

**Founder Region
Soroptimist International of the Americas**

Virtual Conference Program

April 28 – May 2, 2021

Celebrating 100 Years!



*"Dream **BIG** for the future!"*



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

*Kris Chorbi, Governor
2020-2022*

Dear Members of Founder Region,

It is my honor and pleasure to invite you to the 45th Annual Founder Region Conference! The pandemic may have created obstacles for us to meet in person, but we will continue to deliver exciting and engaging opportunities to be together from April 28 - May 2, 2021 via Zoom. The Founder Region Board, along with our Founder Region Fellowship Board, hope you will join us as we celebrate our past and “Dream BIG for the future!”

We begin on Wednesday with a “Fellows” reception hosted by the Founder Region Fellowship Board, as they honor the many donors to our foundation. On Thursday night, the Legislative Advocacy Committee has planned an exciting presentation with speakers from various backgrounds in public service entitled, “We’ve come a long way...but not nearly far enough”. This program intends to educate and inform you about the progress in pay equity, equality in the workplace and Title IX, culminating in what we can do as Soroptimists to further our equality. You will also have an opportunity to pose questions to our panelists during a round robin breakout room Q&A.

Prepare to be inspired Friday evening with our Fellowship Dinner and celebration of new Fellowship recipients. On Saturday morning, join us for a special Keynote Speaker, SI President Sharon Fisher, where she will share the “Global Impact of Soroptimist” and updates on the SI President’s Appeal, “Road to Equality”. Saturday afternoon will include the business of our region, elect the 2021-2023 Nominating Committee, and hear from our SIA official visitor, SIA Director Freda Powell. We will share the successes of region clubs, announce Soroptimists Celebrating Success region winners, and more! Join us Saturday night to celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of Soroptimist with special messages of hope from our Past Governors, presentations from SIA special guest Lisa Mangiafico and the Founder Region Board, and untold stories about Violet Richardson Ward. YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS IT!

On Sunday, we will remember our beloved members who were lost last year with the “Celebration of Service” memorial tribute. We will end our time together by honoring our district and region Live Your Dream Award, Violet Richardson Award, and Barbara Stevenson “S” Club Award recipients. Hear from our awardees live as they share their stories of resilience and innovative ways they provide service to our communities.

We have so many opportunities to get involved and have some fun! (see flyers for details)

Conference Attendance Incentive Drawings – Attend any session and your name will be entered into a drawing to win free registration and meals for the 2022 Founder Region Conference at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel, Hawaii. ATTEND ALL SESSIONS and win a chance to become a Fellow or level up, donated by Founder Region.

Nominate a club member who embraces change and supports the “Soroptimist Forward” vision for the Governor’s “Dream BIG for the future!” award. Support the Conference Service Project and help us sew 100 dresses for “Dress a Girl Around the World”.

Visit our Conference Club Sales page and support fundraisers in our region. Order your commemorative Founder Region 100 Year Anniversary shirt, and REMEMBER to register early to receive your commemorative Founder Region History booklet. I look forward to seeing you, celebrating with you, and sharing our 2021 Founder Region Conference with you.

Cheers, Governor Kris



Greetings

Kris Chorbi, Governor

It is my honor to invite you to join us for the 45th Annual Founder Region Conference!

We have created several new pages on our website that contain everything you need to know about the 2021 Virtual Conference. On the main **2021 Conference Page**, you will find messages from region and federation leadership; a quick reference guide of presentations, conference add-ons and opportunities for engagement. On the **Online Conference Program Page**, you will find an expanded virtual agenda with speaker bios, awardee information and memorial tribute. Be sure to click on the arrow on each section to see the full online content.

The **Conference Service Project Page** details our exciting collaboration with the “Dress a Girl Around the World” organization, giving you the opportunity for a hands-on project in the safety of your own home. Sew to your hearts content and let your creativity shine as we engage in “Increased Collective Impact” to help girls feel valued and empowered around the world. Be sure to visit the **Voting and Elections Page** for details about Caucus, online voting instructions, and the proposed bylaw amendments. Meet the nominees for the 2021-2023 Nominating Committee and read about their qualifications and experience. And finally, don’t forget to visit the **Conference Club Sales Page**, where you can shop till you drop from our clubs throughout the region. Contact the clubs directly to place your orders and pick up those installation and thank you gifts for your members and officers.

Register for all the exciting events and presentations through [Eventbrite](#). Once registered, you will be able to view the Online Event Page for details about the sessions and access the Zoom links. I look forward to sharing this experience with all our members in Founder Region as we celebrate the past, and **Dream BIG for the future!**

Governor Kris Chorbi



Vicki Ham, Governor-elect

Dear Founder Region Members,

What a year this has been! Who could have ever imagined we would be holding our second virtual conference because of the pandemic. I am so proud of how clubs have come together during these unprecedented times and gathered via Zoom, held fundraisers and continued to give out awards at an amazing rate. Nothing can slow a Soroptimist down!

As we reflect back on this unusual year of school closures, business shutdowns and personal quarantines, let us not forget the women and girls we are here to help. Imagine their lives of economic hardships compounded with having to help their children through virtual Zoom learning while continuing their own studies online. Some may be subjected to increased domestic violence, isolation and low self confidence. Our Live Your Dream awardees are given a boost to aid in overcoming many of these obstacles. Our Violet Richardson Awardee are making a difference in their communities and looking toward the future.

As our lives begin to return to normal, we must ensure that we continue our mission and support the women and girls who needs us most. Although we cannot be together in person, we must work together to change lives and **Dream BIG**. I look forward to seeing you in-person in the very near future. Stay safe and healthy; we will all pull through as a strong region and members of this wonderful Soroptimist organization.

Governor-elect Vicki Ham



Founder Region Board



Governor - Kris Chorbi

Governor-elect - Vicki Ham

Secretary - Joy Swank

Treasurer - Tess Albin-Smith

District I Director - Lenore Colarusso

District II Director - Jackie Arnold

District III Director - Colleen Ganaye

District IV Director - Vicki Baldwin

District V Director - Kristal Koga



*Dream **BIG** for the future!*



"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." ~Walt Disney

Fellowship Board



President - Cheryl Poncini

Treasurer - Teresa Karlson

District I Fellowship Director - Billie Knight

District II Fellowship Director - Dana Holve

District III Fellowship Director - Fawn Williams

District IV Fellowship Director - Crystal Arbuthnot

District V Fellowship Director - Denise Ridge



Education Inspires BIG Dreams!

Education Inspires BIG Dreams!

