



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Jackie De Vries  
Governor

# Founder Region Connections

Empowering Through Education



## Governor's August Message

Happy August, Founder Region!

Be sure to read my [BLOG](#) post for August. Watch for the Call to District Meetings. District Directors will be sending it to Presidents on August 16, and you can also follow this link to find it posted on the website on August 16: [CALL](#).

### Governor Jackie



**August:** Call to District Meeting, LYD opens

**September:** Sept. 2- [Driven by Dreams Campaign](#) Zoom | Letter to Presidents regarding Nominating Committee nominations

**October:** District Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

**November:** LYD closes

**December:** Nominations due, Violet Richardson Deadline

### SIA Updates

Here is an update with tips for purchasing insurance. [LINK](#) We have a fillable PDF for the Special Event form you will need to complete. [INSURANCE](#) on the Founder Region website—thanks to Tess for creating it. Contact Information for Insurance: [Katie Hansen](#), Client Service Manager. Phone: 559-326-2007 or email [Francis Villegas](#).

Don't forget to have Soroptimist members [TIPS-trained](#) if your club is holding an event where Soroptimists are serving alcohol. After receiving the certificate of training completion, please send a copy by email to SIA headquarters at [tipstraining@soroptimist.org](mailto:tipstraining@soroptimist.org). Please include the club's name and club number in the email.

**Driven by Dreams:** Join us on September 2 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) for an inspiring [virtual event](#) introducing this exciting new campaign. The event will be simultaneously interpreted in multiple languages and recorded, so you can experience the excitement even if you can't attend live!

Code of Conduct: [LINK TO SIGN](#). [SIA Procedures](#) now includes a Code of Conduct notation.

Engage, Inspire, Fundraise [LINK](#): great ideas for fundraisers and engagement.

Lead to [Achieve Handout](#) from Convention.

## Founder Region Shines at the 49th SIA Biennial Convention

Founder Region made a proud and memorable showing at the 49th Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention in Incheon, South Korea. Representing District V- Hawai'i, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau, our delegation demonstrated the strength, diversity, and leadership of the Pacific throughout the convention. Founder Region members from California also joined the delegation, alongside **Past Governor Pam Parker** and **Past Governor/Past SIA President Bobbi Enderlin**. Together, they rounded out the full breadth of Founder Region's diversity, showcasing the strength of our community from the Pacific islands to the mainland.

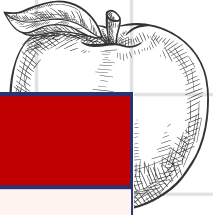
A highlight of the Opening Ceremony was seeing **Governor-Elect Kristal Koga** proudly carry the **Guam flag**, while **Tania Davis** represented the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** as a flag bearer. Their participation reflected the pride and unity of Founder Region on the international stage.

Founder Region's impact extended beyond the ceremonial events. **Emari Hunn**, President of Soroptimist International of Honolulu, was selected to present on the convention's main stage, showcasing how an SIA grant funded financial literacy workshops and labor union panel discussions for women living in transitional housing and domestic violence shelters. The presentation demonstrated how Founder Region clubs are transforming grant funding into meaningful programs that empower women with financial knowledge, employment resources, and opportunities for lasting economic independence.

The convention reinforced Founder Region's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and service, while proudly sharing the remarkable work of our Pacific clubs with Soroptimists from across the federation.







