



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**



# **2022**

## **Founder Region**

Soroptimist International of the Americas

### **Forty-Sixth Annual Region Conference**

# **Conference Proceedings**

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
April 29 - May 1, 2022



*Kris Chorbi, Governor*

## **The Forty-sixth Annual Founder Region Conference Proceedings**

The forty-sixth annual Founder Region Conference was held on April 29 - May 1, 2022, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in Honolulu, Hawaii.

### **Friday, April 29, 2022**

Registration opened at 8:00 am. The Trade Fair opened at 8 am.

Governor Kris Chorbi opened the Legislative Advocacy session at 10:00am. She welcomed those in attendance to the Legislative Advocacy presentation "Poverty & Woman's Health". She asked that all electronic devices be silenced. Governor Kris announced the conference hashtag for sharing photos during the conference- #FR2022CONFERENCE.

Governor Kris introduced the Platform Party

#### **Far left:**

Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Laura Middlemiss, SI/Humboldt Bay

Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Angie Haramoto, SI/Maui

Speaker: Deborah Quigley, Hawaii Representative for DaysForGirls

Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Sandra Simms, SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

#### **Far right:**

Governor-elect Vicki Ham, SI/Willits

Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Stephanie Smith of SI/Oak Harbor, Washington

Governor Kris Chorbi, SI/Eureka

#### **On Zoom:**

Legislative Advocacy Chair, Linda Witong, SI/Novato

Speaker: Nikki-Ann Yee, Ma'i Movement, Honolulu, Hawaii

Linda Witong, SI/Novato welcomed attendees via Zoom and thanked her committee:

Phyllis Gordon of SI/The Delta, Madalienne Peters of SI/Novato, Angie Haramoto of SI/Maui, Laura Middlemiss of SI/Humboldt Bay, and Sandra Simms of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

Committee member Angie Haramoto introduced the first speaker, Nikki-Ann Yee, Ma'i Movement Co-Founder, who appeared on Zoom.

The mission of Ma'i Movement is to provide and distribute free menstrual products to menstruators in need and advocate for systemic change in the government, schools, and community to end period poverty in Hawai'i. Currently they have an initiative proposed that takes steps to address menstrual inequity and end period poverty that requires low investment (\$5/student). Statewide statistics: a 2021 survey conducted by Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Ma'i Movement Hawai'i found that 42% of respondents reported missing class or leaving school early due to a lack of accessibility to period products. Furthermore, there is evidence in our islands that students are using period products beyond the recommended safe time, resorting to unhygienic alternatives and missing school because they cannot afford to purchase products in school or at home. The bill addresses this issue and promotes common goals of public health, basic equity, and gender equality and education equity.

Time was allowed for Q&A.

Committee Member Laura Middlemiss of SI/Humboldt Bay introduced a special video from DaysForGirls.

Committee member Sandra Simms of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. introduced Deborah Quigley from DaysForGirls.

Deborah Quigley is a child protection and human trafficking awareness activist and DaysForGirls Honolulu team leader. DaysForGirls works to increase access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating Social Entrepreneurs, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigma and limitations for women and girls. Through their education programs, they provide access to timely, factual information about puberty and menstruation and increased body literacy, a healthy public perception of menstruation and decreased stigma and shame.

Time was allowed for Q&A. Sandra thanked Deborah for her presentation.

Governor Kris thanked members for participating in the Conference Service Project to make period bags. She invited Barbara Lanier to the podium to tell us how SI/El Cerrito got involved in this project and what it means to the girls who receive these essential kits.

Governor Kris gave an update on last year's service project: Chair Cara Bagley and SI/Antioch coordinated the project and received dresses by the dozens. We far exceeded our goal of 100 dresses, and they stopped counting at 326 dresses being created. SI/Antioch and SI/Novato are continuing to make them so feel free to continue the project if you have the sewing bug. At least 100 of the dresses were sent to Tanzania by way of an SI/Antioch member whose daughter lives in Tanzania. Many countries in Africa, as well as the Philippines have received dresses. During the pandemic, when travel was heavily restricted, some dresses were given to foster girls in Contra Costa County.

**Recessed at 12:00pm.**

**Reconvened at 12:30pm.**

Governor Kris welcomed members back from break and gave a cell phone reminder, and she announced the Table Drawing: On each of the tables there is an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets are \$2.00 each, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Tess. Envelopes like these will be on the tables during each meal. The money we raise during lunch today will fund our Legislative Advocacy Programs.

Lisa Broulick, President of SI/Honolulu, provided the Inspiration

Barbara Yamashita, President of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. provided the Welcome.

### **Lunch**

Governor Kris called upon Chair Linda Witong to introduce Leigh Elwood-Brown via video on how our advocacy work throughout Soroptimist International is helping women overcome the obstacles to their health and wellness.

Governor Kris then asked the Official Visitor, SIA President-elect Stephanie Smith to share how the Soroptimist Dream Programs can empower women to make their health a priority for living their best life. President-elect Stephanie spoke on why the Dream Programs are so important and how they can impact women and girls throughout their life.

Governor Kris thanked the Legislative Advocacy Committee and speakers who worked tirelessly to make our program memorable with the presentation on "Women's Health". Governor Kris presented Deborah, Sandra, Angie, and Laura with a token of gratitude.

Governor Kris asked Conference Coordinator Lyn if there were any announcements – there were none, so we adjourned for a break until 2:00pm

The Table Drawing winner was announced and given \$50. A total of \$601.00 was raised for Legislative Advocacy Programs.

**Recessed at 1:45pm.**

**Reconvened at 2:00pm.**

Governor Kris introduced our next speaker, SIA President-elect Stephanie who invited clubs to share about their Dream Programs. Governor Kris thanked President-elect Stephanie. She presented President-elect Stephanie with a small gift as a token of her gratitude for her participation in our Legislative Advocacy Program.

Delegates were advised to stay for the Delegates Briefing beginning at 2:30pm and Pages and Timekeepers are to return at 2:45 pm for their briefing.

All Fellows were invited to attend a Fellowship Reception at 5:30pm to meet the Fellowship recipients. The No-Host cocktail reception for all members on the Kona Moku Ballroom Lanai will begin at 6:00pm, with the Fellowship Awards Gala & Dinner to begin at 7:00pm. Tomorrow's Fellowship Meeting starts promptly at 8:00am following by the Region Business Meeting.

She reminded everyone that the Trade Fair will be open until 5:00pm today.

**Meeting adjourned 2:20 pm**

### **2:30 Delegate Briefing**

Governor Kris introduced Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier, from SI/El Cerrito. Parliamentarian Barbara gave the delegates their instructions as to seating, and microphones. Governor Kris thanked Barbara for her time and contributions to make sure the Conference runs smoothly, and all voices are heard. The Delegates were dismissed.

## **2:45 pm Pages And Timekeepers Briefing**

Governor Kris introduced Parliamentarian Barbara Lanier who will conduct the delegates briefing. Parliamentarian Barbara gave instructions to the Pages and Timekeepers.

## **The Pages and Timekeepers were dismissed at 3:00pm.**

At 6:00pm, the Founder Region “Fellows” Reception was held in Kona Moku Ballroom Lanai. Fellows got a chance to meet the recipients for a Q&A.

Governor Kris welcomed everyone to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Founder Region Conference. This is the first in-person conference since 2019. She acknowledged that Past Governor Sylvia had spent months getting ready for the 2020 conference that was cancelled due to the worldwide pandemic. Governor Kris invited Past Governor Sylvia Crafton to welcome members and friends. Then Governor Kris and Immediate Past Governor Sylvia announced that the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Founder Region Conference was in session.

She welcomed all to the first “live” Conference since 2019. Tonight we are here to “Dream BIG for Women and Girls!”. Governor Kris was able to attend the Fellowship interviews via zoom.

