

FOUNDER REGION
1999
CONFERENCE REPORT



THE JOURNAL OF THE

1909

OF THE AMERICAN



FOUNDER REGION 1999 CONFERENCE REPORT

WHERE DID THIS YEAR GO?

When I took office a year ago as Governor Elect, I felt like I had an eternity to learn my job, but here it is one year later and I am doing that job. It is my duty to prepare this Newsletter so here we go. We had our first Regional Committee meeting last September and as you read further you'll see some great ideas. I want to thank Governor Linda for allowing the Programs of Service Committee to present at this Conference. The subject, Child Pornography on the Internet, is a timely one and a subject that all of us Soroptimists can rally against. Together we can make a difference; together we can advocate a change. I would also like to thank all of you who sent me the information that is presented in this Newsletter. If not for you, the following pages would be blank!

DISTRICT I IS GETTING IT DONE AND HAVING FUN.

The clubs in District I are the very image of the best this decade has to offer. They have made the most of their environmental conscience with a recycled Director. They are major players in a corporate world that defined the world restructure in a re-organized district and even a few club mergers. Our investments have grown and are producing nicely. The presidents have displayed CEO type leadership, except for one aspect, they have productive, useful meetings, not wasted time. Truly a product of the 90's, we communicate rapidly and efficiently with e-mail and faxes and have learned we can conquer Hwy 80 and 580 traffic. We are ambassadors of Soroptimist wherever we go, in our district and other districts, other regions and even other federations. An awareness of international service

projects inspires some clubs to action while awareness of conflict resolution and youth violence prevention programs becomes the focus for others.

The smaller clubs in the district have the strength and determination of wonderful legacies to keep them going. As one club looks forward to the "birth" of a second club in their community, others rejoice in the new members they have recruited and in sharing the gifts of Soroptimism.

District I clubs boast the most successful annual fund-raisers that all of their members support. The best new members seem to come from those who join because we were having so much fun and success presenting these programs. Some have enhanced existing programs, added a new twist, brought new ideas and reaped the rewards of an even greater success.

First time presidents have learned they are not alone in their efforts

and that help is almost as close as F1. Recycled presidents are updating their *drive*, and enthusiasm. The "we can do this" spirit prevails and together, *we can make a difference.*" Congratulations to you all, S/I Alameda, Alamo-Danville, Albany, El Cerrito, El Pinablo, Livermore, Oakland, Pleasanton/Dublin, Richmond, San Ramon, The East Bay and TriCities.

AMELIA BENKO
DIRECTOR

DISTRICT II

LOUISE AGNEW,
PRESIDENT, S/I
ANTIOCH SAYS

Our club is most proud of its newest project, New Image Wardrobe. The objective is to provide an interview outfit for women who are being trained to enter or return to the workforce and are being referred to us after participating in the Welfare to Work program. Antioch continues its hands on projects with the Bedford Center, a senior day care center for the frail and elderly. The club has partnered with

S/I Pittsburg on several events and continues its support of YCA and WOA awards, as well as, providing a Fellowship each year.

DORIS WEBSTER,
S/I CONCORD says she is especially proud of her club because it has successfully come through a 50 year history of forward looking professional women who cared enough about their community, their nation, and their world to join together in a group dedicated to the improvement of society. Today, our club carries forward with the original concept and commitment and our 1998/99 slogan, "Service-Our Mission: Friendship-Our Mode."

MERRY NAIL,
PRESIDENT S/I
DELTA, says she is proud of her club's continued commitment to the project of purchasing a Thermal Imager for the Oakley/Knightsen Fire Department, even though it will take several years. The club is committed to raising funds for the new Freedom High School Library. She goes on to

say, "I am most proud of my club for standing by its commitment to Freedom High. Most of all, my pride in my club is for its concerted effort in recruiting new members to keep the club from folding which resulted in the induction of two new members."

