
	1,465	2018
Clubs in Founder Region	53	2019
	52	2018

Membership Chair Bobbi then presented the Julia “Bess” Combs Membership Increase Award to SI/Benicia, who had the largest net growth of 8 members and will receive a \$500 donation to club giving in their honor.

Governor Sylvia then spoke to the assembly about the upcoming Leadership Training which is designed to educate, empower and enable our members to learn more about our organization, and how to lead within a club. There will be two Leadership Trainings: Districts IV and V are combined this year on June 8<sup>th</sup> which is the same weekend as the Memorial Grove event; Districts I, II and III will be in the Oakland area on June 15<sup>th</sup> She explained that this year we are empowering change by inviting members to attend any of the Trainings that best fit your schedule.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann announced that volunteers were needed to assist with the Hands-on Group Project assembling “Survival Bags” for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. Governor Sylvia expressed appreciation and thanks to SI/Rio Vista for coordinating this group project.

**Recessed at 4:15 pm.**

**Reconvened at 7:00 pm.**

Governor Sylvia reconvened the meeting with Dinner at 7:00 pm. She recognized the Past Governors as they proceeded in:

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 Denise Raycraft.

Mary Ann Redden. Member of SI/Antioch – Founder Region Governor from 2002-2004. Her theme was “Achieve Growth By Sharing” - escorted by SI/Antioch Delegate Stephanie Helberg.

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 Delegate Debbie Scaife.

Amelia Benko. Member of SI/The Tri-Valley, Founder Region Governor from 2008-2010. Her theme was “Making a Difference Matters” - escorted by SI/The Tri-Valley Delegate Charlotte Fernandez.

Dona Gaddis Wolf. Member of SI/Antioch – Founder Region Governor from 2012-2014. Her theme was “Share the Light of Soroptimist Service” – escorted by SI/Antioch Member Margie Rognlien.

Bobbi Enderlin. Member of SI/Benicia, Founder Region Governor from 2014-2016. Her theme was “Share the Joy of Soroptimist” - SI/Benicia Past President Mary Anne Branch.

Pam Parker. Member of SI/St. Helena Sunrise, Founder Region Governor from 2016-2018. Her theme was “Soroptimist Are Shining Stars.” – escorted by SI/St. Helena Sunrise Delegate Holly Mason.

Governor Sylvia thanked them for their mentoring and continued service to Founder Region and announced that a donation to the Laurel Society would be made in their names.

Governor Sylvia introduced the President of Soroptimist International of The Delta, Maria Landski, who gave the inspiration on behalf of the two host clubs: SI/Antioch, and SI/The Delta.

Governor Sylvia introduced the President of Soroptimist International of Antioch, and past Governor Mary Ann Redden, who gave the welcome on behalf of the two host clubs.

Governor Sylvia expressed a special thanks to the past Governors for their support during the year. She pointed out that their leadership in our region paved the way for leaders following in their footsteps and for those future leaders that will bring us further forward. She then played a PowerPoint honoring each Founder Region Governor from 1976 through 2018.

Governor Sylvia then asked everyone to stand and welcome the special visitors with us this evening: Soroptimist International Treasurer-elect, Kathy King; Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy, Bev Bucur; Soroptimist International President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen; and, our Official Visitor and Soroptimist International of the Americas President, Elizabeth Di Geronimo.

Governor Sylvia 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 Dream Program Awards.

Dinner was served at 7:30 pm.

Governor Sylvia announced that \$1,036.00 less \$50 prize was raised from the table drawing at dinner. The winner of the \$50 was Lorraine Murphy of SI/Ft. Bragg.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made announcements relevant to the conference.

Governor Sylvia explained that the evening entertainment consisted of a talent show and music provided by the DJ, Lawrence Ramiro. Each participating group or club chose a water themed song and brought the song to life and each participating club would have a contribution to Club Giving made in their club name.

Founder Region Board – “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head.”

Founder Region Fellowship Board – “Proud Mary.”

SI/Vacaville – “Splish Splash.”

SI/Humboldt Bay – “It Never Rains in Southern California.”

**Recessed at 10:00 pm**

## **Sunday, May 5, 2019**

Governor Sylvia reconvened the conference at 8:00 am Sunday morning with the "Celebration of Service" in remembrance of the members who have died this past year. The service included a PowerPoint presentation with the names and photographs of the deceased members and indicated their years of service. As the names of the deceased members were read, a club member carried in a flower and placed them in a vase at the front of the room.

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

Shirley Fukumoto	SI/Central Oahu
Betsy Price	SI/Central Solano County
Treva Black	SI/The Delta
Marcella Colarich	SI/Diablo Vista
Ginger Marsh	SI/Diablo Vista
Barbara Pendergrass	SI/Diablo Vista
Deanna Hanks	SI/Dixon
Margaritte Kittyle	SI/Dixon
Brenda Rinearson	SI/Dixon
Mary Vides	SI/Eel River Valley
Norma Arndt	SI/Napa
Edith Burch	SI/Napa
Marjorie Conley	SI/Santa Rosa
Edythe Cordellos	SI/Sonoma Valley
Tina Wolfenden	SI/Sonoma Valley
Sharon Barker	SI/Ukiah
Eloise Grothe	SI/Ukiah
Mary Harris	SI/Vacaville
Wendy Wasserman	SI/Vacaville
Anne Sutton	SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

After the processional, Barbara Lanier (SI/El Cerrito) sang "You Raise Me Up."