"If you can dream it, you can do it." ~Walt Disney

APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

Dona Gaddis Wolf - 2021 Conference Coordinator



Dona attended San Diego State University and began a career in the local printing industry as a designer and typographer in Pittsburg. Ultimately, she began working for the City of Pittsburg, where she became the manager of both the Pittsburg Senior Center and Small World Park (amusement and theme park). Dona has been a member of Soroptimist since 1983. She is currently a member of SI/Antioch. Dona has served in a variety of leadership positions on the club, region and federation level. This includes Founder Region governor (2012-2014), region secretary and district director, and several club offices. Dona served as SIA Director 2015-2017, Federation representative to the Soroptimist International (SI) President's Appeal committee (*Women, Water & Leadership* 2017-2019) and a two-year term on the Soroptimist International of the Americas Fundraising Council (2018 –2020).

Barbara Lanier - Parliamentarian



A retired attorney, Barbara Lanier was inducted into Soroptimist International of El Cerrito in 1995. In 1997, she agreed to serve as club vice president provided she never had to serve as president! That lasted until the fall of 1997 when the club president had to step down and Barbara took on the first of four years serving as club president. On the region level, she served first as District I Women's Opportunity Award Representative, then as District I Fellowship Director from 2002 to 2006 and as Founder Region District I Director from 2006 to 2008. Barbara was honored by Governor Amelia to be selected as Fellowship President 2008 to 2010. Loving her involvement with the incredible women who consistently make up the Founder Region Board, she prepared herself to become a Parliamentarian, joined the National Association of Parliamentarians and has been honored to serve as Parliamentarian for Governors Dona, Bobbi, Pam, and Sylvia & Kris.

Cheryl Poncini, Fellowship President



Cheryl, a member of SI/Oakland-The Founder Club, served as club president twice, vice president, secretary, delegate and chair of various committees. She served as the 2014-16 Biennium Founder Region Laws & Resolutions chair and has been on the Fellowship Board since 2016, serving two biennia as the District I Fellowship Director. She was appointed to the position of Fellowship President for the 2020-2022 biennium. Cheryl has worked as a deputy district attorney in the Alameda County D.A.'s office for the last forty-four years. She is active in the Alameda County Bar Association and served 4 years on the Board of Directors for the charitable non-profit of the bar association. In addition, at the end of 2020, she completed nine years serving on the Bar Association's Board of Directors, the last four years of which as Vice President, President-elect, President and Immediate Past President, respectively. Earlier this year, Cheryl was named as the Bar Association's recipient of its "2021 Distinguished Service Award by a Government Attorney".

FEDERATION LEADERSHIP

Penny Babb, SIA President

Penny Babb is serving a one-year term as president of Soroptimist's international board of directors. A member since 1998, Babb is a Past Governor of Golden West Region. Babb recently retired as the director of law enforcement operations at Glendale Community College (MCCCD) following a 25 year career with the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office. She holds a master of educational leadership degree from Northern Arizona University, a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and criminal justice, and a bachelor's of science degree in Afro-American studies from Eastern Illinois University.



Elizabeth Lucas, SIA CEO and Executive Director

Liz joined SIA in 2011 and was charged with increasing our collective impact to help Soroptimist be better known for improving the lives of women and girls around the world. Under her ten-year tenure, she worked as a team with ten elected presidents and boards of directors. Her management and administration of strategy were instrumental in clarifying and achieving many Soroptimist goals which define SIA's current position and where we want to be in the future. Further, our organization adopted its first strategic big goal of increased collective impact and identified our 2021-2031 Big Goal to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. Liz will be leaving SIA in August of 2021 to pursue other opportunities.



Freda Powell, SIA Director, Official Visitor

Freda has been a member of Soroptimist International of Amarillo for 30 years and is currently serving as SIA Director. In addition to having served a two-year term as Governor of the South Central Region (consisting of seven states) of Soroptimist, Powell is a member of the Amarillo Women's Network, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a silver life member of the Amarillo Branch NAACP and a life member of Light of Hope. Powell is a former purchasing representative for LINN Energy, headquartered in Houston, Texas. She is currently the office manager for Warford Mortuary. Powell received the Amarillo Opera Dee Lifetime Volunteer Award in 2009, and she was named the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Women's Council Businesswoman of the Year in December 2011. Additional awards include the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains' Women of Distinction - Take Action Award in 2013; Church Women United Humanitarian Award in 2013; the 7th Annual Louise Daniel Women's History Lecture and Luncheon Recognizing Texas Panhandle Women in Banking (for service to Access Community Credit Union Board) in 2016; Woman of Leadership 2017 Award; and Beta Sigma Phi Sorority 2020 Woman of the Year, to name a few. On May 6, 2017, Powell became the first African American woman elected to the Amarillo City Council. She served as Mayor Pro Tem from June 2019 to June 2020. She currently is serving her second term in Place 2 and has just been elected to her third term as of May 2021.



Attendance Incentives

EARLY REGISTRATION

Register by April 15th and receive a FREE commemorative Founder Region History booklet. 250 were distributed.



DRAWING #1

Attend **ANY** session of our virtual conference and be entered into a drawing to win free registration and meals at the 2022 Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Winner: Cathy Nakahara, SI/Central Oahu



DRAWING #2

Attend **ALL** sessions (Thursday-Saturday) of our virtual conference and be entered into a drawing to win a \$1,000 Fellow (or level up), in support of Founder Region Fellowship.

Winner: Lisa Cobb, SI/Novato



Virtual Conference Agenda

Online Voting Timeline

March 31, 2021	Caucus Conference Call - 7:00pm	All times are Pacific Daylight Time.
April 7, 2021	Delegates registration deadline	
April 7, 2021	Amendments to Proposed Amendments due via email	
April 8, 2021	Credentials Report #1 verified	
April 9-15, 2021	Electronic Ballot #1 open	
April 15, 2021	Delegates Briefing via email	
April 7-15, 2021	Late registrations accepted	
April 16, 2021	Credentials Report #2 verified	
April 17-30, 2021	Electronic Ballot #2 open	
May 1, 2021	Voting results announced	

2021 Conference Agenda

All times are Pacific Daylight Time

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

6:00pm - 7:30pm	Fellowship Reception	President Cheryl Poncini & Fellowship Board
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THURSDAY, APRIL 29

6:00pm - 8:00pm	Legislative Advocacy	Legislative Advocacy Committee
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FRIDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am - 12:00pm	Founder Region Board Meeting	Governor Kris Chorbi
9:00am - 12:00pm	Founder Region Fellowship Board Meeting	President Cheryl Poncini
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Fellowship Awards Gala	President Cheryl & the Fellowship Board