LEE JORDAN, S/I
DIABLO SUNRISE, says she is proud of her club for the generosity of its members. No matter what the need, they always rise to the occasion. When the call went out for Hurricane Mitch relief, 11 members donated over \$300.00. We adopted two Christmas families and every wish was granted. Our club is also very generous with their time; many volunteer at Cambridge Community Center, helping at the walk-a-thon, things too numerous to mention. Our motto is "We're Soroptimists, we care, we act, we do."

NANCY VALVERDE,
PRESIDENT, S/I
EAST CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY says she appreciates being involved with the great leaders of her club. Our members have

worked tirelessly to complete many projects, including helping the flood victims of Hurricane Mitch, remodeling a home to house a youth program, and our Soroptimists Identifying Project, the soon to be completed Soroptimist Square in the city park. Our members are leaders in the community as evidenced by the following honors. The Brentwood Chamber named Bertha Ruiz, Citizen of the Year and Barbara Guise, a founding member, will be honored by the East Bay Regional District.

JUDY MOON,
PRESIDENT, S/I
MARTINEZ, says her club focused many activities and meetings on education in the public schools, specifically, preparing students for careers and the world of work. One of their programs was on Junior Achievement. Six members volunteered to work in an elementary classroom for a series of five lessons on aspects dealing with the world of work. Junior Achievement provides all the training and materials needed for

these sessions. The members have had exciting and rewarding experiences with this activity.

LU LILLY,
PRESIDENT, S/I
LAMORINDA, says her club is proud of the variety of activities they conduct and support by providing needed items and financial support for those less fortunate. A survey of members' interest resulted in a committee to set priorities for that declared interest with events ranging from the Orchard Nursery Christmas preview to a Day at the Races. Lamorinda supports age groups from Crisis Nursery to the Lafayette Chateau for the elderly. The club endeavors to provide activities so that each member's interest can be touched.

MARTHA
RADCLIFFE,
PRESIDENT, S/I
MORAGA says her club's hidden blessing through the years has been the deep friendships formed with one another. We genuinely care about each other. For several years, we have held a spring bike tour with

three separate tours on the same day ranging from 20 to 75 miles, with snacks and staff along the routes and meals before and after the race. We are proud, not only of the funds raised, but that is involved so many cooperating individuals and promoted good health too.

MARGUERITE
ELCENKO-
HECIMOVICH,
PRESIDENT S/I
PITTSBURG, says the one thing their club is most proud is that their projects get noticed in the community and that they get things done with enthusiasm and passion. They have the ability to influence and make changes that impact, not only those who the project is aimed towards, but brings awareness into the community to make changes that will better the future of our families. Their club has the support of the city council, local businesses, and other service organizations. They want to bring more culture and art into the community and give the youth something to do other than to get into trouble. We set the pace

through community involvement.

LYNN ROBBINS,
PRESIDENT S/I
PLEASANT HILL,

says their club is small but they have a great "can do" attitude. Battered Women's Alternative asked for help and we jumped in giving them two garden sheds for storage. Loaves and Fishes need servers and we helped out. We are a family we can do attitude in our club and our community.

LENESE
COUGHRAN,
PRESIDENT S/I RIO
VISTA, states February 18, 1999 was our 43rd Birthday, and she had everyone stand up and say how many years they have been in the club and what had been their most memorable moment since they have been in the club. The responses were positive, they had a sense of pride, and four H's, honesty, humility, humor and honor. They were proud of their Soroptimists friendships.

TERYL BROWN,
PRESIDENT S/I
WALNUT CREEK

says we stuck together! When their club membership dropped a few years ago and put them in jeopardy of losing the charter, there was a determination of our members to stick together and bring our membership up. We have slowly grown and the last couple of years have enjoyed an increase in membership. This year we have had the largest increase in many years. We have a strong bond of friendship and Soroptimist spirit, which makes me proud of our club.