Governor Sylvia announced the 61<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Memorial Grove Service will be held on June 9, 2019 at the Prairie Creek State Park followed by a visit to our Soroptimist grove. She thanked the Redwood Memorial Grove Committee: Debbie Thompson, Elaine Reed, Vicki Baldwin, Marge Dimmick and Past Governor Kate Burns.

Governor Sylvia also thanked the members of SI/The Tri-Valley club for coordinating the Memorial Celebration of Service.

Governor Sylvia 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 our Region Dream Awards. She advised the guests and award recipients that there was no obligation to participate.

Breakfast was served at 8:30 am.

Governor Sylvia introduced District I Director Elise Balgley who gave the inspiration and District IV Director Barbara Young who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Region Board.

Governor Sylvia then introduced the platform party:

**Upper Left Tier:** Elise Balgley, District I Director; Bev Gomer, District II Director; Joy Swank, District III Director.

**Upper Right Tier:** Barbara Young, District IV Director; Dyann O'Brien, District V Director; Kristal Koga, District VI Director.

**Lower Left:** Lyn Lurbe, Fundraising Chair; Vicki Ham, Founder Region Treasurer; Pat Eileen Fisher, Founder Region Secretary; Kris Chorbi, Governor-elect.

**Lower Right:** Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy 2017-2019; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA President and Official Visitor.

Governor Sylvia introduced Fundraising Chair Lyn Lurbe who gave a PowerPoint presentation titled: *"Working as One to Fund Our Soroptimist Dream Programs."* She brought out how fundraising unites us all to increase our collective impact in the Region and Federation and what our strategic plan is to reach our 2031 goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women through access to education. Chair Lyn reported that to date: All 53 clubs had contributed to Founders Pennies for a total of \$8,672.84; and, 35 clubs had contributed to Club Giving for a total of \$44,480.25. She reminded the missing 18 clubs that the deadline for Club Giving was May 31<sup>st</sup>. The ability of the club to carry out the Dream Programs is dependent on the program resources SIA provides. Those resources are made possible by contributions from clubs and members who embrace our global efforts. For this reason, Lyn explained, we appeal to our members and clubs to fund our Soroptimist Dream Programs through our various giving programs—individual gifts, including monthly giving, which is recognized in the Laurel Society; future or planned gifts, recognized in the Laurel Legacy; and Club Giving (at least 10 percent of funds raised locally).

Our strategy going forward:

- Make Soroptimist your "cause of choice"
- Redirect funds to support our Soroptimist Dream Programs
- Ensure your club donates at least 10% to SIA of what's raised locally
- Deliver SIA's brand promise in order to attract outside funding

Chair Lyn then thanked everyone for their support and introduced her committee members: Bonnie Mertz, District I (SI/East Bay); Gina Moore, District II (SI/Antioch); Tina Chechourka, District III (SI/Vacaville); Sandy Frazer, District IV (SI/Santa Rosa); Andrea Boldt, District V (SI/The Redwoods); Denise Ridge, District VI (SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.).

Governor Sylvia introduced Governor-elect Kris Chorbi as the emcee for the Dream Program Awards. In addition to her duties as Governor-elect, she serves as the Founder Region Program Chair.

**Barbara Stevenson "S" Club Award:**

Governor-elect Kris explained that the Region "S" Club Chair Jessica Castro (SI/The Marianas) was unable to attend. Speaking for her, Governor-elect Kris announced that the Barbara Stevenson "S" Club award winner was Ashley Ung from Sacred Hearts Academy in Waikiki, Hawaii. Ashley has encouraged "S" club participation with the Young Athletes Program, The Salvation Army, and Big Brother, Big Sisters, a mentorship program in which girls in her school can reach out and influence the life of another young girl in her own community. Unable to attend the Awards, Ashley sent a video explaining her involvement in "S" Club and how it has helped her to develop her leadership skills. Denise Ridge, President of Waikiki Foundation, Inc. accepted a check for \$500 and a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Jared Huffman, from Governor Sylvia on Ashley's behalf. Governor-elect Kris thanked Jessica Castro (SI/The Marianas) for chairing the "S" Club committee and also thanked Colleen Berumen (SI/Vacaville) the previous chair, Judy Lee, (SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.), and Teresa Jacobsen (SI/Calistoga) for serving on the committee, and thanked all 13 clubs for participating in this valuable program.



### **Ruby Award:**

Governor-elect Kris 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 2019 Ruby Award winner was Deanna Allen, nominated by SI/Vacaville. Deanna is a tireless advocate for incarcerated women and those women who have reentered our communities. She has overcome childhood trauma, being a victim of domestic violence, and the tragic loss of her brother. Deanna has authored 4 books about her holistic path to wellness through hope, health and healing. She provides outreach to women in local jails and later meets with them when they returned to the community. As a result of her advocacy, she began her own non-profit organization called “Abundant House”, which provides safe homes for women and their children. Deanna has also created a Wellness Center in Vacaville, where women can participate in empowerment groups, receive individual mentoring and grow in their understanding of their importance to themselves, their children and their community. Governor-elect Kris announced we would be sending SIA a donation of \$500 credited to SI/Vacaville in her honor and presented her with a Ruby Award Certificate, a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Jared Huffman and a Ruby Fire & Light Star paperweight to remember us.

### **Violet Richardson Awards:**

Governor-elect Kris gave a history of the Violet Richardson Award program, which began in 2000 and was slightly revamped by Founder Region in 2015, as a way to recognize young women between the ages of 14 and 18 who make a difference in their community and 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 34 clubs participate by honoring 41 young women. Governor-elect Kris introduced the district award winners.

