

June 30th, 2014

6/30/2014



Dear Members of Founder Region,

As the last day of serving you as the Governor of Founder Region dawns, I would like to thank you again for the honor of serving in this position of leadership.

This is a very exciting time for Soroptimist as we ride the wave of change. I am so very lucky to have had this opportunity to share the message of shaping our future through increased collective impact (teamwork) that our federation leadership has asked us to embrace.

Two years ago when I shared my vision for the biennium with you via the power point presentation (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UWTFKvW8d8>), put together with your own interpretations of a word, I wanted to demonstrate to you that even if we interpret things differently, when we put the variety of visions together to form one message, we can be successful.

This has been a successful biennium because of you, the members of Founder Region.

- You elected the wonderful board I had the privilege of serving with: Governor-elect Bobbi, Secretary Charlene, Treasurer Pam, District I Director Gloria, District II Director Bev, District III Director Shannon, District IV Director Maddy, District V Director Kris and District VI Director Lorene.
- You embraced the concept of increased collective impact.
- You made Soroptimist your charity of choice by increasing donations to club giving.
- You increased our membership and helped to support our new club Soroptimist International of Northern Mariana Islands (Thank you Soroptimist International of the Marianas and President Jessica Castro.).
- You made a difference in the lives of women and girls in the 56 communities that make up Founder Region.

- You realized the importance of working together with our federation leadership, headquarters staff and each other in insuring our global legacy.
- You strengthened our foundation knowing the responsibility we have as Founder Region – the place where it all began.

You lead the way Founder Region.

Yesterday (June 29), I attended Soroptimist International of Benicia's Installation of Officers and was asked to lead everyone in the Soroptimist Pledge at the end of the program. So much emotion welled up in me as I thought about how appropriate it was that the last Soroptimist event I attended as governor was with Bobbi's club. Perfect as I move from leader to cheerleader.

I wish Governor Bobbi and her 2014-2016 board much success as they *Share the Joy of Soroptimist*.

I will finish by sharing these lyrics from the song "For Good" (Wicked), written by Stephen Schwartz, which sum up these past two years for me.

*"So much of me is made of what I learned from you,
you'll be with me like a handprint on my heart."*

I have loved serving as your governor. Thank you.

Take care,

Dona

[Soroptimist Celebrating Success - New Deadline: July 1](#)

6/20/2014



Calling all clubs in Founder Region!

Please **share** your **outstanding** work on behalf of women and girls with the region and federation by completing the Soroptimist Celebrating Success form (Link to writable entry form below.) by **July 1, 2014**.

These annual best practice awards recognize successful club projects that improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment and promote Soroptimist as an organization with that mission.

Categories encompass the **four pillars** supporting the Soroptimist International of the Americas Strategic Plan: **program, membership, fundraising and public awareness**.

Beginning now, clubs should submit their entries to their Soroptimists Celebrating Success Award **region chairs on or before July 1**. The deadline is **July 1, 2014**. Regions will select region-level recipients. The first place recipient in each of the pillars will compete for the federation-level awards. Region recipients will be recognized at region conferences. Federation recipients will be recognized at a federation meeting.

Complete the Soroptimist Celebrating Success Award form and submit it to Founder Region's Celebrating Success Chair **Clara Oakes via email clara@gatewayinsurance.com or mail to 1717 California Drive, Apt. 103, Vacaville, CA 95687**.