DION WEAVER
DIRECTOR

GREETINGS FROM
DISTRICT III

Our district includes clubs in Lake, Napa and Solano Counties. The clubs vary in size from 15 to 60 members and each club is very involved in their activities. Benicia is your host for conference this year. They are a smaller club and quite busy with all of the projects they do. Ask them about the "Spring Fling." Calistoga is well-established club with a large membership. The

holiday season is especially busy for them and their "Champagne Arts Preview" and "Chocolate Cabernet Fantasy" provides funds for the many projects they support. Clear Lake, our only club in Lake County, does a "Park Walk" to raise funds for their major project Austin Park. They are working hard at increasing their membership. Dixon, is one of the larger clubs. They keep busy raising money with their Fashion Show and Boutique and their Golf Tournament to help fund the many community and Soroptimist programs they support. They have events going on all throughout the year and will be hosting the Regional Conference in the year 2001. Fairfield/Suisun, has been very active this year in local political issues involving women. They help with the Solano County Library Foundation Trivia Bee; one of their members helped get the Bee started. Their main emphasis is to increase their membership and find a major project. Napa, is one of the larger clubs and the oldest club in our

district. NEWS (Napa Emergency Women's Shelter) has been their major project for several years. This year they received a Soroptimist grant for their work at Rainbow House A Place for Women, to furnish and provide help for single women to transition into a new life. They have been doing a Merchandise Club for many years as part of their fund raising activities. Napa Sunrise, also received a Soroptimist grant this year for their Women's History Trunk at the Napa Valley Museum. This trunk can be taken into school classrooms to help educate our children about the importance of women in the local history of the valley. They are also working at getting new members. Napa and Napa Sunrise do several joint meetings together. St. Helena, sold Raffle Calendars this year in addition to their annual Crab Feed which is always a sell out, just to mention two of their many projects. They are very strong in supporting the youth of St. Helena. They are working at starting an S-Club and donate many hours and dollars to their

community. St. Helena Sunrise, the home of Governor Linda, is our youngest club and is very active. They participated in the grand opening of the new fire station in St. Helena and are active in the Harvest Festival Fun Run. They do joint projects and meetings with the St. Helena club and have an outstanding newsletter. They are definitely and up and coming club. Vacaville, has an S-Club, the only one in District III. They sponsor a Youth Recognition Night each spring and do some of their fundraisers with other organizations in Vacaville. They are one of the larger clubs in the district and do a great job in their community. Vallejo, has a Fashion Show and White Elephant Sale to mention two of the fundraisers they do to support their scholarships and award programs. They have friendship links in England and Japan and several of their members attended the SIA convention in New York last July. Vallejo Gateway, is our morning club and one of the younger clubs. They support the Boys and

Girls Club of Vallejo as their major project and also provide funds for the women's crisis center and Sober Grads. They do several fundraising activities throughout the year and they clean a section of Interstate 80 between Hunter Hill and Redwood Parkway in Vallejo.

**JEAN CRAWFORD
DIRECTOR**

DISTRICT IV

SI NORTHBAY

They celebrated their second year of existence on 2/24 with a visit from Director Cathy. The theme for this club year set by President Deana Hanks is "Begin with Enthusiasm." Thus far, this club year, they have participated in supporting the opening of a new library site in Novato, helping with a drive to provide needy children with toys at Christmas, being a sponsor of the Miss Marin Scholarship program and honoring 2 outstanding YCA awardees. The club is honored to be presenting the Memorial Service at this year's Conference at

the invitation of
Governor Linda.

S/I SANTA ROSA

They will be entering the Santa Rosa Rose Parade. They will have a large banner and handheld signs telling the audience about their service projects. They are working hard to put together their 6th annual wine tasting event, which is one of their major fundraisers. They are also working on holding their first Domestic Abuse Forum in October.

S/I SEBASTOPOL

They will be celebrating their 50th Birthday in May and are planning a pasta celebration. In March, they had a garage sale and the proceeds went to Palm Drive Hospital. They have given money towards the purchase of an emergency communications center for the Senior Center. They have set up a scholarship for a business student in memory of their last charter member who recently passed away.