### **Violet Richardson Award Recipients:**

District I	SI/East Bay	Camille Batiste
District II	SI/Diablo Vista	Aava Farhadi
District III	SI/Napa	Marianne Homer
District IV	SI/Novato	Julia Schulman
District V	SI/Fort Bragg	Sunny Andersen
District VI	SI/Central Oahu	Lyric Medeiros

She introduced her committee members and thanked them for their hard work: Carol Dippel, District I (SI/Oakland-The Founder Club); Lisa Schibler, District II, (SI/24-680 Walnut Creek); Patty Herdell DiTomaso, District III (SI/St. Helena); Vicki Campbell, District IV, (SI/Novato); Tess Albin Smith, District V (SI/Noyo-Sunrise); and Jina Rojas, District VI, (SI/Guam).

Governor-elect Kris introduced each Violet Richardson Award recipient and asked them to tell about their service work. Governor Sylvia then presented each girl with a Violet Richardson Award certificate, a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Jared Huffman, and a check for \$500.

Camille Batiste from District I does volunteer work with the East Oakland Youth Development Center and other local programs; Aava Farhadi from District II started a project which focuses on math and science tutoring with the girls in Oak Grove middle school in Concord; Marianne Homer from District III focused on educating people about water issues and conservation; Julia Schulman from District IV participates in the YMCA Youth Court which focuses on restorative justice and rehabilitation, working to find the reasoning behind the crime. Julia strives to build a bridge between her school’s resource officer and her peers. Sunny Andersen from District V is volunteering in several organizations like the Mendocino Coast Sports Foundation, the Jere Melo Foundation, and the Future Farmers of America. Sunny was unable to be present at the Awards; however, Natalie Cottrell, President of SI/Fort Bragg, shared a little about her volunteer work and accepted the award on her behalf. Lyric Madeiros from District VI volunteers her time feeding the homeless; educating youth about her national platform: B.R.A.V.E. which stands for Building



Respect And Values for Everyone; and about the importance of pet responsibility for youth. Lyric was unable to attend and sent a video of her acceptance speech. Leona Soto of SI/Central Oahu accepted the award on her behalf.

Governor-elect Kris then thanked and acknowledged the family and friends who accompanied our Violet Richardson Award winners and thanked all the dedicated young women for making the world a better place and “EMPOWERING CHANGE” for a brighter future. She added that the Founder Region Board would also like to thank our clubs who honored young women in your local communities and who are ensuring the legacy of our first Soroptimist President, Violet Richardson Ward. “IT’S WHAT YOU ALL DO TOGETHER, THAT COUNTS”.

### **Live Your Dream Awards:**

Governor-elect Kris began this part of the program by explaining how Soroptimist’s Big Goal of increased collective impact has helped us reach even more women across the globe with even more funding and additional support. In the past six years since our Big Goal of increased collective impact began, we have increased the women we reach through the Live Your Dream Awards by 29%! We have increased the cash awards to women by over 48%! And, we have increased additional support by a \$114,000 value, or 207%!

This year, our Founder Region has contributed to Soroptimist’s global impact by honoring 82 women with \$170,300 in funding and additional support valued at \$6,700. I want to sincerely thank each club that participated in our Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards.

Governor-elect Kris then explained that there was a very special update from Rebecca Shuflin, now Rebecca Rawley, a Live Your Dream Award recipient from 2014. Soroptimist International of Eureka chose Rebecca as their LYD recipient, where she received a \$1,000 cash award. She was then chosen as the winner at the district level, the region level and was ultimately chosen as a federation finalist. This single mother of six children from a small town in northern California received cash awards totaling \$17,000 to use toward her education and goal of becoming a social worker. Rebecca recently attended the SI/Eureka club awards event and her speech was filmed to share with everyone at the Conference awards. Rebecca is currently a Social Worker for Child Welfare Services in Humboldt County and continues to help other women to overcome obstacles, so they too can reach their full potential. Rebecca’s video was then played for the audience in attendance.

Governor-elect Kris thanked the 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 53 clubs in Founder Region participated in the Live Your Dream Awards. She also introduced the committee members: Jennifer Logan, District I (SI/Fremont); Jackie Buccellato, District II, (SI/Antioch); Nushi Safinya, District III,(SI/Calistoga); Michelle Bowen, District IV(SI/Windsor); Debbie Coles, District V,(SI/Arcata); Wendy MacDonald, District VI(SI/Maui) and thanked them for their good work.

On behalf of Chair Lou, Governor-elect Kris also acknowledged and thanked our region level judges: Dr. Laura Souder-Betances, President & CEO, Souder Betances & Associates, Inc.; Ms. Sarah Thomas Nededog, BA. MPA, Senior VP, Westcare Pacific Islands; Ms. Joyce N. Sayama, Management Analyst, Guam Power Authority; and, Ms. Maurissa Sayama, Research Associate, University of Guam Cancer Research Center.

Governor-elect Kris announced that the recipients would each be receiving a Live Your Dream certificate and a special Congressional Certificate from Congressman Jared Huffman and a check presented by SIA President Elizabeth and Governor Sylvia. She then introduced each recipient and asked them to speak about their journey and future plans.