SATURDAY, MAY 1

10:00am - 11:30am	Keynote Speaker	SI President Sharon Fisher
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Founder Region & Fellowship Business Meeting	Governor Kris & President Cheryl
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Q&A with Official Visitor	SIA Director Freda Powell
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cocktail Social Hour	Governor Kris & the Founder Region Board
7:00pm - 9:00pm	100 Year Anniversary Celebration	Governor Kris & the Founder Region Board

SUNDAY, MAY 2

11:00am - 1:00pm	Memorial Tribute & Awards Presentation	Governor Kris & Governor-elect Vicki Ham
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"Dreams make things happen, nothing is impossible as long as you believe." ~Anonymous

Conference Quick Reference Guide



Wednesday Night Fellow Reception

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
6:00pm - 7:30pm



Thursday Night Legislative Advocacy

Thursday, April 29, 2021
6:00pm - 8:00pm



Friday Night Fellowship Program

Friday, April 29, 2021
6:00pm - 8:00pm



Saturday Morning Sharon Fisher - SI President

Saturday, May 1, 2021
10:00am - 11:30am



Saturday Afternoon Founder Region & Fellowship Business Meetings

Saturday, May 1, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm



Saturday Night 100 Year Anniversary Program

Saturday, May 1, 2021
5:00pm - 6:00pm Social Hour
6:00pm - 8:00pm Presentation



Sunday Morning Memorial & Awards Program

Sunday, May 2, 2021
11:00am - 1:00pm
See the awardee bios below.



Conference Service Project "Dress a girl around the world"

Visit the project page for all the details.

[GO TO PROJECT PAGE](#)



T-Shirt Sales 100 Year Anniversary

Place your order by **April 1, 2021**.

[GO TO CUSTOM INK WEBSITE](#)



Fellowship Fundraiser

Support Fellowship through the
"Peacock" Challenge fundraiser.

[DOWNLOAD FUNDRAISER FLYER](#)



Memorial Form

Form due to Governor Kris by **April 8, 2021**

[DOWNLOAD MEMORIAL FORM](#)



"Dream BIG for the future!" Award

Form due to Secretary Joy by **April 15, 2021**.

[DOWNLOAD MEMORIAL FORM](#)



Conference Club Sales

Visit the Club Sales page to shop.

[DOWNLOAD CLUB SALES FORM](#)



Dream Program Fundraiser

Purchase raffle numbers within your club.

[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)



Eventbrite Registration

Register for the events you wish to attend.

[LEARN MORE](#)

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." ~Eleanor Roosevelt

Founder Region Past Governors

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." ~ Dolly Parton

Sylvia Crafton, 2018-2020, *"Empowering Change"*

Pam Parker, 2016-2018, *"Soroptimists Are Shining Stars"*

Bobbi Enderlin, 2014-2016, *"Share the JOY of Soroptimist"*

Dona Gaddis Wolf, 2012-2014, *"Share the Light of Soroptimist Service"*

Linda Sue Hansen*, 2010-2012, *"Just Imagine..."*

Amelia Benko, 2008-2010, *"Making a Difference Matters"*

Sue Finch, 2006-2008, *"Creating Magic Through Soroptimist"*

Cathy Mitchell, 2004-2006, *"Together We Can"*

Mary Ann Redden, 2002-2004, *"Achieve Growth By Sharing"*

Carol Rose, 2000-2002, *"Soroptimists Soar Into The New Century"*

Linda McDaniels, 1998-2000, *"Making a Difference Together"*

Nancy Walker, 1996-1998, *"Inward Journey-Outward Paths"*

Patti Cross*, 1994-1996, *"Reach for Soroptimist Rainbows"*

Dorothy L. Avilla*, 1992-1994, *"Leading the Way"*

Lorraine Komor, 1990-1992, *"Celebration of Soroptimist"*

Susan Joyce, 1988-1990, *"We are One in Service Spirit"*

Carol Steele, 1986-1988, *"Dreams of Soroptimism"*

Del Nickerson, 1984-1986, *"Images of Soroptimism"*

Patricia D. Daniels, 1982-1984, *"Gifts of Soroptimism"*

Marjorie T. Conley*, 1980-1982, *"Windows"*

Catherine M. Burns, 1978-1980, *"Let Us Grow"*

Violet B. Unland*, 1976-1978, *"Beat of the Drum Calls Us to Service"*

Margaret "Maggie" Knott*, 1974-1976, *"Onward and Upward"*

Southwestern Region, SIA

Julia "Bess" Combs*, 1972-1974, *"Let It Begin With Me"*

Southwestern Region, SIA

Mary Gianotti*, 1966-1968, *"Moving in the Direction of Change"*

Southwestern Region, SIA

*Deceased

Our Rich History

The first Soroptimist Club in the world was chartered the evening of October 3, 1921, in the West room of the Hotel Oakland. The name of the first club was the Soroptimist Club of Alameda County, with Violet Richardson serving as its charter president. In 1928, with the chartering of the Berkeley club, the Alameda County Club was renamed the Soroptimist Club of Oakland, also known as "the Mother Club", and now renamed the Soroptimist International of Oakland—The Founder Club. Since the very beginning Founder Region has had a rich legacy of leadership. Past Governors listed in our Conference Program have gone on to serve in elected Federation and International offices.

The following is an effort to share the joy of their Federation (SIA) and International (SI) Service:



Mary Gianotti
Federation Vice President
1972-1974



Catherine M. Burns
Federation Vice President
1980-1982



Marjorie T. Conley
Foundation (Fundraising Council)
Director, 1982-1984;
Federation Treasurer, 1984-1988;
Foundation (Fundraising Council)
Treasurer, 1988-1992



Patricia D. Daniels*
Federation Vice President, 1984-1986;
Federation President-elect, 1986-1988;
Federation President, 1988-1990;
Federation Past President, 1990-1992;
Elected International President-elect,
Fall-1993; International President,
1995-1997;
International Past President, 1997-1998



Del Nickerson*
Foundation (Fundraising Council)
Director, 1990-1992; Foundation
(Fundraising Council) President,
1992-1994; Federation Director,
1994-1996; Federation President,
1996-1997



Nancy Walker
Federation Director, 1999-2000;
Federation Secretary/Treasurer, 2000-2001;
Federation President-elect, 2001-2002;
Federation President, 2002-2003



Linda McDoniels
Fund Development Council
(Fundraising Council) Member,
2004-2006; Fund Development
Council (Fundraising Council)
Chair, 2006-2007 & 2007-2008



Carol Rose
Federation Director
2003-2005



Cathy Mitchell
Federation Director
2007-2009



Dona Gaddis Wolf
Federation Director
2015-2017
Fundraising Council Member
2018-2019

*In 1996, as Soroptimist celebrated its 75th Anniversary, Founder Region was proudly represented with Patsy Daniels serving as the Soroptimist International President and Del Nickerson serving as the Soroptimist International of the Americas President. We encourage you to learn more about the history of Founder Region by going to the region website to read the valuable information that was compiled from various sources by Past Governor Susan Joyce. <http://www.si-founderregion.org/history.html>.