<http://www.soroptimist.org/members/program/programdocs/soropcelebratingsuccess/scsclub%20instructions&entryform-writeable.pdf>

Thank you,
Governor Dona

[Bring Back Our Girls](#)

5/8/2014



Soroptimists around the world are responding to the crisis in Nigeria. Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) is keeping its members up to date on its Facebook page. In addition, as Nigeria is located within the boundaries of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI), SIA has reached out to SIGBI to see if they have recommendations as to actions our members can take to support our Soroptimist sisters in Nigeria. Please follow any activities related to this situation on the SIA Facebook page and offer assistance accordingly. This event focuses our attention on education and how important – and sometimes dangerous – it can be for women and girls around the world. **Thank you for what you do every day to improve access to education for women and girls**

Peace, Love & S-Club Conference

1/16/2014

Founder Region S Club Committee Chair Lisa Wittke Schaffner and the Healdsburg High School S-Club have been working hard putting this conference together which is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Sign-up for this wonderful opportunity to meet other S-Club members and have some fun. Contact Lisa at mslisaw@comcast.net for more information. I hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE!
PEACE, LOVE &
S-CLUB

S-Club Name _____ Name of S-Club attendees _____

Number of attendees total _____

Names of Adult Attendees _____

Check enclosed Yes/No

Mail to P.O. Box 84 Healdsburg CA 95448

Take care,
Governor Dona



SAVE THE DATE! PEACE, LOVE & S-CLUB

Conference, Lunch and Fun!

Join us for a day of real life skills, fun, networking and inspiration. Come as a club and wear your unique tie dye.

More information to come.

Email malsaw@comcast.net with questions.

Sponsored by Founder Region, S-club of Healdsburg High School and Soroptimist International of Healdsburg.

What: S-Club Founder Region Smart Leaders Conference

When: January 26th, 2014

Where: Chop's Teen Club

Santa Rosa, California

Time: 9am-3pm

Other: \$20.00 requested per participant. Adult leaders are complimentary.

It's Not Too Late

1/14/2014



Your Founder Region Legislative Advocacy committee has arranged a tour of the California State Capitol for Wednesday, January 22 from 1:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please r.s.v.p. to District III Legislative Advocacy committee member Carol Smith.

Deadline is Wednesday, January 15.


- Meet at the California Women's Commission Office-900 N. Street, Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95814 located in the Capitol Library. I hope to see you there.
- Meet with legislators representing our communities and our voices.
- Learn about important legislation that has been passed and how California's laws have helped shape the state and nation.
- Cost of lunch is \$20; lunch is Chicken or Vegetarian. To register, please RSVP to Carol Smith at csmith@nwinsure.com or phone (707)360-4312 by January 15, 2014.
- Parking available at two locations: 10th Street between L&K or L Street between 10th & 11th

Contact Gwen Johnson at coachsamah@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Take care,
Governor Dona

Exciting Changes in Membership Criteria

12/13/2013



MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA CHANGES

WHEN
Effective Immediately

SIA PROCEDURES, SECTION B. PROCEDURES GOVERNING CLUBS

Our SIA board of directors continues to lead us in shaping our future for increased collective impact, they continue to break down barriers for engaging more people in our mission. During its recent November 2013 meeting, the SIA board of directors made changes based upon your feedback. You spoke and they listened.

Please see Section B, Procedures Governing Clubs of the SIA Procedures for the complete updated language concerning these modifications.

Any questions regarding your club's status can be directed to the SIA Membership Department.
Nicole Simmons, Membership Director, nicoles@sorpoptimist.org or
Kathy Harrison, Membership Coordinator, kathyh@sorpoptimist.org.

CHANGES:

Clubs should maintain 12 or more regular, retired/ unemployed, and/or embarking members.

No club shall forfeit its charter due to having 11 or fewer regular, retired/ unemployed, and/or embarking members unless they are not in good standing.

To be a club in good standing, a club must remain current in all financial obligations to the region and Federation and have submitted all required final reports from Federation club grants and disaster relief grants. *NOTE: The number of members in a club is no longer included in the definition of a club to be in good standing.*

To charter a new club, a minimum of 12 regular, retired/ unemployed, and/or embarking members are necessary.

What great news every member of Soroptimist International of the Americas (in all six languages) received today regarding changes to membership criteria at their individual email accounts.

This journey began in August 2012 with Soroptimist International of the Americas leadership and staff taking your concerns regarding membership criteria to Soroptimist International. Your voices were

represented and heard. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen; it clearly demonstrates the success of working together.