**Live Your Dream Recipients:**

District I	SI/San Ramon Valley	Dina Valdelomar
District II	SI/Diablo Vista	Mai Saleh
District III	SI/St. Helena Sunrise	Maria Cortez
District IV	SI/Santa Rosa	Senait Haile
District V	SI/Crescent City	Janee Strauss
District VI	SI/Central Oahu	Shanelle Acain

Dina Valdelomar from District I is currently enrolled in the Chemical Dependency Certification at Cal State East Bay and is only 20 units away from completing her BA in Criminal Justice. One of her references said that Dina has not allowed personal tragedy and trauma to define her life. Mai Saleh from District II is currently working on her Associate's Degree in Nursing at Diablo Valley College. One of her references said that Mai demonstrates incredible resolve, strong ethics, resiliency and tenacity to overcome any hurdle to achieve her educational and career goals. Maria Cortez from District III is taking Child Development classes at Napa College in hopes of becoming a Preschool Teacher. One of her references says that Maria's determination is very strong, she loves working with young children by engaging in positive action. Senait from District IV requested that no photos be taken of her. She is studying to obtain her RN License from the College of Marin Nursing, while concurrently working toward her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Sonoma State University. One of her references says that she is often amazed by her perseverance and spirit, and that she is an inspiration. Janee Strauss from District V is attending Western Governor's University working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Education/Teaching. One of her references said that Janee teaches with grace and skill and generations of children will benefit from her guidance. Finally, Shanelle Acain from District VI is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and continuing on to her Masters. One of her references says that Shanelle is the epitome of achieving her dream. She has the discipline, intelligence and drive to successfully accomplish her educational and professional goals.

Governor-elect Kris then 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 then announced that the Region winner was Janee Strauss from District V sponsored by SI/Crescent City and explained that as the Founder Region winner, Janee will have the opportunity for further awards at the Federation level. She concluded by wishing her good luck in her future endeavors and much success in her journey to "Live Your Dream".

Governor Sylvia resumed presiding and thanked Governor-elect Kris for such an empowering presentation of Dream Awards. She congratulated the award recipients again and then invited the audience to stand, stretch and be reseated as the program continued.

**Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Incentive Award:**

Governor Sylvia explained that Founder Region won the Membership Award for North America regions by having the largest number of new clubs chartered between June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018 and received \$500 from SIA to use toward Dream Programs. The Founder Region Board determined the best use of these funds was to encourage clubs to participate in the Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Program by providing two incentive awards of \$250.

All clubs who submitted their online evaluations to SIA by April 1, 2019 were entered into this drawing. Those clubs were:

SI/El Cerrito	SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)	SI/Antioch	SI/The Delta
SI/Diablo Vista	SI/Martinez	SI/Pittsburg	SI/Rio Vista
SI/Vacaville Twilight	SI/Sonoma Valley	SI/Eureka	SI/Arcata
SI/Eel River Valley	SI/Humboldt Bay	SI/Honolulu	

Governor Sylvia asked SIA President Elizabeth to draw the two clubs. Winners of this year's DIBI incentive awards are SI/Rio Vista of District III and SI/Diablo Vista of District II. Governor Sylvia reminded clubs not yet involved to consider supporting a club who has a program as credit for participation is also given for support.

#### **SIA 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Invitation:**

Governor Sylvia then introduced SI Treasurer-elect Kathy King who is the General Session Chair for the SIA 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. Kathy used a PowerPoint presentation to invite everyone to save the dates of July 22-25 for the 2020 Convention to be held in Bellevue, WA.

Governor Sylvia asked those clubs who had raffles to come forward and announce their winners. She announced that \$851 less \$50 prize had been raised from the final table drawing and would be donated to the Dream Program Awards. The drawing winner was Charlotte Fernandez, (SI/The Tri-Valley).

Governor Sylvia explained that an online survey will be posted on the Founder Region website on the Meetings/Conference page. Also, an email will be sent to all club presidents that includes the link to the online survey for clubs who attended Region Conference.

After reminding club Presidents to take their club's poster and display it at a club event or post somewhere visible in their community, Governor Sylvia invited those clubs who had raffles or drawings to come to the dais and announce their winners.

Governor Sylvia called to the podium one last time, Fundraising Chair Lyn Lurbe to announce the winner of the Empowering Dreams Fundraiser. All clubs that sold 100% of their tickets were included in the drawing for a \$250 donation to Club Giving on their behalf. The winning club drawn was SI/Fremont.

Chair Lyn then explained the procedures for the basket drawing. The winners had been drawn and she announced their names and which club provided the basket they won.

Governor Sylvia welcomed Registration Chair Laura Glass (SI/Antioch) who presented the Forty-third Annual Founder Region Conference attendance report:

International Officers	1	Club Delegates	125
Federation Officers	1	Other Soroptimist	160
Region Officers	4	Guests	47
District Directors	6		
Fellowship President	1		
Fellowship Directors	6	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>351</b>

Governor Sylvia announced Yvonne White (SI/Arcata) as the winner of the Conference Incentive drawing. Yvonne will receive free registration and meals to the 2020 Founder Region Conference.

Conference Coordinator Mary Ann made her final announcements and called out the staff of the Marriott for applause of appreciation for their work. She also thanked the host clubs, SI/Antioch and SI/The Delta for their work on the Conference Committee.

Governor Sylvia gave her final thank-yous to the following: SIA President and Official Visitor Elizabeth Di Geronimo; SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen; SI Director of Advocacy Bev Bucur; region committee chairs; pages and time keepers; Credentials Chair Louise Agnew; Registration Chair Laura Glass; Floor Chair Laura Dickerson; Stewards Cara Begley, Stephanie Helberg, Jacquelyn Wright, Jay Villalta-Romiti,

and Gina Moore; Trade Fair Chair Maria Landski, Audiovisual Co-chairs Chris Wiley & Tess Albin Smith; and, Conference Treasurer Kelley Slater.

She then presented the Host Clubs Presidents, Mary Ann Redden of SI/Antioch and Maria Landski of SI/The Delta, with their club certificate and explained that a donation would be made to SIA Club Giving in each club's name.