"It was impossible, of course. But when did that ever stop any dreamer from dreaming." ~Laini Taylor



Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.

"Seeking to advance the Soroptimist mission by awarding grants to outstanding women in the final phase of their doctoral degree."

Dear Founder Region Soroptimists:

The 2020-2022 Founder Region Fellowship Board is having an amazing first year! Our District Meeting raffle was very successful despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the generosity of our members, Fellowship named 16 new Fellows or Fellows who "leveled up." The Fellowship merchandise and Amazon gift cards raffle prizes were a big hit as well.

Currently, we are working on what we traditionally consider our primary fundraiser of the year. This year, due to mandated virtual meetings, our "Peacock Challenge" fundraiser is based on donations in which the raffle prizes are primarily Fellowship experiences. (See the flyer in the Conference materials for more details.) Those experiences include a Fellowship-hosted Zoom lunch or tea on Saturday, June 5 with a Fellowship award recipient. Another raffle prize experience is co-hosting a Fellowship awards recipient at both the upcoming Conference Fellows reception and Fellowship night as well as being a Silent Observer at two Fellowship semi-finalist interviews in March 2022. Of course, for every \$1,000 raised, we will draw for a Fellow or level-up. Remember: the larger your donation, the more raffle numbers you earn. As a bonus and based on the size of the donation, donors will receive one or more Fellowship merchandise items as "Thank You" gifts.

The "Peacock Challenge" raffle numbers went on sale in December; **sales end on April 7, 2021**. The Fellowship Board will draw raffle winners by mid-April. Those winning the co-hosting prizes will then be notified so they can prepare to co-host Fellowship awardees at Conference. The remaining raffle winners will be announced at Conference. Contact your Fellowship District Director to purchase raffle numbers. Two additional fundraisers will be held this spring. One is a virtual Silent Auction for Deanna Hanks' pins coming in April. The other is a virtual fun walk/run scheduled for May; sign-ups are happening now. More details about both events are in this Call. Our fundraising supports the primary focus of Fellowship: to finance the Fellowship awards which recognize women in the final phase of their doctoral studies and whose work is likely to improve the lives of women and girls or benefit society in general.

In this time of social distancing and working remotely, Fellowship has utilized technology to deliver information about our Fellowship awards program to deans and student advisors at accredited universities and colleges with doctoral programs in Founder Region. As a result, we received 45 completed applications from students representing the University of Hawaii, U.C. Berkeley, Mills College in Oakland, Saint Mary's College in Moraga and California State University, East Bay in Hayward. The Fellowship Board has selected 23 applicants to interview in early-to-mid March. Following the interviews, the Board will select the women who will receive the 2021 Fellowship grants.

Fellows will not want to miss our virtual Fellows Reception at Conference on **Wednesday, April 28 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** We plan to have Zoom breakout rooms to make informally meeting the 2021 award recipients more like meeting them in person. Everyone is invited to join us on **Friday, April 30 from 7:00 – 9:00p.m.**, for our virtual Friday evening program which will feature the 2021 award recipients talking about their work and future plans. Our Fellowship District Directors will close the evening by recognizing our 2020-2021 Fellows and those Fellows moving to the next level. If you want to be recognized at this conference for your new Fellow level or want a club member to be so recognized, final payments need to be received by Fellowship Treasurer Teresa or your Fellowship Director soon.

On behalf of the 2020-2022 Fellowship Board, many thanks for your ongoing support. In its 73rd year, the Founder Region Fellowship program would not exist without each of you.

Warm regards,

*President Cheryl
Treasurer Teresa &
Fellowship Directors Billie, Dana, Fawn, Crystal & Denise*

*"Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*



FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

APRIL 28 – MAY 2, 2021

Wednesday, April 28

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Fellows Reception

Attendance by Invitation to University Fellowship Award Recipients,

Fellows & Raffle Co-Host Winners

Chat with our Outstanding Fellowship Award Recipients in Breakout Rooms

Friday, April 30

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Fellowship Board Meeting

Registered Silent Observers Welcome

Friday, April 30

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Fellowship Awards Program

Hear How a Fellowship Award Made a Difference for a Past Award Recipient.

Learn about the Work of Our Outstanding 2021 Fellowship Award Recipients.

Congratulate New Fellows & Those Moving to a New Level.

Saturday, May 1

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Annual Business Meeting

Fellowship Bylaws Amendments Voting Results Announced

Raffle Winners Announced

Silent Auction Winners Announced





2021 FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP AWARDS GALA PROGRAM



**APRIL 30, 2021
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
Via Zoom**





FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP, INC.
FELLOWSHIP AWARDS GALA
Education Inspires BIG Dreams!

PROGRAM

Call to Order
Governor Kris Chorbi

Introduction of the Fellowship Board
President Cheryl Poncini

Welcome
District I Director Billie Knight

Inspiration
District III Director Fawn Williams

Recognition of Past Fellowship Presidents
President Cheryl Poncini

Recognition of University Liaisons
President Cheryl Poncini

Where is She Now?
The Ongoing Impact of a
2017 Founder Region Fellowship Award
Speaker: Rachel Bernhard, Ph.D. (2018) – Political Science
University of California, Berkeley
Introduced by President Cheryl Poncini

2021 Fellowship Award Recipients

Emily Barnes – Environmental Engineering
University of California, Berkeley



Introduced by District III Director Fawn Williams &
Peacock Challenge Raffle Winner Sally Munger (SI/Clear Lake)

Erica Bufanda – Astronomy
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Introduced by President Cheryl Poncini &
Peacock Challenge Raffle Winner Amelia Benko (SI/The Tri Valley)

Andrea Johnson – Educational Leadership
California State University, East Bay



Introduced by District I Director Billie Knight &
Peacock Challenge Raffle Winner Lynn Levin (SI/East Bay)

Tamara Kerzhner – City & Regional Planning
University of California, Berkeley



Introduced by District II Director Dana Holve

Ashley McGuigan – Botany
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Introduced by District V Director Denise Ridge &
Peacock Challenge Raffle Winner Barbara Yamashita (SI/Waikiki Foundation)

Kendra Watanabe Nip – Educational Psychology
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Introduced by District V Director Denise Ridge &
Peacock Challenge Raffle Winner Barbara Yamashita (SI/ Waikiki Foundation)

Caitlin Williams – Tropical Medicine & Medical Microbiology
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Introduced by District IV Director Crystal Arbuthnot

Bernadette Zermeno – Educational Leadership
Mills College



Introduced by Fellowship Treasurer Teresa Karlson

You Make This Possible
President Cheryl & Treasurer Teresa

Recognition of 2020-2021 Fellows
Fellowship District Directors

Closing Remarks
President Cheryl



FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCES A

TWO WEEK VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION OF

DEANNA PINS

LEADING TO FELLOWSHIP'S PREMIER EVENT

THE APRIL 30 FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAM.