We are members of Soroptimist at a very exciting time - our organization is changing to ensure our future and **we are all a part of the transition team**. When you have a chance please review the updates to the procedures governing Soroptimist International of the Americas clubs.

Thank you and take care,
Governor Dona

Soroptimist International of the Americas 2012-2013 Outstanding Region Award

6/26/2013



Look what **YOU** did Founder Region!

Congratulations to the **1627 members** who make up Founder Region. **YOU** all clearly demonstrated your embracement of our new vision of Shaping the Future of Soroptimist through Increased Collective Impact by your:

100% participation in the Women's Opportunity Award, giving \$22,000 more to your winners than the previous year;

21% increase in Club Giving – you gave over \$19,000 more than you did last year;

63% increase of individuals giving to the Laurel Society "Give a Dream Monthly Giving Program";

YOU increased our collective membership retention and were one of only four regions who increased membership (+56);

And **YOU** increased your participation on our Founder Region Facebook page by 157%.

Thank you members, clubs, committees, pillar chairs, past governors and board members. **YOU** made the 2012-2013 club year a huge success. Your efforts have been recognized by Soroptimist International of the Americas, congratulations.

What a wonderful team we are, let's do it again!

Take care,
Governor Dona

Breaking News!

4/26/2013

FOUNDER REGION CONFERENCE & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

2013

WHEN

**May 3-5
All Weekend**

WHERE

San Ramon Marriott

2000 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583

FEATURING - Issues Facing Women in the Military • Leadership Workshops • Fellowship • Business • Charity Workshop • Entertainment • Awards • Shaping the Future of Soroptimist through Increased Collective Impact • Trade Fair • Items from SRI Headquarters • Membership Pins, the "New" Soroptimist Pin and other Soroptimist Items

WWW.SI-FOUNDERREGION.ORG



DON'T FORGET TO BRING:

ITEMS FOR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

(See Call to Conference
Open for list)

DOLLAR BILLS

(Table rallies at each
meal - \$2.00 each or 3 for
\$5.00)

AMENDMENT

Bring a copy of the
proposed bylaw
amendment. None will be
provided.

FIREWORK BASKET

Annual Founder Region
Fundraiser: basket value
\$100.00

FUN!

The 2013 Founder Region Conference is one week away.

As a club you might be saying, yikes, we still need to put our fundraising basket together or we need more rehearsal before we perform on Saturday night - no worries - it will all work out.

I'm getting very excited about the opportunity to see all of you. The conference committee and many others have been working diligently to make sure that you have a wonderful experience. We hope to increase your Soroptimist knowledge and provide you with helpful tools to improve, reward or inspire your clubs.

See you next week!

Take care,
Governor Dona

National Volunteer Week

4/20/2013

Volunteering is
a work of heart



April 21-27, 2013 is National Volunteer Week. Soroptimist International of the Americas is an international volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world year round.

I would like to thank the member clubs of Founder Region for all of the volunteer efforts they provide to a variety of projects and programs in their communities. Soroptimist make things happen. Whether it is helping an established women's shelter or starting their own program like Soroptimist International of Vacaville's STEPS (Soroptimists Teaching and Empowering for Personal Success – for high school girls), Soroptimist spend countless hours volunteering.

At the beginning of this week of celebrating volunteers, I acknowledge all the work and effort the 55 member clubs, which make up Founder Region, do every day to improve the lives of women and girls.

You excel at sharing the light of Soroptimist service.