Governor Sylvia again thanked Conference Coordinator Mary Ann Redden, and finally the Founder Region Officers and Directors, Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier and the Fellowship Board.

Governor Sylvia gave her closing remarks thanking members for making this conference a memorable experience and encouraging everyone to continue Empowering Change and then led the assembly in the Soroptimist Pledge.

Governor Sylvia adjourned the Forty-third Annual Founder Region Conference at 11:48 am.

***Pat Eileen Fisher***  
***Founder Region Secretary (2018-2020)***



## FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP

Business Meeting

May 4, 2019

San Ramon Marriott Hotel - Ballroom

San Ramon, California

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by  
Governor Sylvia Crafton.

### I. President Pam introduced the Platform Party

**Left side:** Sheila Bearden, Laws & Resolutions Chair; Teri Malkin, District III Fellowship Director; Jan Schults, District II Fellowship Director and Fellowship Secretary; Cheryl Poncini, District I Fellowship Director; Barbara Lanier, Parliamentarian; Pam Parker, Fellowship President.

**Right side:** Rena Borja, District VI Fellowship Director; Crystal Arbuthnot, District V Fellowship Director and Fellowship Treasurer; Nancy Weber, District IV Fellowship Director; Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI President; Elizabeth Di Geronimo, SIA President/Official Visitor; Sylvia Crafton, Founder Region Governor.

### II. Adoption of Credentials Report

The following Credentials Report #1 was presented by Credentials Chair, Louise Agnew (SI/Antioch):

Clubs in Founder Region	53
Clubs Eligible to Vote	52
Clubs Not in Good Standing	1
Clubs Registered	48
Total Voting Clubs	45

Delegates Registered:	
Fellowship President	1
Fellowship Directors	6
Club Delegates	113
Total Delegates	120

Quorum for Opening Session	61
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Credential Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

### III. Minutes of the Previous Business Meeting

The minutes of the FRF Business Meeting held at the Founder Region Conference in May 2018 were published in the 2018 Conference Proceedings and distributed to membership. On May 4, 2019, a copy of those minutes was also placed on each table for review by FRF Business Meeting attendees. The minutes were approved and adopted as presented.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Crystal Arbuthnot provided a three-page Treasurer's report consisting of the Profit and Loss Report Balance Sheet for the period July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. The following highlights are noted:

• Income:	\$62,377.13
• Expenses:	\$4,000.49
• Net Income:	\$58,376.64
• <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b>	<b>\$426,197.18</b>

#### V. Founder Region Fellowship Proposed Bylaw Amendments – 2019

The following 4 (four) FRF 2019 proposed bylaw amendments were presented and each were voted unanimously to adopt.

##### (1) ARTICLE VII, Board of Directors

##### Section 2. Duties, The Board of Directors shall:

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p><b>Section 2. Duties.</b> The Board of Directors shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. have responsibility for the affairs within the adopted policies and programs of FRF;</li> <li>b. establish program emphasis and strategies for the implementation of the programs;</li> <li>c. be voting delegates at the annual meeting;</li> <li>d. select the awardees;</li> <li>e. protect the emblem; and</li> <li>f. make an impartial study of all applicants and invite, by letter and/or electronic mail, qualified applicants to be interviewed. The Founder Region governor and any additional persons selected by the FRF president may be silent observers at the final interviews. The FRF president or board member shall notify all applicants as to the final selection of awardees and announce the awardees at the annual Fonder Region Conference.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section 2. Duties.</b> The Board of Directors shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. have responsibility for the affairs within the adopted policies and programs of FRF;</li> <li>b. establish program emphasis and strategies for the implementation of the programs;</li> <li>c. be voting delegates at the annual meeting;</li> <li>d. select the awardees;</li> <li>e. protect the emblem; and</li> <li>f. make an impartial study of all applicants and invite, by letter and/or electronic mail, qualified applicants to be interviewed. The Founder Region governor and any additional persons selected by the FRF president may be silent observers at the final interviews. The FRF president or board member shall notify all applicants as to the final selection of awardees and announce the awardees at the annual Fonder Region Conference.</li> <li>g. be bonded.</li> </ul>



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**Proposed by:** The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors  
**Advantages:** Protects FRF funds by bonding all board members.  
**Disadvantages:** None  
 Founder Region Fellowship  
 Business Meeting Minutes  
 Page 3

**(2) ARTICLE VII, Section 2. Duties - continued:**

**Financial Impact:** Based on annual insurance premium and coverage selected. (Current 2018-2019 coverage bonds all board members by insuring the “board of directors.”)

**Rationale:** All Founder Region Fellowship Board members collect money from clubs, club members and other sources of income. By bonding all board members, we are assuring protection for funds collected.

**(2) ARTICLE VII, Board of Directors  
 Section 7. Compensation.**

<b>CURRENT LANGUAGE</b>	<b>PROPOSED LANGUAGE</b>
<b>Section 7. Compensation.</b> The Board of Directors shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties with approval of the board.	<b>Section 7. Compensation.</b> The Board of Directors shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties with approval of the board president.

**Proposed by:** The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors  
**Advantages:** Assures review of reasonable and allowable expense reimbursements by the board president.  
**Disadvantages:** None  
**Financial Impact:** None.  
**Rationale:** Allows the board president to review and approve reimbursement of reasonable and allowable expenses without having to have the entire board review and approve. Consistent with the Founder Region bylaws allowing the governor to approve reasonable and allowable expenses.