Governor Kris announced the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by the Farrington High School Junior ROTC. Governor Kris thanked the all-girls Junior ROTC for being at the Conference. Governor Kris introduced First Lady of the State of Hawaii, Mrs. Dawn Amano-Ige to provide the community welcome. Mrs. Dawn Amano-Ige welcomed us. Governor-elect Vicki thanked her for welcoming us on behalf of Soroptimist International of Central Oahu, Soroptimist International of Honolulu, Soroptimist International of Maui, and Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation Inc, our host clubs.

Governor Kris announced the Platform Party.

### **Top Left Tier:**

Fellowship Director, District IV, Crystal Arbuthnot of SI/The Redwoods

2022 Fellowship Award Recipient, Anu Kuncheria

Fellowship Treasurer Teresa Karlson of SI/San Ramon Valley

### **Top Right Tier:**

Fellowship Director, District II Dana Holve of SI/Vacaville Twilight

2022 Fellowship Award Recipient, Gabrielle Stedman

Fellowship Director, District III, Fawn Williams of SI/Clear Lake

### **Bottom Left Tier:**

Fellowship Director, District I, Billie Knight of SI/The East Bay

2018 Fellowship Award Recipient, Priscilla Leal

2021 Fellowship Award Recipient, Erica Bufanda

Fellowship Guest Speaker, Kristen Connors – University of Hawaii, Manoa

Fellowship President, Cheryl Poncini of SI/Oakland-The Founder Club

### **Bottom Right Tier:**

Fellowship Director, District V Denise Ridge of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

2022 Fellowship Award Recipient, Crystal Kwok

First Lady of Hawaii, Mrs. Dawn Amano-Ige

Governor-elect, Vicki Ham of SI/Willits

Governor Kris asked attendees to rise and join her in recognizing Soroptimist International of the Americas, President-elect, Stephanie Smith of SI/Oak Harbor, Washington.

Governor Kris turned the meeting over to Fellowship President Cheryl Poncini. President Cheryl welcomed everyone to the Fellowship Awards Banquet.

Fellowship Director District III Fawn Williams gave the inspiration. Fellowship Director District II Dana Holve welcomed everyone. Past Fellowship Presidents were recognized.

**The 2022 Fellowship recipients were presented.**

Hannah El-Silimy - Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Anu Kuncheria - Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley

Crystal Kwok - Theatre, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Morsaline Mojid - Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Kiran Stallone - Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Gabrielle Stedman - Biological Oceanography, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

The Table Drawing winner was announced and given \$50. A total of \$691.00 was raised for Fellowship.

Governor Kris thanked President Cheryl, Treasurer Theresa, and Directors Billie, Dana, Fawn, Crystal and Denise for performing the tasks required to select such worthy recipients. She congratulated the Fellowship recipients and thanked all members who support Founder Region Fellowship.

Governor Kris asked Conference Coordinator Lyn for any announcements. She then announced we are in recess until 8:30am Saturday morning for the Founder Region Fellowship business meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.**

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**Saturday, April 30, 2022  
Fellowship Business Meeting**

President Cheryl welcomed everyone to the Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting and called it to order at 8:30am. President Cheryl read the **Hawai'i Land Acknowledgment**, acknowledging Hawai'i as an indigenous space whose original people are today identified as Native Hawaiians.

**Fellowship Credentials report #1**

Clubs in Founder Region: 51

Clubs Eligible to Vote: 51

Clubs Not in Good Standing: 0

Clubs Registered: 37

Total Clubs Voting: 37

Delegates registered:

Fellowship Officers: 2 \*

Fellowship Directors: 2

Region Board Delegates: 9

Club Delegates: 79

Total Delegates: 92

**Quorum for Opening Session: 47**

\*Three Fellowship Board members opted to relinquish their status as Fellowship Board delegates and, at the request of their respective club presidents and with the consent of the Fellowship president, instead assumed the role of delegates for their respective clubs since their clubs were unable to send the full three-member delegation to this conference.

President Cheryl declared the microphone to her right would be #1 and the microphone to her left would be #2. She introduced the microphone monitors.

**ARTICLE V - Directors and Officers**

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

**PROPOSED BY:** 2020 - 2022 Founder Region Fellowship Board.  
**ADVANTAGES:** Since we are completing the 2020-2022 Biennium, which is the first biennium in which the Fellowship Board included the dedicated position of Treasurer, there is no need to maintain the language for the selection of the first Fellowship treasurer.  
**DISADVANTAGES:** None  
**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None  
**RATIONALE:** To update the language regarding the election of the Treasurer to the Fellowship Board.

**President Cheryl asked for discussion: there was none, so she called for the vote. The proposed amendment to Article V, Section 4 passed.**

**ARTICLE V - Directors and Officers**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<b>Section 8.</b> All officers and director shall assume duties on the first day of July.	<b>Section 8.</b> All officers and directors shall assume duties on the first day of July in even-numbered years.

**PROPOSED BY:** 2020-2022 Founder Region Fellowship Board  
**ADVANTAGES:** To make clear which year in the biennium the new board assumes its duties, thereby making the language in the Fellowship Bylaws consistent with that in the Region Bylaws (Article V, Section 5.2 c.).  
**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None  
**RATIONALE:** For clarity and consistency.

**President Cheryl asked for discussion: there was none, so she called for the vote. The proposed amendment to Article V, Section 8 passed.**

**ARTICLE V - Directors and Officers**

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<b>Section 11.</b> [Proposed language is not a part of the current FRF Bylaws.]	<b>Section 11.</b> Fellowship Board members shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, in the performance of their duties, unless the Board member has engaged in willful misconduct or recklessness in the performance of her/his duties.

**PROPOSED BY:** 2020-2022 Founder Region Fellowship Board  
**ADVANTAGES:** To be consistent with the Region Bylaws on the issue of Board member personal Liability.  
**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None  
**RATIONALE:** For consistency with the Region Bylaws (Article VII, Section 7.

**President Cheryl asked for discussion: there was none, so she called for the vote. The proposed amendment to Article V, Section 11 passed.**

The Fellowship proposed Bylaws amendments for 2022 were read by Laws & Resolutions Committee chair Sheila Bearden and the membership, via delegates, voted on April 30, 2022. The voting results for each of the three proposed amendments presented during the Fellowship Board meeting are as follows:

BYLAWS SECTION & ARTICLE	TITLE OF BYLAW	VOTING RESULT
Article V, Section 4	Directors & Officers	PASSED
Article V, Section 8	Directors & Officers	PASSED
Article V, Section 11	Directors & Officers	PASSED

### **Minutes of the 2021 Virtual Fellowship Business Meeting**

Secretary Dana Holve presented the minutes of the 2021 Founder Region Fellowship Business Meeting, held on May 1, 2021. The minutes had been previously distributed to the membership via the 2021 Conference Proceedings, and a hard copy had been placed on each table during the Founder Region Fellowship Awards Dinner on April 29, 2022. There being no corrections to the minutes, President Cheryl declared the May 1, 2021, Founder Region Business Meeting minutes approved as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the Founder Region Fellowship Financial Report, covering the period July 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022, has been, and continues to be, available by contacting Treasurer Teresa Karlson as noted on the Region Conference website. The report will be forwarded for financial review.

Each of the Fellowship Directors gave a report about Fellowship activities from July 1, 2021, to the 2022 Founder Region Conference.

President Cheryl encouraged everyone to bid on the Deanna Pins at the silent auction. She thanked everyone and remarked on the highlights of her tenure as President.