Take care,
Governor Dona

Club Email

4/17/2013



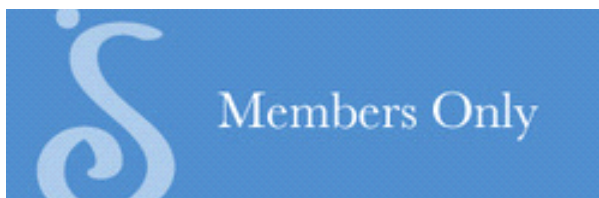
Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) and your District Directors communicate with member clubs through the club email address (“@soroptimist.net”). We use this email address to send vital information to your club. In fact, clubs will be receiving information from Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) headquarters regarding the **2013-2014 Dues Renewal** this very week via their club email address. It is very important to have someone check your club email on a regular basis. Communication is central to the successful operation of every organization; please make every effort to use your club email. Check out this helpful link:

<http://www.soroptimist.org/members/membership/clubemailchallenge.html>

Thank you,
Governor Dona

Election of Federation President-elect 2013-2014

4/16/2013



Each year, **Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)** clubs in good standing have the opportunity to participate in the election of the Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) President-elect.

Clubs in good standing were sent information and a ballot from SIA Headquarters February 22, 2013. The mailing (postal service) included references to the bylaws that applied to the office of President-elect and the election process. Additionally, resumes of the candidates were included in the mailing for your club members to review.

The SIA website also has the candidate resumes and video statements, take a look. **If your club has not returned your ballot (one per club) you still have time.** The ballots must be received at SIA

Headquarters by April 23, 2013. The election for the 2013-2014 President-elect is the first time SIA will be using preferential voting. Please participate in this important process.

Take care,
Governor Dona

April 15th, 2013



4/15/2013

Dear Members of Founder Region,

I invite you to attend our 37th Annual Founder Region Conference to be held at the San Ramon Marriott, May 3, 4 and 5. Conference is a time to make new Soroptimist friends, catch up with long standing Soroptimist friends and be inspired. Just about the time we lose enthusiasm for club activities (and sometimes we do) Conference rejuvenates us.

This is an exciting time for our organization. Together, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) Leadership, SIA staff, you and I, are ***Shaping the Future of Soroptimist through Increased Collectivelmpact***. Talk about increased collective impact, Founder Region began to embrace that concept last year by combining Leadership with Conference. We will continue with this same practice by having Leadership workshops on Friday afternoon, and bright and early on Saturday before our business session begins. We are very lucky to have Soroptimist International of the Americas President-elect Cheri Fleming as our Official Visitor and as a workshop presenter.

Additionally, you are welcome to attend the Founder Region board meeting at 9:00 am on Thursday, May 2, as a silent observer. The only pre-requisite is to complete the Silent Observer form included in the Call and send it to Secretary Charlene by the established deadline.

If you are arriving on Thursday, make plans to attend our very casual pizza party in the evening. This is sure to be a fun event. Rides will be available for those of you who don't have transportation.

Friday's morning and lunch program will focus on the topic of "Issues Facing Women in the Military". The Legislative Advocacy committee has been working for several months to be able to **share** this valuable information. Leadership workshops begin after lunch and include an update from the 2011 Soroptimist International of the Americas Violet Richardson Award recipient Allyson Ahlstrom. Friday evening we will conduct the Annual Founder Region Business Meeting and **share** in the wonder of the accomplishments of our Fellowship recipients.

Saturday our official business begins with presentations, nominating committee election, bylaws, the official visitors report, and **sharing** the light of your Soroptimist service. Saturday afternoon we will all participate in a Soroptimist Civility workshop presented by Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefer and Dr. Michelle Donohue-Mendoza. As evening falls we will **share** our passion for Live Your Dream and Increased Collective Impact with Soroptimist Dream Factor.

Sunday we conclude conference by remembering members who have passed away over the past year, celebrating our program recipients, conducting our annual fundraising project the "Share the Light: Be a Soroptimist Firework!" basket raffle and my favorite part, reciting the "Soroptimist Pledge" together.

Please review the Call to Conference and share it with your members.

I encourage you to come to Conference and ***Share the Light of Soroptimist Service!***

Governor Dona

Happy New Year!

1/1/2013



May health and happiness find you throughout the year as you “Share the Light of Soroptimist Service”.

Be a FIREWORK (booming, zooming and colorful)!

Take care,
Governor Dona

Thank you!

12/31/2012

Where did the year go?