**(3) ARTICLE IX, Committees  
 Section 3.**

<b>CURRENT LANGUAGE</b>	<b>PROPOSED LANGUAGE</b>
<b>Section 3.</b> The Budget Committee shall be a committee of three (3) FRF board members appointed by the president. The treasurer shall serve as ex-officio member. This committee shall review the financial affairs of FRF as directed by the president, make recommendations, and prepare the	<b>Section 3.</b> The Budget Committee shall be a committee consisting of the FRF board president, the FRF board treasurer and an FRF board member appointed by the president. This committee will prepare a proposed budget for the succeeding biennium. During the biennium, the

budget.	committee shall periodically review and present suggested changes to the FRF board.
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Founder Region Fellowship  
 Business Meeting Minutes  
 Page 4

**(3) ARTICLE IX, Committees - Section 3 - continued**

**Proposed by:** The Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) Board of Directors  
**Advantages:** Provides consistent guidelines and consistent board members (president and treasurer) for Budget Committee member selection and also to bring the committee makeup to be similar with Founder Region Budget Committee members.  
**Disadvantages:** None  
**Financial Impact:** None.  
**Rationale:** To be consistent with Founder Region Bylaws Budget Committee. Higher law (SIA and Founder Region) have the treasurer serve as a committee member, not as an ex-officio member.  
**NOTE:** If approved, this bylaw change will impact Article VI, Duties of Officers, Section 3. The treasurer shall: (g) serve as ex-officio member of the Budget/Finance Committees: and...

**(4) ARTICLE VI, Duties of Officers**  
**Section 3. The treasurer shall:**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<b>Section 3.</b> The treasurer shall: a. Maintain a full and accurate accounting of all financial transactions; b. Deposit all monies in the FRF name in financial institutions as shall be designated by the Board of Directors; c. Disburse the funds as ordered by the Board of Directors; d. Keep records of donation, wills and legacies; e. Present a financial report at the regular meetings of the board and as requested by the board; f. Be bonded; g. Serve as ex-officio member of the Budget/Finance Committees; and h. Perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as assigned by the president.	<b>Section 2. Duties.</b> The treasurer shall: a. maintain a full and accurate accounting of all financial transactions; b. deposit all monies in the FRF name in financial institutions as shall be designated by the Board of Directors; c. disburse the funds as ordered by the Board of Directors; d. keep records of donation, wills and legacies; e. present a financial report at the regular meetings of the board and as requested by the board; f. be bonded; and g. perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as assigned by the president.

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

**Advantages:**

**Disadvantages:** None

**Financial Impact:** None

**Rationale:** Necessary to change this bylaw based upon impact of proposed bylaw approval Article IX Section 3 – Budget Committee. Also removes FRF treasurer as an ex-officio member of the Finance (Review) Committee, which consists of up to three (3) appointed members, not including an FRF board members, to serve on the Finance Review Committee (Article IX Committees, Section 2. – The finance Review Committee.

Founder Region Fellowship

Business Meeting Minutes

Page 5

## **g. Directors' Reports**

### **District I Fellowship Director Cheryl Poncini**

There are seven clubs and approximately 115 Fellows in District I.

I have had the privilege of visiting all of my clubs this year for club meetings, fundraisers, awards programs or just for fun. Almost all of the visits involved a discussion of the Fellowship program.

In the year 2018-2019, three District I Soroptimists participated in Fellowship Monthly Giving and completed their respective monthly payments earlier this calendar year.

Since July 1, 2018, thirteen women in District I have become Fellows or “leveled up.” This represents \$15,000 in individual and club donations to Fellowship. Those Fellows are:

SI/East Bay:

Dawn Couch – First Level – Club Fellow

Lynn Levin – Second Level – Club Fellow

SI/EI Cerrito:

Joni Hiramoto – First Level – Club Fellow

Susan Yeazel – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/Oakland – The Founder Club:

Khadija Fredericks – First Level – Club Fellow

Catherine Pinkas – First Level – Monthly Giving

Cheryl Poncini – Fourth Level – Donation

Cheryl Poncini – Fifth Level – Won at Conference

Kathy Sigman – Second Level–Won at 10/2018 District Meeting

Kay Taylor – First Level – Won at 10/2018 District Meeting

Kay Taylor – Second Level – Monthly Giving

SI/Richmond:

Pam Fisk – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/San Ramon Valley:

Carrie Paulik – First Level – Club Fellow

SI/Tri Valley

Katherine Bakaldin – First Level – Club Fellow

Barbara Luna – Second Level – Monthly Giving

In addition, District I raised more than \$1,100 in pre-conference sales.

Being a Fellowship Director is one of the most rewarding positions in Founder Region: it gives a director the opportunity to be part of a region-wide organization which, each year, creates higher education opportunities for women. I look forward to my fourth year as your Fellowship Director and thank you again for the opportunity to represent you while, together, we meet Fellowship's goal of improving the lives of women, girls and society through higher education.

Lastly, if any of the new District I Fellows or Fellows who have "leveled-up" are here, please meet me at the flags for your pin, certificate and photos at the conclusion of this meeting. Thank you.

Founder Region Fellowship  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Page 6

### **District II Fellowship Director Jan Schults**

District II is made up of six clubs and has approximately 126 members as of last month. We have 129 Fellows past and present from Level 1's to Level 3's.

Three members in District II have continued to take advantage of the Monthly Giving program thereby working their way towards becoming a Fellow or moving to the next level. At our District Meeting we raised \$2,000.00 for Fellowship and through our earring pre-sales raised another \$1,170.00.

Clubs/members in District II have donated a total of \$8,000 towards new Fellows since July 2018.

District II will have awarded eight new Fellows this year:

~Kathi Regan from SI/The Delta donated \$1,000.00 to receive her 1<sup>st</sup> Level Fellow.