# Calendar of Important Dates

| Date             | Event                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August           | Live Your Dream (LYD) Portal Opens. Club Chairs, watch for a letter from SIA with login information.                                         |
| August/September | <u>Violet Richardson Award</u> Applications Open. All applications are posted online.                                                        |
| October 3        | Districts I & II District Meeting, Concord Senior Center. Host Clubs: SI/Benicia and SI/Antioch.                                             |
| October 9        | Districts III & IV Meet & Greet, Redwood Valley.                                                                                             |
| October 10       | Districts III & IV District Meeting, Redwood Valley. Host Clubs: SI/Oakmont Wine Country and SI/Crescent City.                               |
| October 16       | District V Meet & Greet, Honolulu.                                                                                                           |
| October 17       | District V District Meeting, Honolulu, Sacred Hearts Academy. Host Clubs: SI/Central Oahu and SI/Honolulu.                                   |
| October 18       | District V Member Meeting/Leadership Review.                                                                                                 |
| November 15      | LYD Applications portal closes.                                                                                                              |
| December 1       | Nominations Due for the 2027–2029 Nominating Committee.                                                                                      |
| December 15      | Violet Richardson Award Applications Close.                                                                                                  |
| January 1        | <u>"S" Club Outstanding Senior Award Application</u> Opens.                                                                                  |
| January 15       | LYD club winners due for an early incentive drawing.                                                                                         |
| February 1       | All LYD club winners due. Violet Richardson Award club winners are due to the Program Chair.                                                 |
| March 1          | "S" Club Application Closes.                                                                                                                 |
| March 23         | Call to Caucus via Zoom.                                                                                                                     |
| April 30–May 2   | Founder Region Conference, San Ramon Marriott. Host Clubs: SI/American Canyon 2018, SI/Benicia, SI/Oakland–The Founder Club, and SI/Vallejo. |
| June 13          | Memorial Grove, Prairie Creek State Park.                                                                                                    |
| June 30          | Dream It, Be It Reports submission due to SIA.                                                                                               |
| June 30          | BGAP Reports due to SIA.                                                                                                                     |
| June TBD         | Leadership Trainings.                                                                                                                        |





# Live Your Dream Awards

By Maida Herbst, Founder Region Live Your Dream Chair

Congrats Founder Region clubs. Founder Region gave out over \$300,000 in LYD awards in 2026. This is up from over \$250,000 in 2025. The more women we award, the more women and families we help.

The application portal opened for applicants on August 1, 2026. If you are a LYD club chair, you should have received an email invitation to join the application system. If you did not receive this email invitation, please let me know ASAP and we will get you signed up.

Recruiting is the beginning of the award cycle and we know what the tried and true recruitment methods are; an SIA report tells us that 36% were referred by a counselor at a school, 14% were referred by a relative or friend, 11% did an internet search, 8% learned from social media, 7% were contacted by a local club and 3% saw a flyer.

Other potential referrals sources are former LYD winners, unions, domestic abuse centers, professional women's groups, student nurse associations, student support services at colleges, adult education teachers, and non-profits.

Get ready to promote your club's program by going to the SIA link on recruiting applicants for the information you need.

<https://l1nq.com/492ocz>

When you meet with your community partners to find applicants, bring along a poster that advertises your award program. The poster has a QR code whereby an applicant can use her phone to go straight to the application system. You can find this customizable PDF poster by going to the above SIA link on recruiting applicants.

Maida Herbst

Founder Region Chair Live Your Dream Program

707-337-7673 (before 8PM)

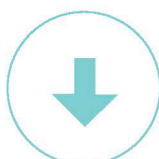
MaidarHIA@aol.com

EDUCATION HOLDS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM WOMEN'S LIVES

## Education



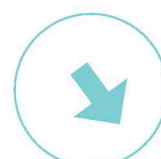
enhances their  
earning potential &  
presents them with  
access to better jobs



decreases  
incidences  
of violence



increases their  
overall health



decreases  
mortality rates



# Programs Pillar

By: Kristal Koga, Founder Region Governor-elect

Dear Founder Region,

I look forward to working with you as we continue changing lives through our Dream Programs—Live Your Dream and Dream It, Be It. Alongside these signature programs, the Big Goal Accelerator Project (BGAP) helps us reach even more women and girls on their path to success.

So, what makes a project a BGAP? It must:

- Serve women and girls facing barriers to success who are not participating in a Dream Program.
- Increase access to formal education or economic empowerment.
- Be Soroptimist led.
- Be reported to SIA.

Eligible participants face obstacles beyond gender alone, such as poverty, teen parenting, language barriers, foster care, substance abuse, or homelessness.

