



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

# Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region Newsletter

December 21, 2018

Volume 1, Number 4

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## Governor's Message December 2018



Happy Holidays, to all our members and your families. Soroptimists are caring individuals who truly exhibit the "joy of giving". At this time of year we often give gifts to our loved ones and, it is heartwarming to see the social media posts and newsletter articles from many of our clubs providing Christmas gifts to those in need in their local communities. There are some tips in this newsletter on how you can increase the impact of your purchasing power and empower change with your online shopping.

Our December 10th President's Appeal date has passed. Clubs should remit their contribution to SIA on the Financial Transaction form. We kindly ask Club Presidents to inform their District Director of the amount of the donation so that we may have a total dollar amount to share with SI President Mariet when she attends our conference in May.

On a personal note, many of you know that my mother passed away on December 14, and I appreciate the condolences and messages that have been sent via social media, email and snail mail. It is never easy to lose a mother, and to those who have experienced the loss of loved ones, let's honor their memory by being kind and encouraging to the women and girls who will follow our footsteps.

Wishing you much success in the New Year!

*Governor Sylvia*

*"Empowering Change"*

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## The Difference Between Fellowship and Laurel Society



**Fellowship** is exclusive to **Founder Region**. **Laurel Society** is an **SIA** program.

**Fellowship** was founded in 1948. **Fellowship** has provided grants to women in the final phase of their doctoral degrees. Some clubs donate \$1,000.00 and purchase a Fellow to honor one of their members, or a club Fellow.

During the first sixty-one years of the program over \$800,000 was awarded to more than 250 deserving women. During the past seven years, as the program has grown, over \$350,000 has been awarded to 35 deserving women.

**Laurel Society**- Since 1994, nearly 7,000 Laurel Society members have given over \$12 million help women through the Live Your Dream Awards and other Soroptimist programs. Clubs can donate \$1,000.00 and honor a club member with a **Laurel Society** membership.

Quick Guide	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b> - Founder Region	<b>LAUREL SOCIETY</b> - SIA
Initial contribution	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Monthly giving available?	YES	YES
Founder Region Only	YES	NO
Recipients	Grants to Doctoral Students attending Colleges in Founder Region	Funds Dream Programs- <i>example- \$1,000.00 to new clubs for LYD</i> and funds unrestricted support.
Contribution included in dues?	YES- \$2.00	NO



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## Empowering Change by Giving

### Employer Matching Gifts

Through a corporate gift match, your employer can multiply your donation to Soroptimist. Contact your employer's human resources department for information and a matching gift form (if your employer participates). Complete the form, including your gift designation, and fax it to 215-893-5200 with your credit card information, or, send with your check to: **Soroptimist International of the Americas 1709 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

Soroptimist headquarters will verify receipt of your gift and return the form to your company for the match. Any forms received without a designated program for the gift will be directed toward Unrestricted Support.

### Goodshop

A great way to show your support for Soroptimist is by using [Goodshop.com](http://Goodshop.com) when shopping online. This portal gives you access to thousands of discounts and promotions at 5,000+ stores. With every purchase, Goodshop will donate up to 20 percent of what you spend—at no cost to you! Help SIA economically empower women and girls by [signing up](#) and shopping online!

### Amazon Smile

When you make your next purchase through Amazon.com, you can support Soroptimist at the same time! Simply start by [clicking here](#) to select Soroptimist International of the Americas as your cause of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your purchase to support Soroptimist programs that economically empower women and girls.



### Club Giving

Your Soroptimist club can extend its reach beyond your local community. When your club makes a Club Giving contribution of at least 10% of what your club raises locally, you help ensure SIA can increase the number of women and girls who benefit from our global programs. Learn about the [Club Giving Benefits](#).

Download or print this infographic that explains how Club Giving works and the collective impact it creates for our organization.

### Download PDF



### Friendship Links

As we approach a new year it would be a good opportunity to establish a Friendship Link. What is a friendship link? You can reach out to a club in SIA or any of the other Soroptimist Clubs around the world. This is a unique opportunity to partner with that club, to get new ideas, or just extend the loving arms of friendship.

If you would like to link with a club in the SIA federation, obtain the address from the [club directory](#) in the Member's Area of the SIA web site.

If you are having trouble contacting the club you wish to link with, please email SIA headquarters at [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org).

If the club accepts your link request, you may download a writeable friendship certificate from the program section of the Member's Area of the SIA web site. Download one for your friendship link, too.

Please let the program department ([program@soroptimist.org](mailto:program@soroptimist.org)) at SIA headquarters know about your new link so that it can be included in the Friendship Link directory.

### **Links Outside of SIA**

If you know a specific club in another federation with which you would like to link, forward the application to the appropriate federation Friendship Link coordinator listed on the application.

Please let the program department ([program@soroptimist.org](mailto:program@soroptimist.org)) at SIA headquarters know about your new link so that it can be included in the Friendship Link directory.

- If you do not have a specific club with which you would like to link, send your application to SIA headquarters for inclusion in the Soroptimist Summary. Include the club correspondent's name and e-mail address.
- Remember that clubs reject links for a number of reasons, too many links is the one most often cited. Keep trying until you find an interested club.
- If you have not received a response from the club with which you would like to link after three months, consider contacting them again, or move on to another link.