The Fellows drawn for the Fun Run fundraiser are:

Dyann O'Brien, SI/Eureka	Kathi Regan, SI/The Delta
Sharon Redd, SI/Humboldt Bay	Nancy Giltner, SI/Napa
Evelyn Nodal, SI/Rio Vista	Brenda Roberts, SI/Napa
Jean Robson, SI/Crescent City	Susan Leick, SI/Calistoga
Mingo Greco, SI/Rio Vista	Charlene Spinner, SI/Rio Vista
Cheryl Poncini, SI/Oakland-The Founder Club	

**Founder Region Fellowship meeting was adjourned at 9:00am**

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### **Saturday, April 30, 2022 Founder Region Business Meeting**

Governor Kris called the Founder Region Business meeting to order at 9:50am. She reminded members to silence their cell phones, identified the delegate area, and asked that those who were not delegates move from the area.

She then introduced the platform party.

#### **Top Left Tier:**

District V Director Kristal Koga, SI/The Marianas

District IV Director Vicki Baldwin, SI/Crescent City

#### **Top Right Tier:**

District I Director Lenore Colarusso, SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)

District II Director Jackie Arnold, SI/Vallejo

District III Director Colleen Ganaye, SI/Sonoma Valley

#### **Bottom Left Tier:**

Nominating Committee Member, District V, Angie Haramoto, SI/Maui

**2022 Founder Region Proceedings**

*"Dream BIG for Women & Girls!"*

Nominating Committee Member, District III, Barbara Young, SI/Santa Rosa  
Nominating Committee Member, District 1, Bonnie Mertz, SI/The East Bay  
Nominations & Elections Chair, Past Governor Amelia Benko, SI/The Tri-Valley  
Laws and Resolutions Chair, Sheila Beardon, SI/Humboldt Bay  
Parliamentarian, Barbara Lanier, SI/El Cerrito

**Bottom Right Tier:**

Region Treasurer, Tess Albin-Smith, SI/Noyo Sunrise  
Region Secretary, Joy Swank, SI/Vacaville  
Region Governor-elect, Vicki Ham, SI/Willits  
Governor Kris asked everyone to please rise and recognize our official visitor, Soroptimist International of the Americas  
President-elect, Stephanie Smith, SI/Oak Harbor, Washington  
Governor Kris Chorbi, SI/Eureka

Credentials Chair Stacey Moniz, SI/Maui, gave the first credentials report.

**Founder Region Credentials report #1:**

Clubs in Founder Region: 51	Delegates Registered
Clubs Eligible to Vote: 51	Region Officers 4
Clubs Not in Good Standing: 0	District Directors 5
Clubs Registered: 37	Club Delegates 85
Total Clubs Voting: 37	Total Delegates 94
	Quorum for Opening Session 48

Governor Kris repeated the credential report and asked if there were any questions. Governor Kris called for the vote and Founder Region Credentials Report #1 was adopted by the delegates.

Governor Kris called upon Secretary Joy to read the Conference Standing Rules. Secretary Joy said the Standing Rules are printed in our 2022 Founder Region Official Conference Program and are found on page 33. In the interest of time and with no objections, the Standing Rules were not read. She moved for the adoption of the Standing Rules. The standing rules were adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Governor Kris called upon Secretary Joy to read corrections to the conference program. Secretary Joy moved for the adoption of the Official Program. The Official Program was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor Kris announced that there are 36 first time attendees registered and asked them to rise and be recognized.

Governor Kris asked for the pages to rise. They are responsible for microphones, messages to the chair, door-keeping, and Patti Laba and Julie Takushi will assist you at the microphones; Kim Jones and Lisa Ma are the timekeepers. Governor Kris thanked the stewards: Cindy Rasmussen of SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc will be supporting Governor Kris and Governor-elect Vicki; and Susan Lau of SI/Central Oahu will be supporting Fellowship President Cheryl and our Official Visitor Stephanie. Host clubs committee members were recognized.

Members were informed to look for special greetings from Michelle Burnett, SIA CEO and Executive Director and our official visitor, SIA President-elect Stephanie Smith in the Conference Program.  
A Video was shown from SIA President Kazuko Morita.

Governor Kris called upon Secretary Joy to read the greetings and correspondence. Secretary Joy read a letter from Past Governor Bobbi.

Secretary Joy announced the clubs volunteering to host the Founder Region Conference in 2025: SI/The Delta, SI/Vacaville, and SI/Vacaville Twilight. She moved the acceptance of these clubs to host the 2025 Founder Region Conference, which requires a majority vote. Governor Kris called for a vote. Motion passed.

A vote was held for a replacement host club for the 2024 Founder Region Conference. The host clubs voted on last year to host the 2024 Conference are SI/Marin County, SI/Novato, and SI/Oakmont Wine Country. SI/Marin County disbanded last year. Secretary Joy moved to replace SI/Marin County with SI/Santa Rosa as a host club for the 2024 Founder Region Conference. The motion was seconded. Governor Kris called for the vote. Motion passed.



Governor Kris asked if there were there any updates to the credentials report previously given. Since there are no updates, the credential report previously adopted remains the same.

Governor Kris declared the microphone to her right would be microphone #1 and the microphone to her left would be microphone #2. Patti Laba and Julie Takushi assisted at the microphones. Kim Jones and Lisa Ma were the timekeepers.

Past Governor Amelia Benko, Chair of the Nominating Committee came to the podium to present the Nominating Committee's report.

### **FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP BOARD**

The following names were submitted as nominees for the 2022-2024 Founder Region Fellowship Board  
District I Fellowship Director: Billie Knight - SI/The East Bay and Lisa Staraci-Schibler – SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
District II Founder Region Fellowship Director: Dana Holve – SI/Vacaville Twilight  
District III Founder Region Fellowship Director: Laurie Kaiser Gallian – SI/Sonoma Valley  
District IV Founder Region Fellowship Director: Laura Middlemiss – SI/Humboldt Bay  
District V Founder Region Fellowship Director: Angie Bugarin – SI/Central Oahu  
Founder Region Fellowship Treasurer: Danelle Tegarden – SI/Eureka  
Founder Region Fellowship President: Kris Chorbi – SI/Eureka

### **FOUNDER REGION BOARD**

The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations for the Founder Region Board:  
District I Director Founder Region: Lenore Colarusso – SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
District II Director Founder Region: Jackie DeVries – SI/Vacaville  
District III Director Founder Region : Colleen Ganaye – SI/Sonoma Valley  
District IV Director Founder Region : Elaine Reed – SI/Eureka  
District V Director Founder Region : Terri Lynn Sato – SI/Honolulu  
Founder Region Treasurer: Tess Albin-Smith – SI/Noyo Sunrise  
Founder Region Secretary: Kristal Koga – SI/The Marianas  
Founder Region Governor-elect: Elise Balgley – SI/Fremont and Joy Swank – SI/Vacaville

Governor Kris read each nomination by district. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She stated that if there were none, the chair declares the nominations closed. Fellowship Board had no nominations from the floor; therefore, the nominations were closed. Region Board District Directors had no nominations from the floor; therefore, the nominations were closed.

Governor Kris asked former Governor Sylvia to have the candidates for the 2022-2024 Founder Region Board and Fellowship Board line up. Each candidate had 2 minutes to speak. The candidates each came to the podium and spoke. District II Fellowship Director Laurie Kaiser Gallian was not in attendance and her speech was read by Governor Kris.

### **FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP ELECTION**

Governor Kris announced that according to Article V, Section 5.2 Elections (a) of the region bylaws, "Voting shall be by ballot unless there is only one candidate for office; in such event voting shall be by voice vote." We will therefore vote for those candidates who are running UNOPPOSED by voice beginning with the nominee for Founder Region Fellowship District II Director.

Governor Kris announced that all club delegates, region board members and Fellowship board members may vote for the Fellowship Director candidate of their respective districts.

Governor Kris announced the District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Dana Holve the District II Fellowship Director. She announced the District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Laurie Kaiser Gallian as the District III Fellowship Director. She announced the District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Laura Middlemiss the District IV Fellowship Director. She announced the District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Angie Bugarin as the District V Fellowship Director.

