



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region Newsletter

May 2019

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Governor's Message , May 2019



Dear Founder Region Members,

Thank you to all who attended our 2019 Founder Region Conference and were Empowering Change!

We were Empowering Change at our conference by bringing a fresh topic to our Legislative Advocacy sessions, and one that tied directly to our SI/International President's Appeal – Women, Water and Leadership.

We were Empowering Change by having both our Soroptimist International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen and our SIA Federation President Elizabeth Di Geronimo as visitors and presenters at our conference. It was enlightening to many of our members to bring an international perspective, as explained by SI Director of Advocacy Bev Bucur; she helped us all to see the work that our organization is doing globally and showed us that we have many strong voices at the United Nations.

We were Empowering Change by conducting our business in an efficient manner and we thank you for seeing the reality of the change that was needed and by accomplishing our District Realignment. We were Empowering Change by incorporating a group project into the event, and like any first-time fundraiser or event, we will learn and improve on the ability to execute these types of projects again in the future. We were Empowering Change by our District Directors reporting club activities in the form of posters that clubs can take back and share at events or in their communities and a PowerPoint presentation showing club photos.

We were Empowering Change in the lives of our Fellowship recipients by giving \$100,000.00 in Fellowship Awards to women in the final phase of their Doctoral programs, and we learned that we will have to give generously to be able to give as many awards in the future since we have brought down our Fellowship reserve funds over the last few bienniums.

We were Empowering Change in the lives of our Violet Richardson Award recipients, Ruby Award recipient, and our Barbara Stevenson "S" Club Award recipient by acknowledging and appreciating them for the good they are doing in their work, schools and communities, And we were Empowering Change in the lives of the Live

Key Message Flyer

Link



Empowering Change
Posters

Membership
Bobbi Enderlin, Chair

Elise Balgley
Beverly Gomer
Joy Swank
Barbara Young
Dyann O'Brien
Krista Koga

Your Dream Award recipients who showed us it is never too late, too hard, or too daunting to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

For those who attended this Empowering Change Conference, please take a few moments to share you feedback on the 2019 Founder Region Conference. Here is the link to the form found on the Meetings/Conferences page of our website:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0zJ2qRjm8g4WwDbqsWo5-HNdVMOx40pvS31Ykr557EjTSmA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Governor Sylvia

" Empowering Change "

Update on Diamond Campaign

Bobbi Enderlin, Founder Region Membership Chair

Once again, during Phase 2 of this campaign, our entire organization will be working towards unified membership goals. Each club, as well as our region overall, will strive to achieve or exceed the following results by May 31, 2020:

- 🦋 Overall net change in membership of -1% or better from May 31, 2019 to May 31, 2020.
- 🦋 New members added during the campaign represent 14% or more of your starting total membership on May 31, 2019.
- 🦋 Terminated members represent 15% or fewer of your starting total membership on May 31, 2019.

Additionally, as we seek to charter 100 clubs by SIA's 100th Anniversary, once again this year our region will have a goal to charter more than one new club between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.

We Did It!

Thanks to the dedicated work of our members, donors, and supporters, Soroptimist had an incredible year. Check out the 2017-2018 SIA [Annual Report](#) which highlights our efforts and this [infographic](#) for a snapshot about our accomplishments.



Soroptimists Make an Impact!

Soroptimist is in search of passionate, motivating, and collaborative members who aren't afraid to step up and make a difference by implementing our Dream Programs. Is your club looking for this type of member? If so, use this professionally designed, customizable [flyer](#) as part of your recruiting strategy today!



Dues Renewal 101

Founder Region Treasurer, Vicki Ham

It's that time of year again – dues renewal. Founder Region dues remain the same this year, but let me walk you through the process as a refresher course.

The Founder Region dues form can be found on our website, www.si-founderregion.org, under the dropdown Club Resources, Forms and Applications.

Open the Annual Dues Statement – 2019-2020 and complete the top section for your club information.