S/I MENDOCINO SONOMA COAST

This club celebrates their 20th Birthday on April 25 and will be installing the incoming officers at the same time. Their major fundraiser, Home Tour and wine Tasting will be held May 8th. Most of the homes are located in Sea Ranch and are beautiful! Their service projects are Escapes (domestic violence), rescue signing projects and the organization for the Recreation Center

S/I SONOMA VALLEY

These members are bell ringers and Santa's helpers in the winter and the Easter Bunny in the spring. They will be presenting a seminar for the graduating senior high school girls. Experts will be conducting workshops on how to make the transition from high school to college and/or the work force. They also put together a new member information booklet that is given to each new member. It tells everything and anything about their club.

SI UKIAH

They make their money by selling See's candy and lobsters (not at the same time.) They have budgeted funds to purchase 20 Baby-Think-It-Over dolls. They provide supplies for the shower room located at the Soup Kitchen and they have a clothes closet for women entering the work force. Their 50th Birthday is June 4th and they're planning a BIG party.

S/I HEALDSBURG

Their successful service project, "A Celebration of Giving," was held 12/3 with the help of other service organizations, particularly the Girl Scouts. A Christmas party was held for those families in need, 11 families including 34 children received gifts. They have purchased 4 Baby-Think-It-Over dolls and are looking for grants to purchase more. Each May they host a luncheon for outstanding 6th and 8th grade students. Their major fundraiser is the Beer Festival that is held in October.

S/I SONOMA SUNRISE

A Fashion Show was held in November and netted over \$4700.00. In December, the club held a teen parent Christmas project. The expectant teen mothers received diaper bags, diapers, etc. They also provide them with a well-balanced lunch once a month. Domestic violence is their "pip" They handed out cards, submitted newspaper articles and paid for babysitters while parents attended counseling.

S/I MARIN

They held a forum in October on Domestic Violence. Their panel was comprised of victims, abusers and information about community resources. Their major fundraiser was held 3/20 – 5th annual Pasta and jazz magic. The club supports the Marin Family Literacy Program and they are collaborating with the Marin County District Attorney's Office to raise funds for the Jeanette Prandy Childrens Center. This center would be a safe haven for sexually abused children and is staffed by professionals.

S/I CLOVERDALE

They have increased their membership from 15 to 20 this year. The three major fundraisers are See's Candy sales, Corned beef dinner and beer tasting and the Superbowl party raffle. The club headed the 11th annual community Thanksgiving dinner and continues to support the Boys and Girls club, reading is fundamental, family service and the helping hand fund. Cloverdale has taken on a new project this year in the field of women's health, Osteoporosis – testing and education. Check out their website at:

www.sonicnet/sciaini/soroptimist/index.html

S/I NOVATO

The club's major fundraiser, a Fashion Show and Silent Auction was held on 4/24. Sounding Board their local community television program has presented some very educational panel discussions, including technology and education, community colleges, day care options and teen violence. They award 10 Personal growth

scholarships, as well as, 2 Outstanding Achievement Scholarships. They have taken on a new role this year, mentoring high school girls who are high risk. They will be hostessing the district meeting in October and have already started plans.

CATHY MITCHEL DIRECTOR

DISTRICT V

ARCATA

When was the last time you partied all night with a group of your friends and met a lot of people too? They had such a great time partying for 24 hours that plans are already in the works for greater participation this year. They described the camping/slumber party atmosphere, the healthy environment and hope generated by the event, the music; the abundance of food and the glowing luminary honoring and memorializing those affected by cancer. Our women glowed with the knowledge of contributing in a larger fight to conquer cancer through being a party of

the Relay for Life. The event provided hands on way to support our total community and a personal way to remember a vibrant member and past president, Dottie Davenport.

S/I BIGFOOT COUNTRY

They held their 16th Annual Chinese Auction in November, '98. Along with the many items available by drawing, 6 were auctioned. The Country Store section had baked goods, candies and vanilla from Mexico. The raffle for cash produced 3 lucky winners. Complimentary wine and cheese were available and all had a good time.

