SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Jackie De Vries
Governor

Founder Region Connections

Empowering Through Education

November, 2026



Governor's November Message

Dear Founder Region Soroptimists,

Thank you to everyone who came to our District Meetings this fall. It was wonderful to see so many of you, to hear about the work your clubs are doing, and to share ideas for the year ahead. Your energy and commitment are what make Founder Region so special. A special thank-you as well to the Directors and host clubs who made each meeting possible.

The Local to Global infographic from my presentation can be found here: LINK

If you missed a meeting or want to look back at what we covered, all District Meeting resources are now on the Founder Region website: LINK. Please share them with your club members.

I post a new Governor's Blog on the 1st of each month with updates, reminders and stories from around the Region. You can find it here: Governor's Blog.

As we head into the holiday season, I'm grateful for each of you and for everything you do for women and girls in our communities. Wishing you and your families a warm and happy Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,



Advertise in the 2027 Conference Program

The ad flyer for our 2027 Conference program is now available: Ad sales help pay for printing the program and conference expenses, so every ad makes a difference. A business-card ad is only $40 and is perfect for congratulating a Live Your Dream recipient, thanking your president, or celebrating your club's year. Invite a local business to advertise, too. When a business buys an ad, the club or member who referred it receives a free business-card ad. Ads and payment are due March 31, 2027.

Questions? Email me at frgovernorjackie@gmail.com.

See the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Soroptimist International News

Her Health – Our Future
SI President Renata Trottmann Probst has chosen **women's health** as the focus for 2026–2027, under the banner "Her Health – Our Future." SI defines health broadly, including mental well-being, reproductive autonomy and freedom from violence, and links it to all five of SI's pillars. SI has just appointed a Women's Health Campaign Working Group to create its **first-ever global awareness campaign.**

Women's Health in the AI Era
In October, SI and the Commonwealth Secretariat co-hosted a roundtable in London on women's health and artificial intelligence. The message: gaps in research and data on women's health mean AI tools could make inequalities worse unless women are fully represented. Read more

16 Days of Activism: November 25 – December 10
SI's campaign against gender-based violence starts November 25. It's a great time for clubs to share a project, host a speaker or post on social media to raise awareness.

See You in Prague!
The 2027 SI Convention will be held **September 29 – October 1, 2027** in Prague, Czech Republic. Registration is open at siconvention2027.org.

Soroptimist International of the Americas News

UpliftHER Resources
Big Goal Resources



The history of the forming of the Federation: Read Here

New Recruitment tips: LINK

When mailing a check or other important documents to SIA, please use our lockbox address rather than the headquarters address:

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.®
PO Box 95000 – 2553
Philadelphia, PA 19195-0001
Represent SI at CSW71

Interested in attending CSW71, March 8–19, 2027? Complete the interest survey by November 16. Limited delegate spots are available to SIA members, and delegates are responsible for their own expenses.

Questions? Contact Shaila Rao Mistry, SIA Representative to the SI Global Impact Committee, at shaila@stem-institute.org.

SOROPTIMIST IMPORTANT DATES

November 2026 – June 2027

Founder Region • SIA • Soroptimist International

NOVEMBER 2026

Nov 6–8	Founder Region Board Meeting
Nov 15	Live Your Dream applications close
Nov 16–30	Presidents' Round Tables
Nov 25–Dec 10	16 Days of Activism

DECEMBER 2026

Dec 1	Nominating Committee deadline
Dec 10	Human Rights / SI Foundation Day

JANUARY 2027

Jan 1	SIA Club Grant applications open
Jan 24	International Day of Education
Jan 29–31	Founder Region Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 2027

Feb 1	Live Your Dream club reports due
Feb 1	Violet Richardson submissions*
Feb 5–7	Fellowship Board Meeting
Feb 23–25	SIA Board Meeting

MARCH 2027

Mar 1	"S" Club Outstanding Senior*
Mar 8	International Women's Day
Mar 15	LYD Region reports due
Mar 23	Call to Caucus (Zoom)