All club delegates, region board members and Fellowship board members may vote for the Fellowship Officers – Treasurer and President. Governor Kris called for the vote in favor of electing Danelle Tegarden as the Fellowship

Treasurer. The chair declared Danelle Tegarden the Fellowship Treasurer. Governor-elect Vicki called for a vote to elect Kris Chorbi as the Fellowship President. Kris Chorbi was declared the Fellowship President.

As there is more than one candidate for the Fellowship Director, District I position, delegates for District I will vote by ballot during our lunch break.

### **FOUNDER REGION ELECTION**

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." We continue to vote for those candidates who are running UNOPPOSED for the Founder Region Board by voice.

All club delegates and region board members may vote for the district director candidate of their respective districts. Governor Kris announced the Founder Region Board District I nominee and called for the vote. She declared Lenore Colarusso as District I Director. Governor Kris announced the Founder Region Board District II nominee and called for the vote. She declared Jackie De Vries as District II Director. Governor Kris announced the Founder Region Board District III nominee and called for the vote. She declared Colleen Ganaye as District III Director. Governor Kris announced the Founder Region Board District IV nominee and called for the vote. She declared Elaine Reed as District IV Director. Governor Kris announced the Founder Region Board District V nominee and called for the vote. She declared Teri Lynn Sato as District V Director.

Governor Kris announced that all club delegates and region board members may vote for Region Secretary, Region Treasurer and Governor-elect. After the vote she declared Tess Albin-Smith as the Region Treasurer. The vote was held for Region Secretary. She declared Kristal Koga as the Region Secretary.

As there is more than one candidate for the Governor-elect position, delegates voted by ballot during our lunch break. Nominations chair, Amelia thanked her committee: Bonnie Mertz, Jan Shultz, Barbara Young, Dyann O'Brien, and Angie Haramoto.

### **OFFICIAL VISITOR PRESENTATION**

SIA President-elect Stephanie Smith was introduced by Governor Kris. Stephanie is a motivational speaker/trainer by trade. Her Official Visitor presentation was entitled, "Dream BIG, the Power of Women to Change the World", and we are counting on her, as SIA President-elect to lead the charge and lead the members of our federation to "Change the World" as well.

Governor Kris asked Chair Stacey if there were any changes to the Credential Report - there were no changes. In preparation of presentation of the Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, we will review the discussion process: timekeepers for this session were Kim Jones and Lisa Ma; Patti Laba and Julie Takushi will assist members at the microphones.

Governor Kris reviewed the procedures:

Discussion time for each proposed amendment is ten minutes. If a delegate wishes 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 can speak FOR or AGAINST an issue for a maximum of TWO MINUTES. Any member can speak to an amendment but only Founder Region Delegates can make a motion or other point of order. Delegates have priority at the microphone verses a non-delegate member. The timekeepers would hold up colored cards to indicate the amount of time remaining. The GREEN CARD would go up when you have one minute remaining. The WHITE CARD would go up when you have thirty seconds remaining. The RED CARD would be raised when your two minutes has expired, and the delegate must STOP. When the ten minutes have been exhausted the timekeeper will so indicate, with the RED STOP card and the sound of a bell. There were signs at each microphone that assisted the chair in recognizing a speaker. The signs say: FOR, AGAINST, INFORMATION AND AMENDMENT. When a speaker addresses the chair and delegates, they are to state their name and the club to which they belong. There are blank motion forms on each table for any motions or amendments. Please write out the motion or amendment and give it to a page who will deliver it to the chair.

Governor Kris introduced Laws and Resolutions Chair Sheila Beardon to read the proposed amendments, which were projected on the screen. There were no objections to the chair not repeating the entire proposal.

#### ARTICLE IV, Officers Section 4.5 Duties d.

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 4.5 Duties d. The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Region Board; deposit and disburse all funds belonging to the Region or designated as dues to Founder Region Fellowship; send Region dues and fees statements to all clubs; provide financial reports at Board meetings and Region Conferences; and serve as a member of the Budget Committee.	Section 4.5 Duties d. The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Region Board; deposit and disburse all funds belonging to the Region or designated as dues to Founder Region Fellowship; send Region dues and fees statements to all clubs; provide financial reports at Board meetings and Region Conferences; and serve as a member of the Budget Committee.

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

**Advantages:** Founder Region Fellowship is a separate 501(c)3 entity and should be responsible for invoicing and collecting of their dues assessment. It is unusual for one nonprofit corporation to collect funds of another nonprofit corporation.

**Disadvantages:** Clubs will need to submit two payments for dues, one to region and one to Fellowship.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Rationale:** FRF began as a committee of Founder Region, and at the time, it made sense for the region to collect the Fellowship Assessment. Once the entity was established as a separate corporation, acquired its own tax-exempt status, and now has a fully elected board, the region board feels it is now important to separate the interests in and ownership of FRF.

Governor Kris asked if there was any discussion. A discussion followed and after 10 minutes of debate. Governor Kris asked if delegates were ready for the question. This requires a two-thirds vote. Delegates raised their voting card in favor. The delegates opposed raised their voting cards.

**Motion failed.**

*After Parliamentarian Barbara deliberated at lunch, she announced that it should be 2/3 of the voting delegates, not 2/3 of registered delegates. **Motion passed due to a recalculation of the 2/3 majority vote needed to pass this motion.***

#### ARTICLE IX – Dues and Fees Section 9.2 Dues and Fees

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
... c. Each member, including Life members, shall pay \$2.00 annually to Founder Region Fellowship.	<b>Section 9.2 Dues and Fees</b> ... c. Each member, including Life members, shall pay \$7.00 annually to Founder Region Fellowship.

**Proposed by:** Founder Region Fellowship Board

**Advantages:** Makes the Region Bylaws consistent with the Fellowship Dues increase approved by the membership at the 2021 conference as reflected in the Fellowship Bylaws (Article VIII – Finance; Section 1a).

**Disadvantages:** None

**Financial Impact:** Helps to reduce the disparity in dues amount allocated to the Fellowship program.

**Rationale:** Makes the Region Bylaws consistent with the previously approved Fellowship Bylaws on the issue of the amount of annual Fellowship dues.

Governor Kris stated that the question is on the amendment to Founder Region bylaws, ARTICLE IX – Dues and Fees, Section 9.2 Dues and Fees as read by Chair Sheila.

Governor Kris asked if there was any discussion then asked if delegates were ready for the question. This requires a two-thirds vote. Delegates raised their voting card in favor. The delegates opposed raised their voting cards.

**Motion passed.**

## ARTICLE IX, Finance Section 9.2 Dues & Fees c.

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 9.2 Dues & Fees c. Each member, including Life members, shall pay \$2.00 annually to Founder Region Fellowship	Section 9.2 Dues & Fees c. Each member, including life members, shall pay \$7.00 annually to the Founder Region Fellowship Treasurer by July 1 each year.

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

**Advantages:** Founder Region Fellowship is a separate 501(c)3 entity and should be responsible for invoicing and collecting of their dues assessment. It is unusual for one nonprofit corporation to collect funds of another nonprofit corporation.

**Disadvantages:** Clubs will need to submit two payments for dues, one to region and one to Fellowship.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Rationale:** FRF began as a committee of Founder Region, and at the time, it made sense for the region to collect the Fellowship Assessment. Once the entity was established as a separate corporation, acquired its own tax-exempt status, and now has a fully elected board, the region board feels it is now important to separate the interests in and ownership of FRF.

Prior to voting on this amendment Parliamentarian Barbara clarified why there are two amendments on Article IX, Finance Section 9.2 Dues & Fees c. The amendment proposed by Founder Region Fellowship clarifies the fee that will be paid as fellowship dues. The amendment proposed by Founder Region adds the corrected amount and specifies who the dues will be paid to. Article IV, Officers Section 4.5 duties d passage will affect this article.

Governor Kris asked if there was any discussion then asked if delegates were ready for the question. This requires a two-thirds vote. Delegates raised their voting card in favor. The delegates opposed raised their voting cards.