S/I CRESCENT CITY

They held their Cow Chip Bingo contest in conjunction with the community 4th of July celebration. These funds awarded scholarships to graduating high school seniors. In December, they hosted the Christmas Bazaar. The primary purpose of this event is to provide a

place for non-profit organizations to get together to sell holiday crafts, food and raffle items. This year, Gasquet Quilter's Club donated 50 hand-made Christmas stockings. They were sold during the bazaar to raise funds for Harrington House, a local women's shelter. They also filled 10 of these stockings and presented them to the residents.

S/I EEL RIVER VALLEY

They feel their most important project is the WOA. Their most rewarding project is the Shoe Box project that provides new shoes and socks for school age children whose parents cannot afford them. They work with the local schools and shoe store. In August, schools are sent a letter explaining the Shoe Box project, who the club contact is and requesting the school to contact them when they are aware of students who need shoes. A teacher or the child's parent will meet our coordinator at the shoe store and the child will pick a pair of shoes and receive new socks. The feed back

from the teachers and administrators at the schools tell them the new shoes make a significant difference in the behavior of the child and helps to improve the child's self esteem. This clubs most exciting project is their Casino Royale that they do jointly with Sunrise Rotary of Fortuna. The evening includes gaming tables, slot machines, much, dancing, a Dutch Auction, food and beverages.

S/I EUREKA

S/I Eureka and Health Care vendors again provided a comfortable setting where women could access info of healthy lifestyles, women's health issues and find supportive agencies for their families. There was no charge for the women attending and they were served refreshments and had the opportunity to win door prizes. They had excellent attendance and they anticipate more due to an extensive advertising campaign. The advertising began with the side panel of a milk carton. They also asked a local newspaper, TV and radio stations to be community Partners.

Two local hospitals were also Community Partners and helped pay for the printed advertising in the form of posters, flyers and bill stuffers sent out in a local bank statement. The newspaper provided a special pull out about Health and included the floor layout of the Women's Health Fair, a list of participants and a page about Soroptimists. They were very proud to pull together so many different segments of the community.

S/I FORT BRAGG

S/I HUMBOLDT BAY

Their more exciting event is the annual awards banquet held in March. It is a time when they honor Women of Distinction, Women Helping Women and Advancing the Status of Women and present two cash awards to YCA and WOA. They continue to have hands on project for Safe Haven, safe house project, including, pumpkin carving at Halloween, crafts at Christmas, yard work and planting in February, Easter egg dyeing in April and

Mothers Day gift making in May.

S/I MCKINLEYVILLE

Only chartered one and a half years ago, they are beginning to establish traditions. This summer will be the second year they sponsored scholarships for Camp North Star, a summer camp targeting at risk girls ages 11-13 focusing on enhancing their self esteem and life skills in a workshop/ camp setting. Their club members visit care homes, sponsor a table at the annual fundraising tea for Friends of McKinleyville Library and have established the McKinleyville Community Consortium Fund. The fund provides money to help students who need laundry and medical aid, lice irradiation in particular. They are hopeful of developing a Cherry Blossom Festival to build a sense of community. They have planted the seeds by purchasing some of the cherry trees.

S/I MENDOCINO

S/I NOYO SUNRISE

The most successful and the most fun fundraiser is their Noyo Sunrise EGG-stravaganza. Prior to Easter, club members make and personalize chocolate Easter eggs. The eggs are made with chocolate and jelly beans. Each egg is then placed on green grass in a corsage box, and sealed shut with a Soroptimist label.

S/I REDWOODS

They have been working on a joint project with the Rotary Club to revamp the south end entrance to Garberville. This entails replacing the large log on concrete and relettering the sign. This project will be completed in May. The club also has a Loaner Closet of Medical Equipment. This closet includes everything a person would need at home and is completely free to the community. The club rents a building and keeps this project updated. For the youth of their community, they have plans to bring the family circus to town this summer. The club's largest on going work of art are the "trees" along the main street of Garberville.