APRIL 2027

Apr 1	SIA Club Grant applications due
Apr 29	Pre-conference Board Meetings
Apr 30–May 2	51st Founder Region Conference • San Ramon

MAY 2027

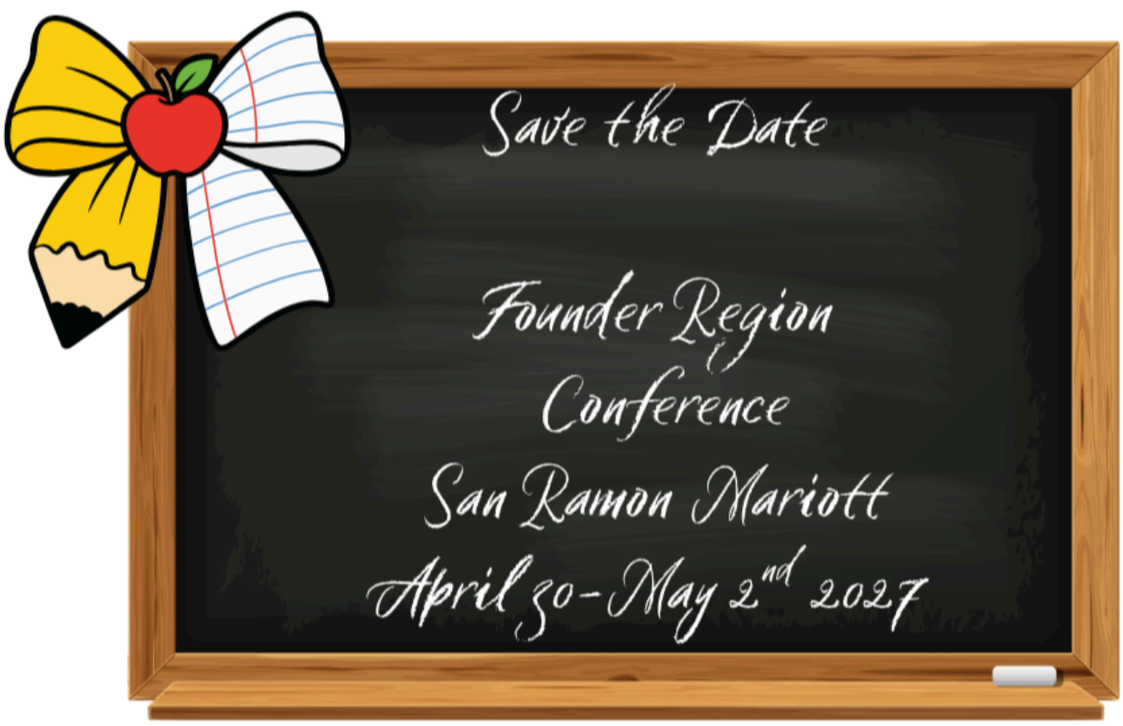
May 1–2	Founder Region Conference continues
May 2	Post-conference Board Meetings

JUNE 2027

Jun 5	Leadership Training: Districts I & II*
Jun 12	Leadership Training: Districts III & IV
Jun 13	Memorial Grove, Prairie Creek
Jun 22	SIA Leadership Round Table
Jun 25–26	District V Leadership Training
Jun 30	Dream It, Be It / Big Goal reporting
Jun 30	Club Giving / Founders Pennies due

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

51st Founder Region Conference | April 30–May 2, 2027 | San Ramon Marriott



FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP, INC.

Fellowship News

President's Round Table · November 2026

EDUCATE A WOMAN, EMPOWER A GENERATION

Thank you, clubs!

The district meetings were very successful for the Fellowship program. Thank you to every club for taking part in the basket raffle, our new Apple donations, and the fellowship drawings. The Fellowship board also met via Zoom on October 28, 2026.