**Motion passed.**

## ARTICLE X, Founder Region Fellowship, Inc Section 10.2

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
Section 10.2 All income designated for Founder Region Fellowship shall be transferred to Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.	Section 10.2 Founder Region Fellowship shall be responsible for invoicing of Fellowship dues, assessments and donations.

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

**Advantages:** Founder Region Fellowship is a separate 501(c)3 entity and should be responsible for invoicing and collecting of their dues assessment. It is unusual for one nonprofit corporation to collect funds of another nonprofit corporation.

**Disadvantages:** Clubs will need to submit two payments for dues, one to region and one to Fellowship.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Rationale:** FRF began as a committee of Founder Region, and at the time, it made sense for the region to collect the Fellowship Assessment. Once the entity was established as a separate corporation, acquired its own tax-exempt status, and now has a fully elected board, the region board feels it is now important to separate the interests in and ownership of FRF.

A motion was made to this amendment by Governor-elect Vicki to strike the word “invoicing” and inserting it its place the word “collection”. Change from “Founder Region Fellowship shall be responsible for invoicing of Fellowship dues, assessments and donations” and change to: “Founder Region Fellowship shall be responsible for collection of Fellowship dues assessments and donations”, as dues are not invoiced. Motion was seconded. ARTICLE X, Founder Region Fellowship, Inc Section 10.2 strikes the word “invoicing” and inserts in its place the word “collection”.

After discussion a vote was called for the amendment to the main motion.

**Motion passed.**

Chair Sheila read the main motion, as amended.

Governor Kris asked for any discussion on the proposed main motion, as amended, then asked if delegates were ready for the question. This requires a two-thirds vote. Delegates raised their voting card in favor. The delegates opposed raised their voting cards.

**Motion passed.**

Governor Kris thanked Chair Sheila and Parliamentarian Barbara for doing such a great job and presented them with a gift for their dedication to Founder Region.

Treasurer Tess Albin-Smith gave the treasurer's report. She welcomed attendees and reported on the two region financial reports and a proposed budget included in their welcome bag. Balance Report: Bank balances as of the end of March include investments, savings and checking accounts. Budget vs. Actual Report: The 2-year biennium 2020-2022 Budget vs. Actual Report reflects how much we spent vs budgeted in each category. This report is from July 1, 2020, through March 3, 2022. Many expenses have not occurred yet, such as award checks we are giving out and income not yet received such as money from Conference fundraising. This will change actual parts of the report for the next two months. Governor-elect Vicki's 2022-2024 Proposed Budget was also distributed. Treasurer Tess indicated if there are any questions, she would be happy to discuss at the breaks.

Governor Kris thanked Treasurer Tess for her report and reminded delegates to vote prior to lunch. There are no updates to the credential report previously given. The credential report previously adopted remains in place. The following member are tellers for the election by ballot today: Bonnie Mertz, Barbara Young, and Angie Haramoto.

Elections Chair Amelia explained the procedures for voting on District I Fellowship Director and for Governor-elect. Voting will take place in Milo 4/5 room, located outside the ballroom down one flight of stairs on the second floor, until 12:30pm.

All club delegates and region board members may vote for Governor-elect. All District I club delegates, region board members from District I and Fellowship board members from District I may vote for the Fellowship director of District I. Delegates were advised to proceed to the voting rooms and make sure that they have their name badge visible and their credential cards with them. Two people will be at the entrance door to verify your name tag and credential card. They will direct you to your district to receive your ballot.

Governor Kris asked Conference Coordinator Lyn if there were any announcements - there were none. She announced the recess until 12:30pm when we reconvened to enjoy the District Directors "Dream BIG" Luncheon. Presidents were instructed to meet their District Director in the lobby before lunch for the Presidents' Processional.

**Recessed for lunch a 12:00pm.**

**Reconvened at 12:30pm.**

### **DREAM BIG LUNCHEON**

Governor Kris announced the Annual Founder Region Conference is reconvened; and called the meeting please come to order and introduced the Platform Party:

#### **Top Left Tier**

Parliamentarian, Barbara Lanier of SI/El Cerrito

Public Awareness Chair, Jackie DeVries of SI/Vacaville

#### **Top Right Tier**

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair, Debbie Scaife of SI/Eel River Valley

Fundraising Chair, Elise Balgley of SI/Fremont

#### **Bottom Right Tier**

Region Treasurer, Tess Albin-Smith of SI/Noyo Sunrise

Region Secretary, Joy Swank of SI/Vacaville

Region Governor-elect, Vicki Ham of SI/Willits

Governor Kris asked members to rise and recognize the official visitor, Soroptimist International of the Americas President-elect, Stephanie Smith of SI/Oak Harbor, Washington

### **Table Drawing**

On each of the tables was an envelope with raffle tickets inside. The tickets are \$2.00 each, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money we raise during lunch will go towards our Region Dream Programs. The lunch session was hosted by your district directors. The District Directors then lead a processional of all of the club presidents or representatives.

The District Directors introduced the club presidents and read the club slogans. They then chose a club from each district to receive a \$250 donation to Club Giving in their honor.

District I – SI/Diablo Vista

District II – SI/American Canyon 2018

District III – SI/St. Helena

District IV – SI/Willits

District V – SI/Guam

Governor Kris welcomed SIA President-elect Stephanie Smith who gave a presentation on “Step up to Leadership”.

Governor Kris thanked President-elect Stephanie for sharing with her leadership journey and why stepping up to leadership is so important to sustain our organization.

### **Table Drawing**

Raffle ticket was drawn, and winner received \$50.00 from Treasurer Tess.

Break

**2:00 PM**

Business Meeting Reconvened by Governor Kris, reminders were given to silence cell phones. Meeting was called to order.

### **ELECTION RESULTS:**

Elections Chair Amelia was called to the podium to read the results of the Founder Region election.

Results of voting:

Fellowship Director, District I: Billie Knight received 13 votes and Lisa Schibler received 10 votes. Governor Kris declared Billie Knight the winner.

Governor-elect: Elise Balgley received 55 votes and Joy Swank received 39 votes. Governor Kris declared Elise Balgley the winner.

### **The Chair declared the Founder Region Board for 2022-2024 as follows:**

District I Director – Lenore Colarusso

District II Director – Jackie DeVries

District III Director – Colleen Ganaye

District IV Director – Elaine Reed

District V Director – Teri Lynn Sato

Region Treasurer – Tess Albin-Smith

Region Secretary – Kristal Koga

Governor – elect – Elise Balgley

### **The Chair declared the Founder Region Fellowship Board for 2022-2024 as follows:**

Fellowship Director, District I – Billie Knight

Fellowship Director, District II – Dana Holve

Fellowship Director, District III – Laurie Kaiser Gallian

Fellowship Director, District IV – Laura Middlemiss

Fellowship Director, District V – Angie Burgarin

Fellowship Treasurer – Danelle Tegarden

Fellowship President – Kris Chorbi

## **FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION**

Governor Kris called to the podium, Fundraising Chair, Elise Balgley. Chair Elise spoke about the Laurel Society, a prestigious recognition program for Soroptimist members who have either had \$1,000 contributed by their club and been honored by becoming a member of the Laurel Society, or members who have contributed themselves, either at one time or through Laurel Society Monthly Giving. Funds contributed help empower women through the Live Your Dream Awards and other Soroptimist programs.

New and leveling up Laurel members were recognized by Chair Elise and President-elect Stephanie: Vicki Ham, Stacey Moniz, and Helen Kennedy-Lazar.

Chair Elise spoke about Club Giving and thanked all the clubs that contributed to global Dream Programs and invested in the lives of women and girls throughout our federation. Clubs that contribute were entered into a drawing for a chance to win \$1,000 extra funding toward their Live Your Dream Award program next fiscal year. Additionally, clubs who contribute may be highlighted on SIA's social feed or in Best for Women, getting a chance to show off their support for our Big Goal.