S/I WILLITS

They have worked on several exciting projects this year. Foremost in the community's mind is the local telephone directory. They have been working on this project for many years and this is their biggest fundraiser. They raise about \$18,000.00

S/I YOKAYO SUNRISE

They are working on membership. In the month of January, they inducted 4 members. In October, they presented plowshares with over 200 pair of socks. Their socks kept many homeless people's tootsies warm at night. Their major fundraiser is selling See's candy. In recognition of domestic violence awareness month in October, their guest speaker was the executive director of project Sanctuary. They also painted the town purple, handing out purple cards with info about domestic abuse prevention.

LYNNE JACKSON DIRECTOR

DISTRICT VI

Director, JUDY LEE says this club year has flown by and I can't believe Conference is around the corner. The eleven clubs in District VI keep me in awe with their community service and ongoing projects. What a pleasure it has been to work with the presidents and board this year.

S/I CENTRAL OAHU

They organized 5 teams to participate in the Relay for Life and held a Mardi Gras Valentine fundraiser to support their community service projects, scholarships and the Domestic Violence Shelter. They are building benches for the shelter and continue to support their Waipahu S-Club in it projects. Ongoing projects include Read To Me, T-shirts and books for mothers and newborn babies and making lap blankets for the seniors at Wahiawa General Hospital.

S/I HILO

They donated a Baby-Think-It-Over doll to Hilo High School and

cooked Thanksgiving dinner for the families at the Women's Crisis Center. With just 10 members they have accomplished much but struggle with the poor economy and a drain of members and potential members leaving for greener pastures. They will go out with a bang however, and present high schools in their area with a Baby-Think-It Over doll.

S/I GUAM

They are on the web at www.siguam.com thanks to member Bridget Silverson. In January, they celebrated the 5th Anniversary of KPRG-FM, a public radio station that airs their weekly show. Making a Difference for Women and chartered its first S-Club at Academy of our Lady of Guam High School in March. In May, they helped with the South Pacific Games that hosted 22 countries. They have made a commitment to assist the SPG Secretariat by serving as liaison officers to four of those countries. With SI Marianas, they held their major fundraiser and continue to support Erica's House of Hope-

Family Visitation Center.

S/I HONOLULU

They joined the Venture Club of Honolulu to put Easter baskets together for children at the Child Advocacy Center. They also conducted an official signing of a new Friendship Link with SI Tokyo. President Yukiko Akai and 4 members came to Honolulu for the ceremony. They participate in a service project at HUGS, an agency providing direct services to families of seriously ill children.

S/I KONA

They hosted the Leadership Training held at the Kona Surf Hotel and the President's Roundtable in March. Kona donated funds to defray costs for participants and assisted with the third annual Girls Encouraged in Math and Science, GEMS project. Over 260 girls applied for the 180 openings and Kona is working to expand this event.

S/I MARIANAS

Literacy month had members donating books and tape recordings and made members read stories to Chief Brodie Elementary School. With SI Guam, they held their major fundraiser and continue to support Erica's House of Hope, a family visitation center. They, along with SI Guam received a grant for Erica's House to purchase equipment and furnishings for the center and to pay for operational costs.

S/I MAUI

Members Angie, Jeanne and Elaine continue to teach Jr. Achievement at the schools in Maui. They have started a Linus project and fundraise with two Whale Watch cruises in February and March. Maui presented checks for 4 nursing students attending Maui Community College and held a joint YCA/WOA awards ceremony with SI West Maui. Club members continue to support the Women's Shelter with hands on projects.

S/I WAIKIKI

They chartered their first S-Club, Sacred Hearts Academy and found themselves in Warp drive trying to keep up with this energetic group of young women. The club's identifying project Women's Resource Center and Waikiki Community Center continue to receive financial and hands on support. They will host Leadership Training in July.

S/I WEST MAUI

They held their first club retreat with great result. The club is revitalized and members are re-energized as evidenced by the projects completed this year. Members selected an identifying project for the club, the Arts and Education for Children's Group. They donated funds to defray costs for 40 students to attend the five week summer music enrichment program, fully supported the Explore the Arts Workshop Series and co-sponsor a 12 week workshop series Summer Artist in the Schools Specialist. They also participated in a Baby-Think-It-Over plan. They amended the club by-laws changing

the attendance requirement from 50% of the meetings each month to 100%.