12
Fellowship winners drawn

10
New monthly givers from Districts I, II and V

2
New Full Fellows

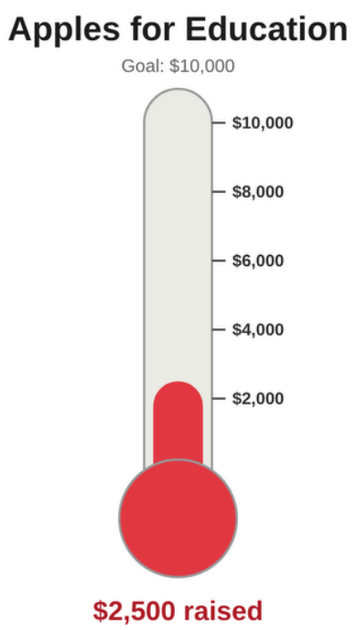
APPLES FOR EDUCATION

Current Apple Bushel Basket

Apples are $20 each, and each apple tag carries the donor's name, club, and phone number. Each basket holds 50 apples, and a fellow is drawn every time a basket is filled.

So far, we have filled two baskets and drawn two fellows, and a third basket is half full. Fellowship Directors will bring the basket on club visits, and we will post on social media as fellows are drawn.

Every apple donor will also be entered in a large basket for apple drawings at the conference.





$2,500 raised so far. Help us reach $10,000 by the end of the conference!

BOARD DECISION

How fellows are drawn this biennium

Apples are $20 each, and each apple tag carries the donor's name, club, and phone number. Each basket holds 50 apples, and a fellow is drawn every time a basket is filled.

So far, we have filled two baskets and drawn two fellows, and a third basket is half full. Fellowship Directors will bring the basket on club visits, and we will post on social media as fellows are drawn.

Every apple donor will also be entered in a large basket for apple drawings at the conference.

2 fellows

drawn at each district meeting for clubs that sell all of their raffle basket tickets

1 fellow

drawn for every 50 apples sold

Conference

winners drawn from the spinning wheel and the apple baskets

DEADLINE
January 15

The Application Portal is open

Applications are due January 15. The board voted to accept online doctoral programs when the university has a physical presence in Founder Region.

Help us spread the word

Please post the attached flyer on your club's social media pages. Because of Title IX compliance concerns, we need to advertise in as many ways as possible, and we are asking clubs and news media outlets to help.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Become an application reader

In early December we will email clubs asking for volunteers. We will choose one reader from each district to bring a broader perspective to the applications we receive. Readers must:

- Be a club member in good standing
- Be a current Fellowship donor or monthly giver
- Be willing to complete the application rubric
- Understand that, under our Bylaws, the Board of Directors makes the final decision

Programs Pillar

By: Kristal Koga, Founder Region Governor-elect

Increasing Our Impact

It was great to see many of you at our District Meetings. I hope the program report given on our signature project Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls was helpful. Let's review some key points:

1. Why do a DIBI project? Girls overwhelmingly shared they feel empowered to live their dreams after participating.
2. Are there resources to help plan? The DIBI Club Toolkit is your go-to resource for everything you will need.
3. Not enough members to help? Start small with one session.
4. Is your club (or community) already working with teenage girls? Add DIBI components. Include at least one session to officially count.
5. Can't find enough participants? Collaborate with teachers, counselors and organizations to spread the word. Explore whether bringing the program into the school day is possible.
6. Funds an issue? Consider using virtual and hybrid formats. Clubs are eligible to apply for a Soroptimist Club Grant from SIA to help start a new project or to add a new dimension to an existing project. Applications are due April 1 for projects conducted in the following club year. SI/Honolulu received funds for a Dream It, Be It 10th anniversary celebration.
7. Founder Region offers a $500 grant; apply online anytime; clubs must deliver at least three sessions.
8. How to improve a project? Ask current participants for ideas. Create a committee of past participants to plan the next project.

Resources:

- Club Toolkit
- Email program@soroptimist.org for access to the curriculum
- Region DIBI Chair Dawn Shepherd soroptimistDawn@gmail.com
- Program Chair Kristal Koga frgovernorelectkristal@gmail.com

Thank you, Founder Region Clubs, for all you do!

SIA grants are not just for Dream It, Be It projects. SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc. received a grant for a Big Goal Accelerator Project.

Public Awareness

By: Emari Hunn, Founder Region Public Awareness Chair

Let's Make Soroptimist and Our Mission Known!