Deanna Pins are unique Soroptimist pins made by the late Deanna Hanks of SI/Dixon.



AUCTION STARTS: April 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (PDT)

AUCTION ENDS: April 30, 2021, at 11:00 p.m. (PDT)

WHERE: ONLINE (Details will be released in early April.)

You won't want to miss the fun of online bidding for a unique pin or other jewelry item crafted by Deanna.

"Sometimes the dreams that come true are the dreams you never even knew you had." ~Alice Sebold

Education Inspires BIG Dreams!

FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP'S 2020-2021 PRIMARY FUNDRAISER:

THE PEACOCK CHALLENGE--Help Fellowship Raise Funds for 2021 Fellowship Awards to Assist Women in the Final Phase of their Doctoral Programs



This fundraiser runs from December 2020 to April 7, 2021. Drawings will be held on April 12. Co-host winners will be notified by phone. Remaining winners will be announced at Conference. Contact your Fellowship Director.

The More Money Fellowship Raises, the More Awards We Can Present

The Focus: The Raffle prizes are Fellowship experiences.

The Bonus: Fellowship merchandise as "Thank You" gifts (keep for yourself or give as gifts to others for any occasion). The number of raffle chances and types of gifts are based on the size of your raffle donation.

THE RAFFLE PRIZES

For four raffle winners, the opportunity to co-host (with a Fellowship Board member) two 2021 Fellowship award recipients. (Two raffle winners per Award Recipient)

Co-hosting will include:

- Co-presenting a Fellowship Award Recipient at the virtual Fellow 2021 reception to be held on Wednesday evening, April 28, 2021; AND
- Co-presenting that Fellowship Award Recipient at the virtual Fellowship Friday evening program on April 30, 2021; and
- Attending two Fellowship award selection interviews in early-to-mid March 2022 as Silent Observers either in person* or via Zoom.

For three raffle winners, the opportunity to have lunch or tea with a Fellowship Award recipient on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

- Lunch or tea will be ordered and delivered by a restaurant local to each of the raffle winners, complements of Fellowship; AND
- During lunch or tea, the raffle winners will have 75 minutes to informally chat with the Fellowship Award recipient via Zoom.

For two raffle winners, a \$50.00 gift card to either Amazon or Starbuck's (each raffle winner's choice).

For every \$1,000 raised, a region-wide drawing for a Fellow or to level-up.

DONATION LEVELS / RAFFLE CHANCES / THANK YOU GIFTS

<u>DONATION</u>	<u># of CHANCES</u>	<u>THANK YOU ITEM/S</u>
\$25.00 - \$49.00	One	One pair of long pearl earrings w/ bead
\$50.00 - \$99.00	Two	Level 1 + an Earbud case
\$100.00-\$249.00	Three	Levels 1 & 2 + an FRF PopSocket
\$250.00-\$499.00	Four	Levels 1, 2, & 3 + A second pair of long pearl earrings w/ bead
\$500.00-\$749.00	Five	Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 + a Pearl Necklace w/ beads
\$750.00-\$999.00	Six	Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 + a Pashmina

*NOTE: Fellowship is unable to pay transportation or other expenses to attend the interviews. Therefore, raffle winners unable to attend two interviews in Hawaii or California in person may attend as a Silent Observer via Zoom.

"Dreams are the touchstones of our character."—Henry David Thoreau.



Founder Region Fellowship

Fun Run/Walk

May 15-29, 2021



Registration \$25
Add a t-shirt for \$10



Join an existing team or
make your own team!

Let's have some fun and help
raise funds for women.

Choose a 1 mile, 2 mile or 5k route and do it outdoors in your own area or on a treadmill. You pick the date. Just submit your results by the 29th. Please be mindful of social distancing when running/walking.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register or go to www.raceroster.com and search "Dream Big"

Questions: email Crystal at FRFfunrun@gmail.com

BIG Thanks to our sponsors (as of 3-2-21)



Proceeds support our grant program which benefits women in the final phase of their doctoral studies. Founder Region Fellowship is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

"The surest way to make your dreams come true is to live them." ~Roy T. Bennett

2020-2022 Fellowship Board



1921 – 2021 has been, and continues to be, an amazing 100 years of challenges, innovation and creativity. Did you know that Soroptimists and See's Candies both originated in 1921 and are celebrating their respective 100th year anniversary? Twenty-seven years later, the Fellowship Program, now Soroptimist Founder Region's Identifying Project, was developed and is celebrating its 73rd Anniversary this year as well. For a program (or a business) to be around for 73 years or longer, it must be doing something right.

In the case of the Fellowship program, the "doing something right" continues to be dedicated Fellowship Board members who know that both selecting Fellowship award recipients who are amazing women in the final phase of their doctoral studies as well as raising funds to pay for the Fellowship awards program are intertwined. Both activities are definitely a challenge, especially in these very difficult times of an ongoing global pandemic and economic upheaval. Yet, through it all, the Board has come up with different, but effective, ways to conduct the business of Fellowship. Whether it has been holding our meetings and applicant interviews on Zoom or creating virtual fundraisers and internet raffle prizes, the Fellowship program continues to be a success. And, of course, the Fellowship Board could not do this without your interest in, and support of, Founder Region Fellowship, our fundraisers and our award recipients. Thank you!

Cheryl Poncini, Fellowship President

"What if dreaming the impossible dream enough times begins to make the impossible possible?" ~Debbie Dixon 21



Founder Region 2021 CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER

*"Dream **BIG** for the future!"*

We want to dream **BIG** for the future and directly help women in our communities during this pandemic and beyond.



Purchase Raffle Numbers \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

Each club will be provided raffle numbers to sell within their own club.

Return *one* check from your club with the raffle number log.
{payable to: Founder Region} by **April 8, 2021** to your Fundraising Committee Representative

➡ **NEW INCENTIVE:** one number will be drawn for a \$1,000 Laurel Society membership.

During conference, have the drawing within your club and award the gift cards.

Provide Gift Card(s) Valued at \$150.00

The prize should be gift card(s) from local women owned businesses within your community.