S/I WEST OAHU

They adopted the Family Peace Center and actively work towards supporting its efforts in promoting awareness of abuse. Fundraisers were held throughout the year (Halloween Bash, New Years Celebration and the Makakilo Hoolaulea) to support YCA, WOA and the Family Peace Center.

S/I WINDWARD OAHU

They continue to support the Mary Jane Center as its identifying project. This year the club took an active stand by attending the variance permit hearings and presenting testimony on the Center's behalf to build a much needed bed facility for unwed mothers in Kailua. The variance was approved but opposition launched by the neighbors resulted in another hearing. Once again the club testified supporting the Center and final approval was given.

The club will equip one bedroom for mother and child and continue its mentoring and hands on projects for the residents. They support the spouse abuse shelter in Hale Ola.

JUDY LEE DIRECTOR

REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Judy Parsons, Chair, states that if Clubs would like help preparing their club budgets, this committee would be available to assist and or review them. What a great asset you could have if you took advantage.

MEMBER SERVICES

Leslie Roe, Chair is working hard on updating the "Important Stuff You Need to Know.... Booklet. A survey was mailed out to all the clubs to ask if they were interested in having the booklet revised, then asked if club's might send examples of programs and projects that were successful to be included in the booklet

and lastly, asked if the clubs would be willing to pay for it. We'll know these answers at Conference.

S-CLUB

Elaine Reed, co-chair, states the committee has published a newsletter each quarter. Two Barbara Stevenson S-Club awards will be announced at Conference. We have tried to encourage Soroptimist Clubs to charter S-Clubs, but no new ones have been chartered this year. The committee developed guidelines on the steps to take to get an S-Club started and will send copies to any interested club. We have also planned an S-Club Conference, Making A Difference for May 21-22 to be held in Eureka. Hawaii and Guam were encouraged to host their own conference. The committee developed guidelines for planning an S-Club Conference.

FOUNDATIONS

Our Foundations Committee consisting of Barbara Obele, Janice White and Chair, Chyrl Hillis attended the Regional Committee

Meeting last September. The theme for the 98-99 raffle was decided upon. "Let's Be Different" has allowed each club to use their most vivid imaginations when making up their raffle baskets to be raffled on May 2nd. Thanks galore to our District Directors for helping to distribute the Tickets and follow up with their clubs. Each club received 25 books of pre-sale tickets. In past years, Founder Region has raised more than \$7,000.00 each year from the basket raffle. Hopefully, we can surpass that figure.

WOA

Mary Huebner, Chair, reports that the WOA and YCA Regional Committee has had a busy year in preparation for awards presentations at Conference. Each District Committee Representative handled district judging and a panel of judges from Northern California, Hawaii and Guam did regional judging. SI Americas decision to grant two \$10,000.00 awards for WOA WINNERS at the Federation level makes

this an especially exciting year. Club participation was very high.

FELLOWSHIP

The Founder Region Fellowship acknowledges the many contributions of Julia "Bess" Combs to Founder Region Fellowship. Bess was and EXCEPTIONAL woman and an EXCEPTIONAL Soroptimist. As organizer, committee chair and first President upon the committee's incorporation "Bess" was instrumental in making the Founder Region Fellowship program what it is today. It is because of her foresight, her dedication and her perseverance that our program is strong and our commitment to "Making A Difference" is endless. "Bess" we thank you!

**Nancy Walker,
President Founder
Region Fellowship,
Inc.**

Sincerely,



Governor Elect

The Soroptimist Pledge

**I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism
and to the ideals for which it stands:**

The sincerity of friendship

The joy of achievement

The dignity of service

The integrity of profession

The love of country

I will put forth my greatest effort

to promote, uphold

and defend these ideals,

for a larger fellowship

in home, in society, in business,

for country and for God.