- 1) List number of regular renewing members and total at \$35.00 each. Life members do not pay this amount.
- 2) Regular and Life members must pay the \$2 Fellowship dues assessment.
- 3) As with Fellowship, Regular and Life members must pay the \$2 Member Education/Recruitment fee.

Complete items 4, 5 and 6 for new members (\$39.00 each) and also complete the New/Reinstated Member Dues form found on our same webpage for each new member.

- 8) All clubs must pay the \$90 Region Club Fee. This covers your club's registration fee for your 3 delegates to attend District Meeting in the fall.
- 9) All clubs must pay the \$10 S-Club Annual Dues
- 10) Add the \$50 late fee if Dues are not received by Founder Region Treasurer by July 31. Please note dues must be received by 7/31; a postmark of that date will not qualify as on time and will cause the late fee to be assessed.

Send the completed form along with your check for the total dues, a copy of your SIA Annual Dues Worksheet, your club roster and new member forms to Region Treasurer Vicki by July 1, 2019.

Many treasurers have asked us when we will be accepting dues payments on-line by credit card. I am happy to say that we now have that capability and clubs wanting to pay by credit card or PayPal can go to our website under the More tab, Product-Dues and Donations. Note that we have added a convenience fee to this feature to cover the region costs for the credit card service. Please follow the same guidelines for dues amounts listed above and you can scan and email me the completed forms when you make your payment. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, vickiham01@gmail.com



Fundraising

Lynn Lurbe, Chair
Bonnie Mertz
Gina Moore
Tina Chechourka
Sandy Frazer
Andrea Boldt
Denise Ridge



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Public Awareness

Jackie De Vries, Chair
Kathy Johanson
Vicki Dillard
Patti Dutton

Fundraising

Lyn Lurbe, Founder Region Fundraising Chair

Working As One

"A fabulous mixture of Friends makes the texture of life deeper and richer."
Author Unknown



What would we do without the relationships we have in our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, Soroptimist members, etc.? Each group represents a wonderful set of emotions and experiences that we excite over and that's why we hold on to them!

As a Soroptimist member, it's all about the relationships! Good or bad, we experience it all and the longer we deal with each other, the deeper our relations grow to a point where we begin to work on projects and events as though we are one entity! At times, we no longer need to review the details of what is expected because we know each other well enough to sense what needs to be done. So, "working as one" on our club projects/events to fund our Soroptimist Dream Programs for the women and girls who have overcome incredible challenges is who we are. Let's continue to increase our collective impact and support them through our Club Giving and our 10% and the Laurel Society and Laurel Legacy gifting.

Special relationships start in the most fascinating way and develop over time in the most unusual ways but either way in the end it's worth it. Be thankful for your special relationships every day and appreciate your own "texture of life".

Thank You for being a Soroptimist member, always willing to share your energy and skills with others and for being someone who values the art of "Working As One" towards our mission.

Thank You for being my Soroptimist Friend!



Public Awareness

Jackie De Vries, Founder Region Public Awareness Chair
Consistency, consistency, and consistency. That is the keyword when we think of branding. At the conference our Public Awareness presentation focused on branding and the idea that consistent design creates cohesive experiences that engage audiences in our Mission. Branding resources can be found here. [Resource Link](#)



Remember, we are not just referring to our S logo. Live your Dreams, Dream it Be it, and Live Your Dream. Org (the web portal for donors and corporate sponsors), have brands that distinguish them, as well. In our digital age many experiences with organizations occur online. This means all of our messaging, design and technology

are working together to deliver user experiences that reinforce what Soroptimist is, what we do, and why it matters.

Our websites are still the biggest window to our club and who we are. Be sure it is updated, well designed and has consistency in the branding of Soroptimist, and all of our programs. Have your Public Awareness committee review your website and other social media to make sure that you are being consistent with Soroptimist branding.

One of the websites that prominently uses our branding is [SI Eureka](#), as just one example of many that are using the logos for greatest impact.

Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards

Debbie Scaife, Founder Region Soroptimist Celebrating Success Chair

Debbie Scaife , Chair
timberent@suddenlink.net
3009 Nelson Lane
Fortuna, CA 95540



As the club year is coming to an end, club presidents should take the months of May & June to encourage your club committee chairs to complete an entry for the **2019-2020 Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards** (honoring club projects that took place this year in 2018-2019).

Clubs can complete applications in one or more of the Pillar areas – Fundraising, Membership, Program and Public Awareness.

Club entries are due to Region Chair Debbie Scaife (timberent@suddenlink.net) by July 1, 2019! [Club Instructions and Entry Form](#)

Convention Visitor from Kenya



Many of you who attended Conference for Friday's Legislative Advocacy Program on Water Crisis and Climate Change Challenges may have noticed or interacted with our visiting guest from Kenya, Mary Theresa (Terry) Odongo who is a past president of her club and, what would be comparable to a past governor in the Soroptimist Union of Kenya. She is retired now and here to spend time with her new granddaughter in Pleasant Hill. What you may not know is how Terry came to be connected to SI Martinez.

Back in 2011, SI Martinez's club had the Region Ruby awardee chosen. Tricia Isayi's work was with an orphanage in the Shisasari Village in Kenya. Her church group had plans to build a high school on the orphanage grounds and then Governor Linda Sue Hansen called for a Founder Region-wide project to assist with this effort. One of SI Martinez's club members, Marilyn Johnston, planned to join the church members in this endeavor but didn't realize that she would be the only woman attending other than Tricia.



Region Board

Governor Sylvia
Crafton
Gov. elect Kris Chorbi
Sec. Pat Eileen Fisher
Treasurer Vicki Ham

Directors

District I
Elise Balgley
District II
Beverly Gomer
District III
Joy Swank
District IV
Barbara Young
District V
Dyann O'Brien
District VI
Krista Koga

Reaching out through the Soroptimist International chatline, SI Martinez discovered a wide network of Soroptimist clubs in Kenya and, that's how we came in contact with Terry who was a member of SI Kakamega whose club met in the same hotel where Marilyn would be staying. Terry took Marilyn under her wing and made sure her experience in Kenya was memorable. She even had a special dress made for her. SI Martinez sponsored Terry's niece throughout four years of high school and were in constant contact through the magic of email. What a delight that we all should have the opportunity to meet her in person.

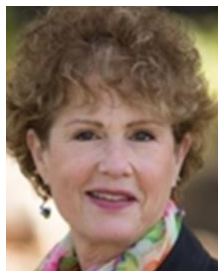
Photo description:

(left) Displaying the special friendship banner of SI Kakamega, Kenya, Marilyn poses in the dress that Terry had made for her. Joining her is then President Linda.



(right) Terry Odongo points to special SI Kakamega banner presented to SI Martinez at the 2019 annual awards ceremony.

Autobiography of Bev Gomer, District II Director



I was born in Santa Monica and lived there for only a year. My dad was in the process of getting his teaching credential, thru the GI Bill, and he wanted to finish at San Francisco State. While there, my mom also completed her Registered Nursing degree. My brother came along sixteen months after me. I'm told the four of us lived happy and cheap on campus, with other families "in the same boat."

My parent's first apartment was in Union City, followed by a rental house in Newark and then Fremont. In 1969 they moved into our first home, in San Ramon. I was to begin 11th grade, at a new school, and didn't much like being uprooted mid-way thru high school.

My mom was a career woman long before her time. She loved nursing and worked part time, all my life, in between raising four kids. I guess my dad was somewhat non-traditional too as he could cook dinner, did the laundry, and vacuumed. While we were growing up, my mom would work the 11 pm to 7 am shift and my dad did the 8 am to 4 pm school-day schedule.

The oldest of four, I have two brothers (married with children) and one sister (divorced no children), all living in California. My mom will be 89 in June, is still active, and resides in a retirement community in Pleasanton. My dad passed away 11 years ago from heart complications.