Founder Region clubs continued to be generous in supporting this conference fundraiser. We raised \$13,216.00 for our federation Dream Programs. Funds sent to SIA will be earmarked for clubs winning conference raffles & Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards with a donation to Club Giving in their honor; and to the Laurel Society on behalf of Region leadership, Past Governors and Conference committee members. Forty-two clubs sold all their tickets and the club drawing winner was SI/Clear Lake. The Laurel Society winner was SI/Tri-Valley who will designate a member in their club to honor. Thank you to all the clubs in Founder Region who supported this fundraiser during this difficult time.

Proceeds benefit Region and Federation Dream Programs.

➡ **SELL ALL YOUR NUMBERS** ⬅

Clubs selling all their numbers will be entered into a drawing for \$250 donation toward Club Giving.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PRESENTATION

Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:00pm-8:00pm

"We've come a long way...but not nearly far enough!"

Topics include: Equality in the Workplace, Pay Equity, Inequity of Women and Title IX.

PRESENTERS

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson is a former prosecutor and practicing attorney, educator, and small business owner. She was elected to the California State Senate in 2012 to represent the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Santa Barbara County and western Ventura County. A graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, California with a joint major in government and sociology, she received her law degree from Boston University Law School before returning to California to work as a deputy district attorney for Santa Barbara County. Eventually, she became the managing partner for the Law Offices of Eskin and Jackson, with offices in Ventura and Santa Barbara. She is also chair of the Select Committee on Women, Work and Families and chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.



Surina Khan is a first generation immigrant and came to the US with her parents and five older siblings in 1973, and has been dedicated to gender, racial, and economic justice issues ever since. As CEO of The Women's Foundation California, Surina oversees the Foundation's strategic direction which is focused on building community-based power through investing in effective community-based organizations, training community leaders in policy advocacy, connecting key partners, and mobilizing significant financial resources. Surina first became involved with WFC as a volunteer in 2004 serving on a grants review committee. She joined the staff in 2005 as a Senior Program Officer and was promoted to Director of Programs and then Vice President of Programs.



Honorable Sandra A. Simms is a member of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. She graduated from Hyde Park High School before attending and graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago with her B.A. degree in political science and sociology. Simms later obtained her J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law in 1978. In 1991, Simms became the first African American female judge in Hawaii upon her appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit. Three years later, she was appointed Circuit Court Judge for the First Judicial Circuit by Governor John David Waihe'e, III. Simms re-tired as a circuit court judge in 2004.



Freda Powell became the first African American woman elected to the Amarillo City Council in 2017. She served as Mayor Pro Tem from June 2019 to June 2020. She currently is serving her second term in Place 2 and is a candidate for re-election to a third term in May 2021. Freda is a member of the Amarillo Women's Network, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a silver life member of the Amarillo Branch NAACP and a life member of Light of Hope. Powell is a former purchasing representative for LINN Energy, headquartered in Houston, Texas. She is currently the office manager for Warford Mortuary. Powell received the Amarillo Opera Dee Lifetime Volunteer Award in 2009, and she was named the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Women's Council Businesswoman of the Year in December 2011.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Linda Witong, Chair
Phyllis Gordon
Madalienne Peters
Rachel Farac
Laura Middlemiss
Angie Haramoto



Source: National Women's Law Center, Equal Payback Project, 2017

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sharon Fisher, Soroptimist International President
2019-2021



Saturday, May 1, 2021
10:00am - 11:30am via Zoom



“Global Impact of Soroptimist & Update on SI President’s Appeal”



Meet Sharon: *“The place I call home is British Columbia, Canada, outside Vancouver, where I am an active member of SI of the Langleys in Western Canada Region. My Soroptimist service has included club, region and Federation leadership. I have served on the Soroptimist International board and most recently held the position of Assistant Director of Advocacy where I chaired the President’s Appeal, Educate to Lead: Nepal. We are still reporting on projects underway in Nepal that have been achieved through the generous donations of clubs around the world. I can promise the impact these projects are having on the women and girls in Nepal is life changing.*

In the twilight years of my career, I am serving a not for profit association bringing education, awareness and prevention of adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect to communities throughout the province. I am the Director of Administrative Services. Prior to this, my career was primarily around publicly traded companies with positions including principal, director, capital formation, business planning and investor. I hold a designation as a Certified Public Accountant.

My two sons live close to me and I have two grandsons to spoil. I have a passion for salmon fishing and spend time at Whistler with the family and hope to continue skiing. Of course most of my free time is reserved for Soroptimist service.”

SI PRESIDENT’S APPEAL 2019-2021—“Road to Equality”

President Sharon Fisher’s The Road to Equality President’s Appeal – strategically focuses on taking Action and Advocating on topics affecting women and girls, including Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Violence, Rights of Older Women, Migration, and Human Trafficking. The Appeal incorporates a mix of projects, alongside information, and education, to build awareness and engage Soroptimists and friends through discussion. A recent addition to the programme are the SI Voices Webinars, where you can hear from a range of experts and grassroots activists on the key subjects. Through access to tools, facts and stories, we believe that each of us will be able to raise our capacity to be a *global voice for women* on our journey towards achieving gender equality. The topics and pages below will develop and expand over time, so please do revisit this page regularly. [LEARN MORE](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org) at www.soroptimistinternational.org



The Road to Equality
SI PRESIDENT’S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.” ~Anatole France

Celebrate 100 Years of Soroptimist

1921



2021

Join us Saturday Night of Conference 6:00pm Social, 7:00pm Presentation

- ◆ Special greetings from our Past Governors
- ◆ Stroll down memory lane over the past 10 decades
- ◆ Untold stories about Violet Richardson Ward

**Wear your best 1920's
headpiece & pearls!**



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

by Lisa Mangiafico

SIA's Associate Director of Records and
Curator of SIA Archives

**"Parallel Paths: Two Roads Leading to
Soroptimist International"**

"Let your dreams be bigger than your fears and your actions louder than your words." ~Anonymous

Live Your Dream Award Recipients

DISTRICT I

Asia Cole

SI/Fremont

Unitek College

Nursing



DISTRICT II

Amara Jones

SI/Pittsburg

Diablo Vista College

Nursing



DISTRICT III

Jessica McAllister

SI/Napa

Napa Valley College

Nursing



DISTRICT IV

Lindsay McCovey

SI/Humboldt Bay

College of the Redwoods

Psychology



DISTRICT V

Tiah Davidson

SI/Central Oahu

University of Hawaii,
Manoa

Nutrition



Violet Richardson Award Recipients

DISTRICT I

Raishma Anwar
SI/24-682
(Walnut Creek)