Time has flown by since becoming Governor of Founder Region. As the year closes I would like to offer my thanks to the member clubs of Founder Region for all that they do to “Improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.” From the smallest of clubs to the largest they continued to embrace their Soroptimist journey passionately and enthusiastically. They are an inspiration.

Together in 2012 we learned about the spirit of teamwork and the importance of increased collective impact. As we move Founder Region and Soroptimist forward via this new vision I look forward to much **shared** success in the New Year.

2013 here we come!

Take care,
Governor Dona

Busy August

8/26/2012

Just as your clubs are preparing for the new club year, your Founder Region board has been doing the same. Collaborating, planning and producing.

Since the board meeting, the Directors have provided Secretary Charlene with the necessary information to complete the Call to District Meeting. The Directors sent the Call via email to your club email addresses – be on the lookout. Make sure to save the date and attend these very informative meetings.

All the Directors planned, facilitated and successfully completed their first President's Round Tables (PRT). In District VI, which includes Hawaii and Guam the PRT's are completed via conference call. Congratulations to all the Directors!

Additionally, the Directors continue to work on their District Meeting presentation – you are sure to learn something valuable and useful. Yesterday, Governor-elect Bobbi, Secretary Charlene, Treasurer Pam and I received training from Website Chair Lori (Lori - thank you for your time, energy and dedication). Please take a look at the updates that were made to **Meetings/Conferences** and **Club Resources**. Awesome job team!

And, have you had an opportunity to log on to Facebook and view the Founder Region Facebook page? Public Awareness Chair Sylvia Crafton has been very diligent about keeping it updated and sharing all the good work you do (thank you Sylvia).

Busy August, busy board, busy clubs...as we reach the end of August, all is well in Founder Region.

Take care,

Governor Dona

2012 Governors Round Table and Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention

7/26/2012

What an exciting time to be a Governor!

Before the Convention began twenty-six of the twenty-eight Governors gathered together to receive training from Soroptimist International Leadership and staff. Together we will re-energize our organization with the new initiatives and tools that were provided to us.

Think "Increased Collective Impact", "Shaping the Future of Soroptimist" and "Live Your Dreams".

Think of the wonderful opportunity we have as Founder Region to lead the way embracing the new strategies that will enrich the vision of those inspiring women who chartered the first Soroptimist club on October 3, 1921.

Think of your community and the impact Soroptimist has made in improving the lives of your Women's Opportunity and Violet Richardson Award winners. Think of ways to develop long term relationships with them, enhance the impact.

Think of Soroptimist International of the Americas, the organization which provides our focus, when making donations. Think of keeping 90% of your fundraising dollars in your community and giving 10% to

Soroptimist International of the Americas (resulting in more money coming back to us through the awards).

Think about the benefits of change and make plans to attend your district meetings where you will hear more about these exciting initiatives.

Think about this quote from Libba Bray: "And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time." Join me and the Founder Region board as we embrace change and increase our collective impact.

Take care,

Governor Dona

New Biennium Begins!

7/1/2012

Here it is July 1, 2012 and I am now Governor of Founder Region, lucky me!

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you as we "Share the Light of Soroptimist Service". Share as individuals, clubs and districts. Share all the good that we do to "Improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world".

During these past six years, serving on the board, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you throughout the region. I have attended your district meetings, events and award programs witnessing firsthand the impact you make on so many lives.

I have been inspired by your enthusiasm and passion for improving the lives of women and girls which is the common thread that binds us together as Soroptimist.

We step up, when others step away. We find solutions, when others only criticize. We raise awareness, come together and work together, knowing that by remaining focused on our goal, we thrive together. So it is together through sharing and collaboration we will continue to move Founder Region forward. We will honor the memory and vision of those inspiring women who chartered the first Soroptimist club on October 3, 1921.

Please join me in thanking the outgoing Founder Region board for a job well done. They didn't "Just Imagine", they made it happen.

Take care,

Governor Dona