After I graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, I went to Diablo Valley College and earned an Associate Arts degree in Liberal Studies. What kicked off my career is when at 20 I was accepted into a government funded program called CETA, or Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. They provided on-the-job training and (free) education to help the unemployed. I returned to DVC where I took a variety of business classes--not to mention shorthand (I could take dictation at 100 words per minute). This "talent" landed me a job at the San Ramon Valley Office of Education in Danville, where I also acquired skills in (Wang) word processing.

My next journey was to the Contra Costa County Office of Education in Pleasant Hill where I was hired as a Word Processing Specialist. When everyone started getting their own Wang computer, I became the word processing trainer. While employed there, I acquired an Adult Education teaching credential in *Word Processing & Office Occupations* (and taught shorthand for a while...my worst nightmare). I worked and taught for the Regional Occupational Program, a vocational training program for high school students and adults. I was employed by the CCCOE for approximately 25 years.

I found my next opportunity at Alhambra High School in Martinez where I was hired as a College/Career Advisor and to start a new college and career center. While employed at the school, I earned a certificate in *College Advising and Career Planning* from UC Berkeley. Five years into the job, and the school district looking to save money, my position was eliminated. I fortunately found work at The Athenian School, a private school located in Danville, as the Associate Director of Admission. What a difference going from the public to private education sector, but I considered myself very lucky. After spending 13 eventful years there, I opted for early retirement in 2017.

I am thankful for the career path I stumbled upon early in my life, which ended up being well-traveled, productive, and very rewarding.

My husband Steve (who was a blind date!) and I have been married for 44 years. He is a retired industrial pump salesman. We have two grown daughters, born and raised in the same house in Martinez. Allison (35), is a membership manager for the San Francisco chapter of the Grammy Recording Association. Carolyn (33), works for Stryker Company as an onsite equipment specialist in the endoscopy division at the VA hospital in Palo Alto. Both live near us, with their boyfriends.

Steve and I have a 26' RV which is a great way to vacation/travel...in between the hotel breaks, which are mostly for my benefit. When I'm not *Soroptimizing*, I like to go wine tasting with friends, eat out, read, and I'm an avid Jazzer-ciser (it jump-starts my day).

I learned about Soroptimist from Judy Moon. We both worked in the Martinez school district and while I was promoting school scholarships to the senior girls. She said that I would like the mission of this organization, Soroptimist, and invited me to a club social. The rest is history.

I really enjoy our club's Blanket Bash because it's an opportunity for us to socialize outside of our once-a-month business meeting. The blankets go to the Foster Youth in Contra Costa County. We have an annual Bingo fundraiser in the fall. Aside from the income it generates, I like how this event brings the community of Martinez together.



Being a Soroptimist, since 2002, has been one of the best experiences of my life. I've met such amazing, dedicated women—all sharing the same cause. It's also given me leadership opportunities which I recommend for all members. There are lots of us around to support you along the way.



Club News: Dream it Be it Academy

SI/Vacaville Twilight



SI of Vacaville Twilight recently presented a two day academy based on the [Dream it Be it Curriculum](#). The G.R.E.A. T. Academy (Girls Recognizing Empowerment And Talent) was presented in two parts, over 2 days. Many of our members were involved either as mentors to each small group of girls, or as speakers.

Day 1- the girls were introduced to the Dream Collage- a favorite activity of almost all of the girls surveyed. Girls were provided with images, stickers, markers, and other supplies to create what amounts to as a Vision Board. This is a focusing activity that led to a discussion of what are your values and who do you admire. Two of our members work with students in our district, and they presented on social media safety and how it can effect self-esteem. Girls were introduced to the concept of self- care by a volunteer who led the girls through a mindfulness activity. District III Director Joy Swank gave a presentation on S.M.A.R.T. goals, one of the lessons from Dream it Be it.