DISTRICT II

Malia Yancey
SI/The Delta



DISTRICT III

Beza Mesfin
SI/Napa



DISTRICT IV

Klayre Barres
SI/Eureka



DISTRICT V

Katrina Kuo
SI/Honolulu



BARBARA STEVENSON

"S" CLUB AWARD

Rachel Nelson
Vacaville Christian
High School
Sponsored by
SI/Vacaville



Founder Region Election Results

2021-2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

DISTRICT I

Bonnie Mertz

SI/The East Bay



DISTRICT II

Jan Schults

SI/The Delta



DISTRICT III

Barbara Young

SI/Santa Rosa



DISTRICT IV

Dyann O'Brien

SI/Eureka



DISTRICT V

Angie Haramoto

SI/Maui



CHAIR

Amelia Benko

SI/The Tri-Valley



2019-2021 Nominating Committee

Chair: Amelia Benko

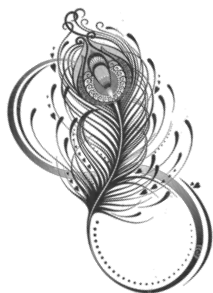
District I: Vacant

District II: Karen Jameson

District III: Loretta Tognoli

District IV: Mary-Ruth Rheinschild

District V: Brihinia Habin



"Celebration of Service" Memorial

In Memoriam

Mary Waldkirch
SI/Arcata
47 Year Member



Vina Marie Simmons
SI/Eureka
47 Year Member



Janis McNair
SI/Richmond
16 Year Member



Helene Wood
SI/El Cerrito
2 Year Member



Helen Fernandez
SI/Sonoma Valley
60 Year Member



Sharon Valenti
SI/Fort Bragg
16 Year Member



Lorraine Komor
SI/Santa Rosa
45 Year Member



Carolyn Small
SI/Santa Rosa
35 Year Member



Please mark your calendar: The 2021 Virtual Redwood Memorial Grove Service will be held Sunday, **June 13, 2021 at 11:00am** via Zoom. The service is moderated by Chair Debbie Thompson and presented by members of the Founder Region Board. Please join us for a virtual walking tour through the redwoods, history of the grove, and special presentation about our Northern California State Parks. All members are encouraged to attend this inspiring and moving service. Please join us as we remember our beloved members.

*"Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities.
Dreaming, after all is a form of planning." ~Gloria Steinem*

Founder Region Annual Awards

Julia “Bess” Combs Membership Increase Award



This award is given to the club having the largest net growth in membership during the year from April 1st through March 31st. This net growth is not to include that of a newly chartered Soroptimist club sponsored by the club or region. Net growth is understood to mean increase above and beyond current regular membership minus those who resign or membership terminated for other reasons. This award is presented annually at conference. The winner is determined by the records of the Founder Region Treasurer. The original award was donated by Past Governor, Southwestern Region, Julia “Bess” Combs.

Barbara Stevenson “S” Club Award



This award is used for the sole purpose of honoring outstanding high school senior members of “S” clubs in Founder Region. Applications for this award are submitted by “S” club members with the selection of the winners to be made by the “S” club committee. The region board determines the dollar amount and number of awards given. All contributions to this fund received by the region treasurer shall be added to the principal. The chair of the region “S” Club committee announces the winners at region conference.

Founder Region Fellowship—Fellowship/Grants In Aid



Founder Region Fellowship is a non-profit, incorporated entity within Founder Region Soroptimist International of the Americas. The board consists of an elected President, Treasurer & directors, one from each district in the region. Fellowships and grants in aid, (totaling not less than \$20,000) are awarded each year to graduate women in the last phase of their studies at a university offering a doctoral degree, within the boundaries of Founder Region. This program is the Founder Region Identifying Project and is administered through Founder Region Fellowship.



Soroptimist Dream Programs

Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women

The Live Your Dream Award is the identifying program of Soroptimist International of the Americas. This award is given to a woman who is the head of household and is returning to school to improve the economic status of her family. Applications begin at the club level with local awards. Club award recipient applications are forwarded on to the district level for judging. Those applications are then forwarded to the region chair for judging. The winning applicant from each district will be awarded \$2,000 from Founder Region at conference. The overall Founder Region winner receives an additional \$5,000 funded by Soroptimist International of the Americas. The remaining district winners are presented with \$3,000 each, also funded by Soroptimist International of the Americas. The Region winner's application is forwarded to Soroptimist International of the Americas for judging at the Federation level, thereby becoming eligible for one of three additional \$10,000 awards. On all levels, judges are to be non-Soroptimists.



Violet Richardson Award

The Violet Richardson Award recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts. The award is named for Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club in 1921. Her motto was, "It's what you do that counts." The program begins at the club level, with club recipients becoming eligible for district awards. This year Founder Region is presenting a \$1,000 award to each district winner.



"It is what you do that counts" - Violet Richardson Ward



Live Your Dream Program Incentive

For every Live Your Dream award given by your club in the 2020-2021 club year, you will be entered into a drawing to win \$1,000 to use for your LYD program. Let's increase the number of awards given in our region to support the 2021-2031 Big Goal:

“Invest in the Dreams of Half a Million Women and Girls through Access to Education”.



**Funds must be used to give an additional LYD Award in the 2021-2022 club year. Winner of this drawing was SI/The Marianas.*

"No matter where you're from, your dreams are valid." ~Lupita Nyong'o.

Dream **BIG** for the future! Award

Soroptimist International of Central
Solano County honors



Becky
Lessler

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Central
Oahu honors



Jacqueline
Pactol

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Vacaville
honors



Lisa
Hilas

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Willits
honors



Kitty
Norris

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of St. Helena
honors



Claudia
Gamble

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of El Cerrito
honors



Sue
Yeazel

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Benicia
honors



Bonnie
Silveria

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of
Humboldt Bay honors



Karen
Lorenzo

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of
the Delta honors



Jan
Schults

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Napa
honors



Sarah
Goff

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of Martinez
honors



June
Rogers

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Soroptimist International of
Sonoma Valley honors



Maigla
Herbst

Dream Big for the Future Award
2020-2021

Dream **BIG** for the future! Award



I hope you enjoyed reading about the club members who were honored with the “Dream BIG for the future!” Awards that were posted to the Founder Region Facebook page leading up to conference. Thank you to Public Awareness Chair Jackie DeVries and Secretary Joy Swank for designing the graphics and coordinating the postings. It was so much fun to see who was honored and read about their contributions to our organization. Although we only honored one member from each club, each and every club member is vital in order to fulfill our mission of helping women and girls. Keep up the great work and continue to “Dream BIG for the future!”