Twenty-one (21) clubs from Founder Region have donated to Club Giving so far this year. Those who have indicated it was 10% of their total funds raised will receive a special certificate: SI/The East Bay, SI/Martinez, SI/Diablo Vista, SI/Dixon, SI/St. Helena, SI/Novato, SI/Sonoma Valley, SI/Eureka, SI/The Redwoods, SI/Noyo Sunrise. The deadline to submit Club Giving donations is May 31, so there is still time to send donations to SIA before the club year is over.

## **NEW MEMBER SPONSOR DRAWING**

Treasurer Tess stated that there are 98 new member sponsors in the drawing this year. The winner is Pam Brown of SI/Northern Mariana Islands, who will receive a Laurel Society membership (or \$1,000.00 added to her Laurel account).

## **JULIA "BESS" COMBS MEMBERSHIP INCREASE AWARD**

Governor Kris announced that Founder Region has retained 98% of their members this club year and each district is over 95% retention. Treasurer Tess announced two clubs tied for the Julia "Bess" Combs Membership Increase Award and they had a net growth in membership of six members each. Congratulations to SI/The Redwoods, who has a 46% increase over the period, and SI/Rio Vista, who had a 13% increase over the period. Congratulations to both clubs for this achievement. Governor Kris announced that SI/The Redwoods and SI/Rio Vista would each receive a certificate of recognition as well as a \$250 donation made in their club name to the Club Giving Campaign.

## **SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING SUCCESS REPORT**

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair Debbie Scaife was invited to the podium to talk about the program and announced the winners in each of the four pillars – Fundraising, Membership, Program and Public Awareness. For 2021-2022, clubs in our region submitted 23 entries representing ten clubs in the following categories: eight entries for fundraising, five for membership, four for program and six for public awareness.

**FUNDRAISING** category recognizes fundraising projects that are successful, creative, involve the local community and promote a positive image of Soroptimist. The following clubs submitted applications for Fundraising: SI/Arcata, SI/Benicia, SI/Calistoga, SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Honolulu, SI/Humboldt Bay, SI/Sonoma Valley and SI/Vacaville.

**MEMBERSHIP** recognizes projects that enhance the club membership experience thus leading to increased member participation and satisfaction. The following clubs submitted applications for Membership: SI/Arcata, SI/Eel River Valley, SI/Eureka, SI/Humboldt Bay and SI/Sonoma Valley.

The **PROGRAM** category recognizes club projects that improve the lives of women or girls by addressing issues that affect their economic, social or political standing, and focuses special attention on projects related to our signature Dream Programs: the "Live Your Dream Awards" and "Dream It, Be It." The following clubs submitted applications for Programs: SI/Arcata, SI/Calistoga, SI/Eureka and SI/Vacaville.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS** recognizes projects that have successfully raised awareness for the club and its project thus leading to an increased public profile of Soroptimist and our mission. The following clubs submitted applications for Public Awareness: SI/Arcata, SI/Benicia, SI/Eureka, SI/Humboldt Bay, SI/Vacaville and SI/Willits.

Chair Debbie thank the judges who were Past Governor Sylvia Crafton, Fundraising Chair Elise Balgley, and Past District III Director Barbara Young. Chair Debbie announced the region finalists who received a certificate and a \$250 donation to Club Giving in their honor.

### **Region Finalists**

Fundraising - SI/Vacaville for their project entitled "Missing Lobster Dinner."

Membership - SI/Sonoma Valley for their project "Membership COVID Year - Sincerity of Friendship".

Program - SI/Vacaville for their project "Zooming Our Way to More Live Your Dream Applicants".

Public Awareness - SI/Benicia for their project, "2020 Winter Fundraising Campaign". The four federation finalists will be announced at the Governor's Round Table in August 2022. Governor Kris thanked Chair Debbie and her committee.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS PRESENTATION**

Governor Kris invited Public Awareness Chair Jackie DeVries to the podium. Chair Jackie presented on the importance of branding, and the new focus on telling a story - an update on the "Elevator Speech". Jackie then announced the Brand Warriors: District I - SI/Benicia, District II - SI/The Delta, District III - SI/Novato, District IV - SI/Eureka and SI/Humboldt Bay and District V - SI/Maui. The Hashtag Hero was SI/Willits.

Governor Kris thanked all the Pillar Chairs for their commitment over the biennium. She then invited everyone to the upcoming Leadership Training to be held on June 11, 2022 at the Red Lion Hotel in Eureka, which is the same weekend as our Memorial Grove event near there; or virtually on June 18, 2022. District V Leadership Training will be held in Honolulu once again, on the same weekend of the District V Meeting in October.

Governor Kris recessed the meeting until 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

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## **Saturday Night Dinner & Installation April 30, 2022**

Governor Kris reconvened the Annual Founder Region Conference and called the meeting to order. She congratulated and thanked all for the wonderful job done over the past two days attending our programs and sharing in the business of the region.

### **RECOGNITION OF PAST GOVERNORS**

Governor Kris announced that several past Governors were in attendance, and they were wearing red ribbons. Procession of Past Governors: Mary Ann Redden, Amelia Benko, Dona Gaddis Wolf, Pam Parker, and Sylvia Crafton

**Mary Ann Redden**, member of SI/Antioch. Founder Region Governor from 2002-2004. Her theme was "Achieve Growth by Sharing". Escorted by District IV Director Vicki Baldwin.

**Amelia Benko**, member of SI/The Tri-Valley. Founder Region Governor from 2008-2010. Her theme was "Making a Difference Matters". Escorted by District I Director Lenore Colarusso.

**Dona Gaddis Wolf**, member of SI/Antioch. Founder Region Governor from 2012-2014. Her theme was "Share the Light of Soroptimist Service". Escorted by District II Director Jackie Arnold.

**Pam Parker**, member of SI/St. Helena. Founder Region Governor from 2016-2018. Her theme was "Soroptimists Are Shining Stars". Escorted by District III Director Colleen Ganaye.

**Sylvia Crafton**, member of SI/The Marianas. Founder Region Governor from 2018-2020. Her theme was "Empowering Change". Escorted by District V Director Kristal Koga.

Governor Kris thanked the Past Governors. A donation to the Laurel Society will be made on their behalf in honor of their service.

Governor Kris called on Stacey Moniz, President of SI/Maui, to give the inspiration.

The welcome on behalf of the three host clubs was given by President of SI/Central Oahu, Elise Carmody.



Governor Kris said she will be joining the ranks of the Past Governors in a few short months, to be the Governor of Founder Region is a once in a lifetime appointment, and one of great honor and enormous responsibility in our Soroptimist organization. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to honor the past Governors of Founder Region.

Governor Kris asked attendees to join her in a round of applause as she recognized the current Founder Region Fellowship board members and thanked them for a job well done.

### **Table Drawing**

On each of the tables, there is an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets are \$2.00, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money we raise during dinner tonight will go towards our region Dream Programs. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Dinner**

Once again, Founder Region members have been extremely generous in raising \$712 during our Table Raffle tonight. A member was drawn to win \$50.

Governor Kris called Past Governor Amelia Benko to the podium to conduct the Installation of the Founder Region and Fellowship Boards.

### **Past Governor Amelia installed the 2022-2024 Founder Region Fellowship Board.**

Fellowship Director District I - Billie Knight

Fellowship Director, District II - Dana Holve

Fellowship Director, District III is Laurie Gallian who could not be with us.