### **Benicia Joint Project with Soroptimists in Ghana**

SI Benicia reached out to SI Ghana after learning of a need the club has. The Ghana club is making hygiene kits to distribute to girls. As some of you may know, girls in some countries stay home when they are menstruating because they have no supplies. They miss school each month.

SI Benicia is providing funds so SI Ghana can make the kits. Member Liz Jones is available to come to clubs to speak about the global impact SI Benicia has made through this project. Read more about the collaboration here: [Link](#)



### **Rio Vista Project- Survival Bags**

Soroptimist International of Rio Vista has a new project for the 2018/19 year. The club is collecting and assembling survival bags for women and girls in partnership with the Solano County Center for Family Justice.

The SFJC operates under the auspices of the Solano County District Attorney's Office and recently relocated to 604 Empire Street, Fairfield. According to the Center's

website, the District Attorney has indicated strong support for a violence prevention approach.

A partnership between the DA and the SFJC presents a unique opportunity to strengthen the DA's victim advocacy efforts. Some of the advocacy and preventative services include assistance for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse, sexual assault and other social services including onsite support and counseling.

Many women and girls arrive at the center with only the clothes on their backs. The club is collecting new pajamas, under clothing, tooth brushes, shampoos, soaps and feminine hygiene products. The club hopes that the survival bags give these women and girls, if only for a few days or weeks, some dignity by providing the basic necessities for daily living.



Club and community members have been very generous, and the first ten bags were delivered to the center in mid-November.

If you would like to donate to this effort or have any questions, please contact Kay Kelley, Women's Rights Committee Chair, at [kaykelley221813@gmail.com](mailto:kaykelley221813@gmail.com).

Kay Kelley, SI Rio Vista Women's Rights Committee Chair, presents Centers Director Angel Aguilar with the first 10 survival bags.

## Save the Dates

**2019 Founder Region Conference**  
**May 3-5, 2019 - San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA**  
**Host Clubs: SI/Antioch, SI/The Delta (District II)**



SIA Convention 2020



JULY 22-25, 2020



## Region Board

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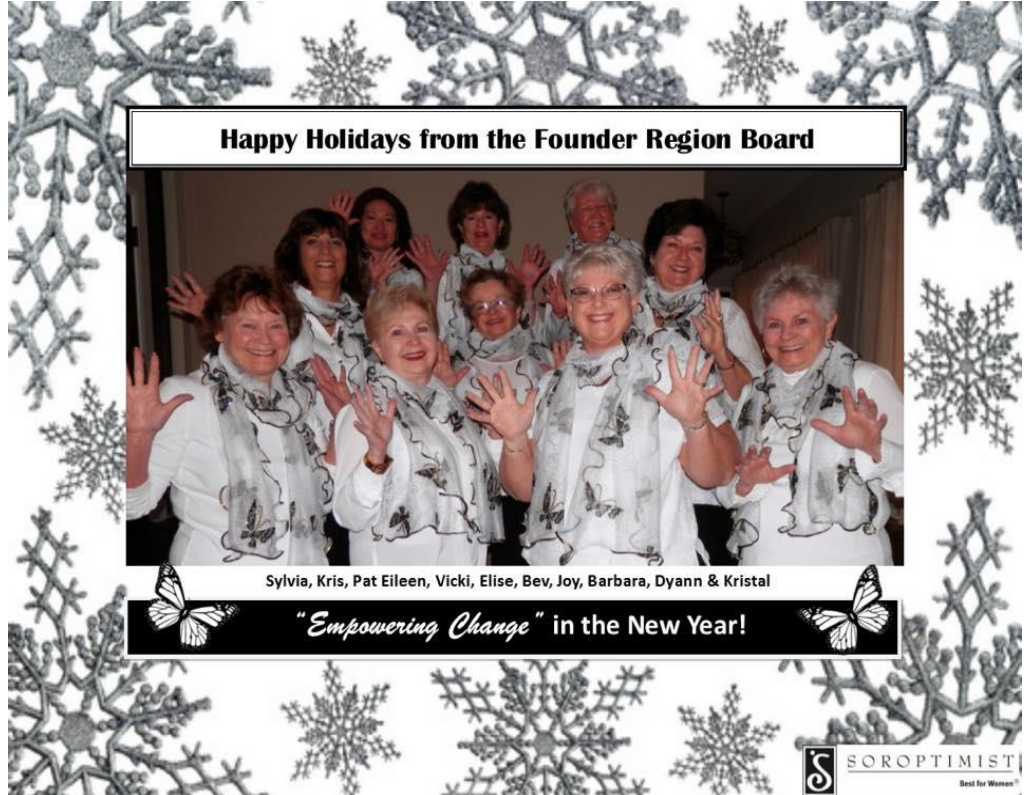
Barbara Young, Dist. IV

Dyann O'Brien, Dist. V

Kristal Koga, Dist. VI

## Mailing Address

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**Have an idea for a newsletter article?**  
**We are looking for mission focused, informative articles to publish.**  
**Please email your article to: Jackie De Vries at**  
**[soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com](mailto:soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com)**