How often have you enthusiastically shared that you're a Soroptimist, only to hear, "What's that? I've never heard of it!"

Sound familiar? We do incredible work to **elevate the socioeconomic status of women and girls by providing access to education**, yet so many people still don't know who we are or what we do. That's exactly why Public Awareness matters!

Every conversation is an opportunity to tell our story. Whether attending community events, networking, posting on social media, or talking with friends, **WE are the ambassadors of Soroptimist!**
But we don't have to do it alone!

Our Public Awareness Committee is here to help, and we have wonderful resources at www.soroptimist.org under Recognition and Branding Tools.

I recently discovered the customizable club logo templates in Canva. Within minutes, I created our club's official logos in multiple variations! So easy!

You'll also find social media templates, Zoom backgrounds, publicity kits, brochures, and branding guidelines to help us build a consistent, recognizable identity. Remember to use current, approved SIA logos.

Here's my challenge: **Talk about Soroptimist!** Share success stories, invite someone to an event, celebrate our Dream Programs, and showcase your club's impact.

The more we share our mission, the more people understand the difference we make. That awareness opens doors to new members, partnerships, and opportunities to serve!

Let's make Soroptimist and our mission known, recognized, and remembered!

Dream It, Be It

By: Dawn Shepherd, Founder Region DIBI Chair

Hello and happy Fall!

I am excited to tell you that our 2026-2028 Dream it, Be it Committee has met and we have scheduled a Founder Region Zoom Meeting for all DIBI Club Chairs. **SAVE THE DATE: January 13, 2027 (Wednesday), 7:00 pm Pacific Standard time. I will put out the meeting info to Club Presidents and DIBI Chairs.**

This Zoom meeting will afford us the opportunity for Committee Chairs (and Committee Chairs-to-be) to hear what DIBI is, to brainstorm and share ideas about ways to incorporate a DiBi program and overcome obstacles that may be standing in our way, as well as share some resources. We will have a gift card drawing too! If you attend you will be entered to win a gift card, yay!!!!!

Your Founder Region DiBi Committee is here for you. We will do our best to answer questions that may come up. Our Committee is comprised of me, Dawn Shepherd (Chair), SI/Vacaville; Josette Lacey, SI/Vallejo; Keiki Kobayashi, SI/Central Oahu; Nushi Safinya, SI/Calistoga.

Remember, one Step at a Time. So, if you don't already have one in place, establish a Dream it, Be it Committee for your Club. Next, join our January Zoom call!

Have a DREAMY November!

Live Your Dream

By: Maida Herbst, Founder Region Live Your Dream Chair

live YOUR dream
education & training awards for women®

The LYD application portal closed on November 15. If your club received no applications, LET US KNOW! If your club received too many applications, SHARE!

If you need to request applications from another club or wish to share those you did not select as winners, please contact your District LYD Representative. The woman you select for the award does not need to live in your community. Founder Region wants to achieve 100% participation from the clubs while also increasing the number of awards given. We can all EMPOWER THROUGH EDUCATION for the women we help.

NOW is the time to go into your application portal and download each of your applications to evaluate every applicant for eligibility. You can find the guidelines here: https://bit.ly/4AbFl0k

If an applicant is not eligible, use the application portal to send her a message, and she will disappear from your system. When you move your applicants to the next stage, “Indicate your club’s decision”, you will be ready to send them for judging. Please consider judging before January 1 so you can give your #1 winner to the District LYD Representative by Jan 15 and be eligible for the incentive drawing.

Awardee testimonial:
“The Live Your Dream Award from Soroptimist was the lifeline I needed. This award not only helped me afford tuition, but it also gave me the belief that my dreams were worth pursuing. With the education I gained, I’ve been able to advance my career and provide financial stability for my family.”