Fellowship Director, District IV - Laura Middlemiss

Fellowship Director, District V - Angie Bugarin

Fellowship Treasurer - Danelle Tegarden

Fellowship President - Kris Chorbi

### **Past Governor Amelia installed the 2022-2024 Founder Region Board.**

Founder Region District I Director - Lenore Colarusso

Founder Region District II Director - Jackie DeVries

Founder Region District III Director - Colleen Ganaye

Founder Region District IV Director - Elaine Reed

Founder Region Treasurer - Tess Albin-Smith

Founder Region Secretary - Kristal Koga

Founder Region Governor-elect - Elise Balgley

Founder Region Governor - Vicki Ham

### **Following the installation, Vicki Ham gave her acceptance speech and announced her theme: "Bee the Dream".**

*Thank you Past Governor Amelia. Congratulations to the new 2022-2024 Founder Region and Fellowship Boards. Thank you for stepping up to leadership. We need to continue with the fabulous work that Governor Kris and her 2020-2022 board provided for us. I know that the next two years will be extremely rewarding for you and for our region. Together our bonds will become strong and our friendships lasting and I hope we will all have some fun in the process.*

*As we begin the 2022-2024 biennium, we are in a mode of Dreams! We are all dreaming of being together again in person; SIA has launched the Dream Big Campaign; and we all participate in the Dream Programs. With that in mind, my theme for the upcoming biennium is Bee the Dream! and my emblem is the "Bee". Bees are a symbol of creativity and industriousness. Bees symbolize community, organization, collaboration, creation, relationships, and the overall sense of harmony in one's environment. They are governed and operated by female energy, representing intuitive insight, subconscious thought and creativity. Dreams are a series of thoughts, images, or emotions toward a strongly desired goal or purpose, something that fully satisfies a wish. With Dreams, anything is possible.*

*I joined Soroptimist International of Willits because I was looking for a way to give back to my community. God has been very good to me in my life and I felt the need to share what I could of my time, talents and treasures with others in need. And who better to help than the women and girls facing obstacles in their lives? That is what Soroptimists do! We can all Bee anything! We can Bee Kind, Bee Helpful, Bee Courageous, you can fill in the blank with just about any positive word. And in the upcoming biennium we can all "Bee the Dream!"*

*And to Past Governor Amelia, thank you for honoring me as my installing officer. You have always been supportive of me through my years as a Soroptimist and I am grateful. Thank you all for being here as we prepare for the 2022-2024 biennium and remember to always “Bee the Dream!”.*

**Governor Kris addressed the audience with her Outgoing Governor’s Speech.**

*She spoke on the challenges of the past two years with a virtual conference, Zoom meetings, the Founder Region Tutorials on topics like Zoom, Facebook, and Websites, which led to trainings on Dream It, Be It, Club Treasurer, Live Your Dream and Dream Big topics. The District meetings were held virtually. The Region Conference went virtual for a second year in a row and we held events over 5 days and nights with over 1,000 in attendance. We had speakers from across the globe and throughout the state of California talking about Pay Equity, the Road to Equality, and the history of Soroptimist. We celebrated our centennial with Women in History trivia games, presentations on Pop Culture through the decades, and a fun re-enactment of the first meeting of Soroptimist. A Conference service project continued virtually as we took to our sewing machines to make dresses for girls on the other side of the world. Fun was had in solitude, in our own homes, in front of our computers, but together in spirit making the best of the situation, we were dealt.*

*This was the biennium of the ever-changing plans. Planning for live events, then pivoting to virtual, then to hybrid, and finally to the first in-person conference in 3 years. There was no roadmap for this type of biennium. We made it up as we went along, but SIA was on top of the changing times as well. They released countless recourses in their Virtual Toolkit on fundraising, membership, program and public awareness to help clubs and regions navigate this new normal. She went on to share more thoughts on the past biennium including what our Live Your Dream winners had to endure during these difficult times.*

*Governor Kris went on to thank all the members of her board for their contributions to making this a successful biennium. She thanked Fellowship President Cheryl, the Fellowship board, Parliamentarian Barbara, and all Region Committee chairs. She stated: “It was my honor to preside as your Governor over the past two years. Thank you for your support and for the love you have bestowed upon me. I tried my best to lead the region through this unprecedented time in history and I hope my legacy to “**Dream BIG for the future!**” will guide the members of Founder Region for many years to come.”*

Recessed until 8:00am tomorrow morning when will be gather for our Memorial Service and Awards Program.

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**Sunday, May 1, 2022**  
**Celebration of Service Memorial**

Governor Kris reconvened the conference at 8:00 am Sunday morning with the Celebration of Service Memorial in remembrance of members we lost this year. She welcomed attendees to our 2022 Celebration of Service Memorial Program. Each Sunday morning of conference, we take the time to remember the Soroptimist members we have lost over the past year. We contemplate what they meant to us and how their dedication, experience and passion inspired us. They might have been a member for a short time, or decades, but each of them touched our lives just by being a Soroptimist, and by being our friends. They came into our lives for a reason, and they will forever remain in our hearts. Together, let us celebrate and reflect on their Service. Governor Kris showed a slide show with photos of the members we have lost.

## 2022 Memorial Names

Betty Rexroth	SI/Antioch	32 Year member
Debbie Gee	SI/Benicia	19 Year member
Deb Machado	SI/Benicia	4 Year member
Gail Temple	SI/Benicia	5 Year Member
Dr. Michelle Hernandez	SI/The Delta	7 Month Member
Sally Tanner	SI/Eel River Valley	40 Year Members
Wilhelmina "Willy" Fogg	SI/Eel River Valley	6 Year Member
Catherine "Kate" Burns	SI/Eureka	57 Year Member Past Founder Region Governor 1978-1980 Federation Vice President 1980- 1982
Joanne Frazer	SI/Fort Bragg	18 Year Member
Leslie Lollich	SI/Humboldt Bay	33 Year Member
Donna Wright	SI/Humboldt Bay	10 Year Member
Wanda Lamb	SI/Napa	50 Year Member
Carole Bennett	SI/Novato	14 Year Member
Gloria Bragg	SI/San Ramon Valley	39 Year Member
Lorene Harter	SI/St Helena	41 Year Member
Seana McGowan	SI/St Helena	33 Year Member
Margaret Friedrich	SI/St. Helena Sunrise	38 Year Member
Corrinne Mavridis	SI/The Tri-Valley	48 Year Member

We now say farewell to our dear Soroptimist Sisters. Together, these women had over 439 years of Soroptimist Service.

*Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day...*

*Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed*

*And very dear.*

Governor Kris thanked Treasurer Tess for recording the Soroptimist Symphony for the program today. The music and lyrics are provided in the Founder Region History book and posted on the region website. This beautiful music will be played during the Memorial Programs in the future so our Soroptimist Symphony will live on and never be forgotten, like those honored here today.

Governor Kris announced the 2022 Redwood Memorial Grove Service will be held Sunday, **June 12, 2022 in person at Prairie Creek State Park**. The service is moderated by Chair Debbie Thompson and presented by members of the Founder Region Board. Please join us for a 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.

Governor Kris asked for a moment of silence as we honor the countless souls who are perishing from the unspeakable violence occurring in the Ukraine. Donations can be made through Soroptimist International of Europe's Disaster Relief Fund.

A special thank you to the members of our newly chartered club SI/North Oahu for coordinating the logistics of our Memorial Celebration of Service this morning.

### TABLE DRAWING

As always, on each of the tables there is an envelope with tickets inside. The tickets are \$2.00 each, three for \$5 or 7 for \$10. The lucky winner will receive a crisp, new \$50 bill from Treasurer Tess. The money raised during breakfast goes towards our region Dream Program Awards.

The inspiration was given by District III Director Colleen Ganaye of SI/Sonoma Valley. The welcome was given by District IV Director Vicki Baldwin of SI/ Crescent City.

Governor Kris presented the Platform Party.