Education can include earning a certificate, diploma, GED, vocational or technical training, college or university degree, or workplace training that leads to better employment opportunities.

BGAP projects generally fall into three categories: providing scholarships or educational funding; supplying essential educational resources such as laptops, internet access, transportation, or testing fees; and offering classes or workshops in job skills, computer training, financial aid, career planning, or mentorship.

As you plan your projects, think about reach. You can help two low-income students with laptops, or you can host a skills workshop that benefits 50 women or girls. You don't have to abandon projects you already love—often, a few thoughtful adjustments can transform an existing project into a BGAP.

Your Region Committees, Region Board members, and SIA are here to help. Reach out—we're excited to support your success!





# Founder Region Fellowship

## Founder Region Fellowship President's Message



We hope you have had a wonderful summer thus far. It is going by quickly, and our District Meetings will be here before we know it. I am both excited and humbled to serve as your 2026–2028 Founder Region Fellowship President. We have an outstanding board with many goals to accomplish during this biennium.

The board gratefully accepted the kind invitation to hold our first board meeting on August 8–9, at the home of Debi Schrader, District II Director. The two-day meeting was both productive and inspiring, and we look forward to a successful beginning. We have also selected our theme for the biennium, "Educate a Woman, Empower a Generation," which ties in beautifully with Founder Region's theme and reflects our commitment to empowering women through education.

The 2024–2026 Fellowship Board of Directors has been busy wrapping up year-end Fellowship presentations and club visits. As you can see in the attached photos, it has been a busy and rewarding time since we left the conference in May.

We are very thankful for Past President Vicki and Governor Jackie for their guidance, encouragement, and support as we navigate our new board responsibilities. We would also like to thank Kris Chorbi for updating our website and helping us improve accessibility and communication.

One exciting change you will see very soon is our District Raffle Basket Fundraiser for Fellowship at the October District Meetings. This year, we are adopting ticket number log sheets in place of traditional paper tickets. Club Treasurers and Presidents should be on the lookout for raffle instructions and ticket number log sheets arriving via email soon. Thank you for your tremendous support of this important fundraiser, which represents approximately 20% of our annual fundraising totals and truly kicks off our Fellowship year.

Over the next several months, the board will be working diligently to accomplish our immediate goals:

- Distribute District Meeting Raffle Basket instructions and ticket number logs.
- Review the Doctoral Fellowship candidate application and scoring rubric.
- Evaluate the accessibility of our website to make it easier to become a Fellow.
- Reach out to universities to explore more efficient methods for promoting and supporting the Fellowship application process.

Our next newsletter will provide updates on our progress and accomplishments. On another note, we are frequently asked what members should do with their Fellowship pins as they advance through the various giving levels. My response has always been simple—wear them all with pride! Collect all fifteen by leveling up on your Fellowship promise and continue supporting women in the final phase of their doctoral programs.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming district meetings, and thank you for your continued support of Founder Region Fellowship and the women whose lives are forever changed through education.

With gratitude,

Kay Kelley, President

Cara Begley, Treasurer

Kenya Broadnax, District I Director

Debi Schrader, District II Director

Nancy Weber, District III Director

Loretta Tognoli, District IV Director

Teri Lynn Sato, District V Director

## Established in 1948, the Fellowship Program is Founder Region's Identifying Project.



### MISSION

To advance the Soroptimist mission by awarding grants to outstanding women in the final phase of their doctoral program within Founder Region.



### VISION

Improving the lives of women and girls locally and globally by awarding fellowships to women who will truly make a difference in the world.



### CORE VALUES

Higher Education  
Academic Research  
Women Empowerment  
Workplace Equity

Founder Region Website – [si-founderregion.org](http://si-founderregion.org)  
Fellowship Website – [founderregionfellowship.org](http://founderregionfellowship.org)  
Founder Region Email – [founderregionemail@gmail.com](mailto:founderregionemail@gmail.com)