“We will only grow as big as we dream, that’s why we must dream big.” ~Gabrielle Williams

Brand Warriors



Congratulations to SI/Willits for their use of the 2020-2022 Founder Region hashtag #Soroptimists Dream BIG! This club posted to Facebook daily highlighting a woman who has made a difference in the world. They are truly “Hashtag Heroes” of Founder Region.



Public Awareness Chair Jackie DeVries chose the following clubs as Brand Warriors for the 2020-2021 club year. Their websites and social media sites were scored using a rubric and were found to be outstanding in the use of SIA branding, Dream Programs information, and public awareness strategies. We commend these clubs as they “**Dream BIG for the future!**” of our organization as Founder Region Brand Warriors.

DISTRICT I

Benicia
The Tri-Valley

DISTRICT II

Central Solana County
The Delta
Vacaville
Vacaville Twilight
Vallejo

DISTRICT III

Calistoga
Napa
Novato
Oakmont Wine Country
West Sonoma County

DISTRICT IV

Arcata
Eureka
Humboldt Bay
Willits

DISTRICT V

Central Oahu

*"A person is the product of their dreams. So make sure to dream great dreams.
And then try to live your dream." ~Maya Angelou,*

Conference Service Project

We are partnering with “Dress a Girl Around the World” organization and SI/Antioch to do a region-wide service project in honor of our 100 Year Anniversary. We are joining the dedicated volunteers throughout the United States and around the world to sew dresses for girls in need because we believe that **every girl deserves at least one dress**.



Dress a Girl Around the World

Imagine a world where every girl owned at least one dress

“As a seamstress myself, I believe that having a garment that makes you feel beautiful and special is the first step to feeling empowered and confident. During this pandemic, I find solace and calm when I sew and I hope you will join us in making these beautiful dresses for sweet girls all over the world.” — Governor Kris

GOAL = 100 DRESSES

The “Dress a Girl Around the World” Conference Service Project received over 285 dresses from 24 clubs, far exceeding my goal of “100”. Thank you to the following clubs for participating: The East Bay, El Cerrito, Martinez, Richmond, American Canyon 2018, Antioch, The Delta, Calistoga, Clear Lake, Marin County, Napa, Novato, Oakmont Wine Country, Sonoma Valley, St. Helena Sunrise, Vacaville, Vacaville Twilight, Arcata, Eureka, Crescent City, Eel River Valley, Central Oahu, Honolulu, and The Marianas. Our members really had fun designing and embellishing the adorable dresses, which will be given to a girl in need. We hope they will bring joy to girls all over the world and thank Cara Begley from SI/Antioch for coordinating this whole project.



Human Trafficking Awareness

As Hope 4 Women International distributes dresses to girls in need we want to warn them and their parents/guardians of the traps of human trafficking and like to include this "awareness" during our time of dressing girls. We attach this label to the outside all of our dresses before we send them out to girls around the world. For more information, visit

[Dress a Girl Around the World](https://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.org/). Labels will be affixed to finished garments by Chair Cara.

Conference Service Project



Founder Region Leadership Training



Saturday, June 19, 2021

2:00pm – 4:00pm (pacific time)

By the 2020–2022 Founder Region Board

Register in advance through [Zoom](#)



Visit the "Leadership" [page](#) on the
Founder Region Website to download the
2021 Leadership Handbook
for your reference.



Something for Everyone: Club Officers, Members, Current & Future Leaders

For ALL Soroptimist Clubs:

- ⇒ **Breakout Sessions:**
President/Vice President/President–elect,
Secretary, Treasurer, General Membership
- ⇒ **Leadership Handbook 101**
- ⇒ **SIA and Founder Region Website Review**
- ⇒ **Communicating in a Virtual World**
- ⇒ **Leading the Way into the Future**
- ⇒ **And more...**

SAVE THE DATE
ALL DISTRICTS

If you have a suggestion for this
training, please email Governor Kris
at kchorbi5@yahoo.com.

*Dream **BIG** for the future!*



Virtual Conference Standing Rules

Due to the SIA mandate to “pause” all in-person activities throughout the Federation until further notice, the 2021 Founder Region Conference will be held virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing from April 28 - May 2, 2021. Voting on the Founder Region & Fellowship Business, Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws, and election of the 2021-2023 Nominating Committee will be administered through eBallot.com.

Standing Rules for the Virtual Conference:

1. **Registration** - All delegates must be registered before being added to the voter list of the electronic ballot system provided by eBallot.com.
2. **Credentials**
 - a) The electronic ballot administrator shall provide User Name and Access Code for voting delegates.
 - b) Credentials Report #1 coincides with the opening of electronic ballot #1 which includes voting on Amendments to the Proposed Bylaws Amendments.
 - c) Credentials Report #2 coincides with the opening of electronic ballot #2 which includes voting on the elections, Bylaws Amendments as amended, and other conference business.
3. **Communications** - Communications will be through email, the Founder Region website, Facebook page and conference calls.
4. **Motions** - Main motions and amendments shall be written and sent to the chair electronically through email.
5. **Debate** – If during a Caucus conference call there is a debate, then debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker, five minutes per question and ten minutes for each article, except when permitted otherwise by the voting assembly by a two-thirds vote. No member may speak more than twice to the same question, except by consent of the voting assembly on the conference call.
6. **Decorum**
 - a) All scheduled conference calls will be called to order on time.
 - b) The Chair at all times shall be addressed as Governor Kris.
 - c) A delegate or other member shall be allowed to speak when the opportunity is open or called by district and having been recognized, shall state her/his name and the name of her/his club distinctly.
 - d) The Chair shall recognize each member desiring the floor in proper order by district.
 - e) Both delegates and non-delegates shall be allowed the privilege of the floor. Precedence shall be accorded delegates.
 - f) Region committee chairs shall be accorded precedence of the floor at the discretion of the Chair, with the consent of the delegates, if they are speaking to an issue affecting their committee, or to an issue proposed by their committee and which was sent with the Call to Conference.
 - g) Members should be respectful of those around them and turn off any equipment that would distract from the meeting: cell phones on vibrate, computer notifications on silent during conference sessions.
7. **Publicity** - No discussion or action shall be released for publicity without the approval of the Region Governor.
8. **Recording Devices** - Conference calls may be recorded when announced by the Chair. Recording devices (i.e. tape recorders, video cameras) shall not be used during the Conference without the written consent of the Region Governor.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.” ~Christopher Reeve

Thank you for attending!



*"Dream **BIG** for the future!"*



2021 Founder Region Conference ~ Kris Chorbi, Governor 2020 - 2022 ~ *"Dream **BIG** for the future!"*