**Upper Left Tier:**

District V Director Kristal Koga

District IV Director Vicki Baldwin

**Upper right tier:**

District I Director Lenore Colarusso

District II Director Jackie Arnold

District III Director Colleen Ganaye

**Bottom Left Tier:**

Sandra Simms, Member of SI Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, President of the East-West Center

Live Your Dream Chair, Debbie Coles of SI/Arcata

Governor-elect Vicki Ham

**Bottom Right Tier:**

Fundraising Chair, Elise Balgley of SI/Fremont

Treasurer Tess Albin-Smith of SI/Noyo Sunrise

Secretary Joy Swank of SI/Vacaville

Governor Kris Chorbi of SI/Eureka

Governor Kris called Chair Elise to the podium for the Fundraising Committee. Chair Elise shared a PowerPoint presentation on Fundraising.

Governor Kris turned the program over to Governor-elect Vicki Ham, who was the emcee for our Dream Program Awards. In addition to her duties as Governor-elect, Vicki acts as the Founder Region Program Chair. As Program Chair she also administers the Violet Richardson Award, and acts as the direct liaison with the Live Your Dream, Barbara Stevenson "S" Club and Dream It, Be It Awards.

**BARBARA STEVENSON "S" CLUB AWARD**

There were no applications received; therefore, there was no award given this year.

**VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD**

The Violet Richardson Award is a recognition program for young women between the ages of 14 and 18 who make their community and world a better place by volunteering. This year, 26 clubs participated by honoring 40 young ladies with Violet Richardson Awards totaling \$25,000. Founder Region is pleased to present \$500 awards to each of our five district winners.

District I - Prajwala Maharjan sponsored by SI/The East Bay

District II - Tatiana Torres sponsored by SI/The Delta

District III - Noela DeFrenza sponsored by SI/Novato

District IV - Eliana Horowitz sponsored by SI/Humboldt Bay

District V - Tyra-Li Perry sponsored by SI/Maui

**LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD**

Governor-elect Vicki introduced the 2021 Founder Region Live Your Dream winner, Lindsay McCovey, who was a federation finalist and invited her to speak. Lindsay expressed her thanks and shared what the award has meant to her. As a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and descendant of the Yurok and Chimariko Tribes, Lindsay resides on the rural Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. It is there that she founded Native American Pathways (NAP), a non-profit dedicated to providing social and wellness support through relationship building, youth mentorship, and community outreach services to Indigenous communities. Her true dream is to receive her degree in psychology to better assist her community members in achieving wellness.

Governor-elect Vicki introduced Chair Debbie, who announced the Live Your Dream Recipients for 2022. Those in attendance were invited to speak and were presented with a certificate and check.

District I – "Joan" - submitted by SI/Oakland-The Founder club

District II - Amada Madrigal - submitted by SI/Vacaville

District III - Emma Byrnes - submitted by SI/Santa Rosa (not in attendance)

District IV - Hannah Fowler - submitted by SI/Eel River Valley (not in attendance)

District V - Dania Herrera - submitted by SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

Four of our district Live Your Dream Award winners have received \$2,000 from Founder Region and \$3,000 from Soroptimist International of the Americas for a total of \$5,000. However, one of our district winners is also our Region winner and she has received \$5,000 from Soroptimist International of the Americas, and a \$2000 check and a \$500 gift certificate to Amazon from Founder Region, for a total award of \$7,500.

The Live Your Dream Recipients were instructed to open their envelopes. The winner who will be advancing to Federation level was “Joan” from District I sponsored by SI/Oakland-The Founder Club.

Governor-elect Vicki introduced Sandra Simms, SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc., who announced the keynote Speaker, Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, President of the East-West Center. She is the first woman, Native Hawaiian, and Hawai‘i resident to be chosen for this role. Vares-Lum brings executive leadership and planning experience spanning the past several decades, culminating in five years serving with and advising the most senior officials at US Indo-Pacific Command, where she cultivated and maintained key relationships with nations throughout the Indo-Pacific region. As a retired Major General with 34 years of service in the U.S Army, Vares-Lum has held key roles addressing priority national security challenges in the region.

Governor Kris thanked Suzanne. She also thanked Governor-elect Vicki for the wonderful Awards Program. Governor

Kris asked Live Your Dream Chair Debbie to come to the podium. She thanked her for the wonderful job she did this year and announced that she had agreed to be the chair for the next biennium.

### **DREAM IT, BE IT REPORT**

Governor Kris invited Chair Bev Gomer to the podium to talk about Dream It, Be It – Career Support for Girls Program. The global impact in fiscal year 2020-2021 was 10,178 girls across 14 countries and territories who participated in the Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program. Despite the pandemic, Soroptimists reached many girls. Clubs also get SIA credit for participation when they support another club’s project, which need only complete one of the seven sessions from the Dream It, Be It curriculum to get SIA credit! A Club Planning Toolkit, Curriculum Overview, Guidelines for Working with Youth and Tips for Successful Projects, as well as Tips for Facilitating Groups, are available. Clubs can apply for a Soroptimist Club Grant from SIA to support their projects, or apply for a \$500 grant from Founder Region, but not both. Founder Region requires that at least three of the seven sessions in the curriculum be completed.

Governor Kris thanked Chair Bev for her work supporting this program and presented her with a token gift of her appreciation.

The last Table Drawing was held with a member receiving \$50.00. A total of \$665.00 was raised for the Region Dream Programs.

### **CONFERENCE DREAM FUNDRAISER**

Governor Kris enjoyed seeing the decorated envelopes in our Conference Fundraiser this year. Immediate Past Governor Sylvia Crafton judged the decorated envelopes and chose three winners who will receive a \$100 donation to club giving on their behalf.

Mission Related - SI/The Delta

Most Creative - SI/Central Oahu

Most Artistic - SI/Eureka

Fundraising Chair Elise announced the Conference Drawing winners who went to the fundraising table to pick up the envelope they won. She announced the winner of the clubs selling all their tickets was SI/Humboldt Bay and the winning ticket drawn for \$1,000 Laurel Society donation was Mary Priest of SI/Santa Rosa.

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

Registration committee member Rene Tokunaga of SI/Central Oahu presented the 46<sup>rd</sup> annual Founder Region Conference attendance report. The attendance report is on page 34 of the Conference Program.

International Officers: 0	Club Delegates: 83
Federation Officers: 1	Other Soroptimists: 60
Region Officers: 4	Guests: 44
District Directors: 5	
Fellowship Officers: 2	
Fellowship Directors: 5	<b>Total in Attendance: 204</b>

Governor Kris repeated the attendance report and thanked Rene. She announced the winner of the attendance drawing - Judy Montero of SI/Novato, who will receive complimentary registration and meals for the 2023 Conference in Oakland.

She asked if Chair Lyn had any announcements - there were none.

Governor Kris gave her final thanks to the following: Official Visitor SIA President-elect Stephanie, Pages & Timekeepers, Stewards – Cindy Rasmussen & Susan Lau, Credentials Chair Stacey Moniz, Registration Chair Cathy Nakahara, Floor Chair Lisa Broulik, Trade Fair Chair Judy Lee, Audiovisual Chair Kris Wiley, Conference Treasurer Cara Begley, Host Club Presidents Elise, Barbara, Stacey, Lisa, Host clubs, SI/Central Oahu, SI/Maui, SI/Honolulu, and SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc, Conference Coordinator Lyn Lurbe, and board members - Directors Lenore, Jackie, Colleen, Vicki, Kristal, Treasurer Tess, Secretary Joy, Parliamentarian Barbara and most of all, Governor-elect Vicki. They have overcome tremendous obstacles throughout this biennium and will be bonded together forever in strength and resilience. They persevered to **“Dream BIG for the future!”** and she thanked them.

Governor Kris reminded members to complete the online survey on the Conference page, and a link will be in the May Newsletter. She also announced the videos that were not shown because of technical difficulty will be posted to the Region website.

Governor Kris gave her closing remarks. She gave a reminder about that evening’s Luau and thanked Director Kristal for organizing the event. Members then rose and joined hands to recite the Soroptimist Pledge.

Being no further business, the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Founder Region Conference was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Swank, Founder Region Secretary