~Debbie Bradley from SI/Martinez received her 1<sup>st</sup> level Fellow through the District meeting drawing.

~Kim Trupiano from SI/Diablo Vista was gifted her 1<sup>st</sup> level Fellow by Jo Harlow who's raffle ticket was drawn at District Meeting.

~Sharon Sobol Idul from SI/Pittsburg was selected by her club to receive her 1<sup>st</sup> level Fellow and I will be pinning her in June.

~Jan Schults has donated through Monthly Giving reaching 2<sup>nd</sup> level in July 2018 and 3<sup>rd</sup> level May 2019 this weekend.

~SI/Antioch is surprising Gina Moore today moving her up to a Level 2.

~Diablo Vista will surprise one of their members at their May Mixer. (Carlyn Obringer)

Serving as District II's Director has been a great experience for me as I've met some amazing women, became a lot more self-confident and garnered new ideas to take to my own club. I'm thankful to have this opportunity to serve on this board raising funds to support women who will make a difference by gaining their PhD's. Thank you so much.

### **District III Fellowship Director Teri Malkin**

13 clubs in District III with 534 Members

Monthly Giving Signups: Two

District III funds raised over \$21,000

Fellows	\$16,000
Fellowship Raffle Tickets	\$ 5,115 (5 Fellows drawn)
Earring Pre- Sales as of 4/1/19	\$ 515

### New Fellows as of 5/3/19

Level	First	Last	Club	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bonnie	Silveria	SI Benicia	Drawing
1 <sup>st</sup>	Donna	Ernst	SI Benicia	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Susan	Leick	SI Calistoga	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Carolyn	Cotton	SI Central Solano	Drawing
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kathy	Archer	SI Dixon	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sue	Conklin	SI Rio Vista	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kathy	Wright	SI Rio Vista	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Deborah	Roden	SI Rio Vista	

Founder Region Fellowship  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Page 7

### District III New Fellows as of 5/3/19 - continued

1st	MaryEllen	Lamothe	SI Rio Vista	
1st	Regina	Lewis	SI St Helena	Drawing
2nd	Patti	DiTomaso	SI St Helena	
2nd	Janet	Todd	SI St Helena Sunrise	Drawing
2nd	Jill	Hunter	SI Vacaville	
1st	Jim	Frazier	SI Vacaville	
1st	Club		SI Vacaville	
1st	Dana	Halve	SI Vacaville Twilight	
1st	Brooke	Fox	SI Vacaville Twilight	Drawing
1st	Michelle	Strand	SI Vacaville Twilight	
1st	Vicky	Scopesi	SI Vallejo	
1st	Mimi	Farone	SI Vallejo	
1st	Cathy	Rojas	SI Vallejo	

Thank you to the Clubs in District III and their members for their generosity and ongoing support of Founder Region Fellowship. I have enjoyed visiting nine of the clubs and look forward to visiting all the clubs in 2019-2020.

### District IV Fellowship Director Nancy Weber

District IV has 8 clubs. There are approximately 187 members in the 8 clubs.

We have 111 Fellows ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> level which is about 60% of our members. During this fiscal year, we had 5 lucky recipients that won Fellows by raffle – of those 5, 2 were new Fellows and the remaining 3 were level 2 awards. In addition to these 5 raffle winners, clubs purchased 2 Fellows to date. The names of the new Fellows are Laurie Hanks and Marge Cunningham of Windsor Club. Linda Fisher and Jeanne Kerns of Santa Rosa Club. Kathy Besio Borg, Michelle Bowen and Barbara Young. Level 2

District IV has raised approximately \$77 hundred. This is a combination of raffle sales of about \$2250, purchased Fellows of \$2K, a donation to Dorothy Sarnes Fund, other misc. donations, pre- sales of earrings and promotional items. In addition, we revived February Fun

for Fellowship, and three clubs gave donations totaling \$1360 which are being accrued toward the purchase of the next club fellows.

I love serving as District Director since it's a wonderful way to meet so many more women who are passionate and compassionate about helping others, especially women and girls. We as Soroptimists work toward righting some of the inequities of the past and believe that giving a helping hand to some of the most vulnerable in our society will make a significant change for generations to follow. I love that we value education as a stepping stone to making a difference in our world.

Thank you to all the members and clubs that have invited me to present to their membership and for giving me the opportunity to explain what Fellowship does and how we raise our monies to provide grants for some very deserving women. And thank you for all your efforts in making Fellowship continue to be the signature project of the Founder Region.

Founder Region Fellowship  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Page 8

#### **District V Fellowship Director Crystal Arbuthnot**

- There are 10 clubs in my district with 159 members as Fellows. All the clubs in my District are Fellows. I was able to visit all of them, except 1, to present a program about Fellowship and/or to present a Fellow.
- Raised over \$3000 with the tickets and raffle drawings at our District meeting which allowed us to draw 3 Fellows.
  - Tosha Bowling, SI/Humboldt Bay, 1<sup>st</sup> level
  - Andrea Boldt, SI/The Redwoods, 1<sup>st</sup> level
  - AB Priceman, SI/Noyo Sunrise (2<sup>nd</sup> level)
- Total club donations totaling \$3000
  - SI/Arcata, club fellow in honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2<sup>nd</sup> level)
  - SI/Fort Bragg, awarded a "surprise" fellow to Frances Andrews
  - 2 clubs sent in "half fellow" payments and will be able to name a fellow next year. (SI Redwoods & SI Eel River Valley)
- One Fellow thru monthly giving: Kathryn Leaman, SI Fort Bragg
- Laurie Garrison finished her Fellow donation - \$500
- Attended 2 awards luncheons to award Fellows
- Total Pre-sale Earrings - \$1155
- Fun for Fellowship donation - \$290
- One person signed up for monthly giving, with 3 others signing an intent to do so.