Day 2- Psychiatrist Dr. Matt Holve, who specializes in children and adolescents, discussed stress and ways to deal with it. The girls were engaged in another hands-on activity on creating mantras (this is not in the curriculum, but after reading session one comments another hands-on activity was added to engage students and focus their attention on stress reducing techniques that were discussed by Dr. Holve.) Our President, Michelle Strand is a nutritional consultant and she taught the girls how to read food labels. Jackie De Vries gave a presentation on resilience.

The most challenging aspects of putting on the workshop was getting enough girls to attend. Following advice from the Rio Vista club, we offered prize incentives. Finding two dates was very tricky. Local district calendars need to be reviewed to make sure there are no big events, such as Prom or Homecoming. We had to try many different recruitment approaches and at one point had to cancel a planned event due to only 3 girls signing up. We extended our outreach to a wider area, inviting girls from other districts in Solano County. Our local schools were not as helpful as we had hoped they would be in getting our information out. We posted to social media and community forums, and our two members who work directly with students advised students of the academy.



Mailing Address

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Soroptimist
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P.O. Box 1787
Willits, CA 95490

Send your ideas/articles to

Jackie De Vries

Send your
ideas/articles to
Jackie De Vries @
soroptimistjackied
v@gmail.com

C H E C K L I S T I M P O R T A N T

DATES

Once we had all of our girls the actual academy was well received, informative, impactful, and the members felt a sense of accomplishment that we had provided the girls with tools to empower them. Our Live Your Dream winner shared her story, and our Violet Richardson winner gave a presentation on her project. The follow up feedback from the girls was very positive.



Our club received a grant for the program from SIA that allowed us to purchase Chromebooks and gift cards, along with supplies and food. For applications and instructions you can find the information here: [Soroptimist Club Grants](#)

If any of you would like to see the PowerPoint presentations, or for any questions, please contact Jackie De Vries at soroptimistjackiedv@gmail.com



2019-2020 Founder Region Club & President Time Line & Check List

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| May | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 200 to Federation and District Director (deadline – July 1) |
| May | <input type="checkbox"/> Dues Statements arrive from Federation and Region |
| May | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare and distribute Dues Statement to club members |
| May | <input type="checkbox"/> Review SI/SIA (as applicable) Call to Convention; plan and prepare registration |
| May/June | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget proposed/approved at business meetings |
| June 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dream It, Be It Evaluation Form due to SIA (final deadline for year – submit within one month of completion of event) |
| May/June | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual committee reports due for business meetings, if applicable |
| June 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training, Districts IV – V (registration deadline May 29) |
| June 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood Memorial Grove Service |
| June 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training, Districts I, II, III (registration deadline June 5) |
| June/July | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Installation events, invite region board members |
| June/July | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint club board meeting for transition and transfer of materials |
| June/July | <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate club activities, programs and projects |
| July 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> SIA Federation and Region Dues must be received by this date |
| July 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Club & Region Officers officially take office |
| July 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dues to Federation and Region – Confirm with Treasurer |
| July 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 200 deadline to Federation - Copy to District Director |
| July 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Soroptimists Celebrating Success entries due to Region Chair Debbie Scaife – timerent@suddenlink.net |
| July | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign new signature cards at the club's bank |

SAVE THE DATES



2019 Leadership Training

Members may attend any Leadership Training that suits their schedule & location

District IV & V (Saturday June 8, 2019) - registration deadline May 29

[Call to Districts IV & V Leadership Training \(click here\)](#)

Red Lion Hotel, 1929 5th Street, Eureka - 10:00am - 3:00pm

Districts I, II, III (Saturday, June 15, 2019) - registration deadline June 5

[Call to Districts I, II, & III Leadership Training \(click here\)](#)

Fratellanza Club, 1140 66th Street, Oakland - 9:00am - 2:00pm

District VI (Sunday, October 27, 2019)

J Walter Cameron Center 95 Mahalani St, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii - 9:00am - 12:00pm

The 21st Soroptimist International Convention

Soroptimists Enable a Sustainable World: Global Connections, Empowered Women
18 - 21 July 2019 | Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre



Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention

Bellevue Washington- July 22-25, 2020