Total money raised so far by District V is \$8,270.00. Total Fellows – 7.  
Being on the Fellowship board gives me the satisfaction of knowing I'm helping women to achieve their goals.

THANK YOU - District V for supporting Fellowship and for making me feel so welcome at your clubs. You truly are AWESOME.

#### **District VI Fellowship Director Rena Borja**



There are nine clubs in District VI

There are about 110 Fellows in District VI and 2 more just added from the conference drawings.

Total monthly giving was signed up by 7 members and will be processing.

Amount of funds raised at District Meeting in 2018 was approximately \$3150 and \$4000 in club donated fellows

One member Levelled up to 3<sup>rd</sup> fellow, 1 level 2 all at drawings, 2 new Fellows surprise by their club

Anita Haban-Nakamaejo third level of SI Waikiki, Glenda Rother 6<sup>th</sup> of SI Waikiki, Wendy MacDonald SI Maui are being recognized here at conference.

Founder Region Fellowship  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Page 9

### **District VI Director's Report - continued**

The people I have met and interviews with candidates and the generosity of all Soroptimists in Founder Region and of course the many friends made are among the reasons why I did Fellowship Director second time around.

Thank you to all the members in my district who have invited me to their meetings and events in the various islands. I enjoy traveling and love to be there in your clubs.

### **VI. President's Report - Pam Parker**

Good morning.

First of all, thank you again to Governor Sylvia for appointing me to this important position in our region. It has been such a rewarding experience this year, from working with a great board of directors to meeting members from all over the region to playing a role in selecting our amazing Fellowship Recipients.

How many of you were here last night to witness the incredible women our board selected to receive \$10,000 each? What a gift we were able to give them – to support them not only financially but to empower them to continue with their goals and dreams of finishing their doctoral studies.

Many of you know this but I am going to repeat it; Founder Region Fellowship is the identifying project of Founder Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas. Our mission is to advance the status of women by RAISING money to award to outstanding women in the final phases of their doctoral program.

I would like to point out a key word in what I just said. RAISING.

As you can see, your board of directors have gone above and beyond with their efforts this year to raise funds to support our financial awards to our Fellowship recipients. Our store in the Trade Fair is proving to be a huge success, and if you haven't been in the trade fair yet and shopped at our store and other vendors, you are missing a real treat.

Our board and previous boards have invented clever and fun ways to raise funds. But the reality of this, is that we cannot raise \$100,000 each year to give \$10,000 to ten recipients. We don't even come close. In the last several years, we have drawn from our reserves in order to award women significant amounts of money. Our membership asked that we do this. But now we've reached a critical place where we can't do that anymore. There is no other way to say this.

Our board met with our Financial Advisor this past week and we were given some powerful and positive information. In the next year, Founder Region Fellowship will be providing you with additional ways you can continue your support of Founder Region Fellowship. We will be providing you with tax smart giving information and we want to encourage you – our biggest donors – to add options to your cash donations. Planned giving, raising funds, shopping at our store, donations, naming Fellows – we need to utilize all of these methods and more in order to continue keeping Founder Region Fellowship sustainable and alive. If we don't do more with our financial options, the reality is Founder Region Fellowship will not continue as we know it.

Please talk to your financial advisor to see how you can support Founder Region Fellowship – now and in the future. Please play a role in continuing this amazing program. Please educate yourself, just as we will do our part in bringing you information and sharing Founder Region Fellowship

Business Meeting Minutes

Page 10

## **VII – President's Report - Pam Parker - continued**

what we learn, so we can move forward to a financial position where we can create an endowment fund, continue to raise funds and accept donations and keep our region's identifying project alive and sustainable.

We always thank you from the bottom of our hearts – just as every previous Founder Region Fellowship board has done – for your generosity and your belief in our mission. We want to continue to empower women – just as we did last night. We want to succeed and make a difference in the lives of ten women this year who in turn will make a difference in many lives of women in the future. As I said last night, our recipients are our future.

Your board, as have others, continues to move in an upward position to make Founder Region Fellowship the best it can be. That being said, we are excited and proud to be rolling out our new Founder Region Fellowship pins. You can see on the slides just how beautiful they are, and you can see that we have already projected up to a tenth level of pin. We have pins with us today, and will be pinning Fellows this morning and throughout the day with our new pins. And the beauty of all of this is, if you would like to "trade-out" your previous Fellow pin, you may, but, because we are creative in our fundraising, we ask that you donate \$25 to Founder Region Fellowship.

I mentioned last night that our current board is making a personal contribution to the Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fund in memory of Deanna Hanks. This is a beautiful and significant way you can make a donation to Fellowship by expressing your love and honoring someone's memory. Although this fund is relatively new to Founder Region Fellowship, it is one we hope to grow and eventually become a positive and successful method for members to use to contribute to Fellowship, in a way that is significant.

We thank everyone who has had a part in the weekend's Fellowship program. We can't do it without you. One person in particular that I would like to thank is a new member to Founder Region but not a new Soroptimist. Leanne Davis joined Founder Region last year, and she has been a tremendous help to me with our presentations. Thank you, Leanne. Our program last

night was awesome. We are so fortunate to give as we do, and to have such remarkable women receive our gifts.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and beyond for what you do to make Founder Region Fellowship successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Schults  
Secretary - Founder Region Fellowship  
District II Fellowship Director  
Soroptimist International of the Americas