Maida Herbst
maidarhia@aol.com
707-337-7673 (between 8 AM and 8 PM)



SOROPTIMIST FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP

EDUCATE A WOMAN
EMPOWER A GENERATION

SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Doctoral Grants for Women

Awards of $10,000

Supporting women in the final phase of doctoral study • Established 1948

APPLICATION PORTAL OPENS
October 15, 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 15, 2027
by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time

ABOUT FOUNDER REGION FELLOWSHIP

Founder Region Fellowship, the identifying project of Soroptimist International Founder Region, was established in 1948. This nonprofit program, recognized under 501(c)(3), offers grants to women in the final phases of their doctoral studies. Founder Region Fellowship thrives thanks to the steadfast support of Soroptimist members and clubs within the Founder Region. We are dedicated to empowering women in fields that hold great social importance both locally and globally. We aspire for our recipients to emerge as strong advocates for all women and girls, thereby embodying and advancing the Soroptimist mission and ideals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- Advanced to candidacy and entering the final phase of the doctoral program
- Women enrolled in an accredited graduate school located within Founder Region

Founder Region includes: the Northern California counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma; the State of Hawaii; and the U.S. Territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

APPLY ONLINE (SCAN OR VISIT)
founderregionfellowship.org/application-portal

President, Kay Kelley • kaykelley221813@gmail.com
www.FounderRegionFellowship.org

Graduate deans, program directors and fellowship offices: please share with eligible doctoral candidates.

FOUNDER REGION, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

2027 Conference · April 30 – May 2, 2027 · San Ramon, California

Advertise in Our Conference Program

Put your business or club in front of Founder Region Soroptimist members from Northern California, Hawai‘i, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and support our mission to help women and girls live their dreams.

Bonus reach: the program will also be posted on the Founder Region website, and ads will be shared on the Founder Region Facebook page.

Ad Rates

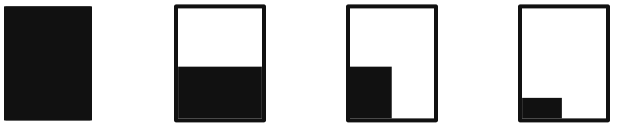
Inside Front Cover Full color. You may provide 1 promotional item for the conference bags.	**$1,000**
Inside Back Cover Full color. You may provide 1 promotional item for the conference bags.	**$1,000**
INTERIOR ADS · BLACK & WHITE	
Full Page	**$450**
Half Page	**$275**
Quarter Page	**$150**
Business Card Great for clubs	**$40**

Conference Sponsor **$2,000**

ONLY ONE AVAILABLE

Full-color back cover ad, plus a conference banner with your business name and logo recognizing you as Conference Sponsor. You may also provide 2 promotional items for the conference bags.

Ad Sizes



Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card
7.5" × 10"	7.5" × 4.75"	3.625" × 4.75"	3.5" × 2"

Refer an advertiser, get a free ad!

Any club or club member who gets a business to buy an ad receives a **free business-card ad** as a thank-you. It counts even if it’s your own business!

ARTWORK SPECS

Print-ready PDF or PNG. Interior ads print in **black & white**, so please send grayscale artwork at 300 dpi. Cover ads print in full color. Need help? We can design a business-card ad for you.

DEADLINES

All ads, artwork and payment are due **March 31, 2027**. Space is limited to a 40-page program and is assigned first come, first served.

Clubs: show your Soroptimist pride for just $40

- **Congratulate a Live Your Dream winner**
- **Celebrate a Violet Richardson awardee**
- **Thank your president**
- **Share your club’s theme**
- **Spotlight a signature program**
- **Brag about your club’s year**

TO RESERVE AN AD, CONTACT

Jackie De Vries · (925) 726-8948

frgovernorjackie@gmail.com

Checks payable to Founder Region Conference 2027

SAMPLE ADS · LOCAL BUSINESSES

Ideas for Advertisers

Shown in black & white, as they will print. Businesses shown below are fictional examples, not to scale.

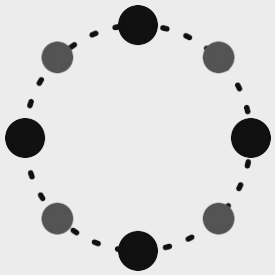
Aloha, Hawai‘i businesses!

Our 2028 conference will be on O‘ahu, so this is a great time to introduce yourself to Founder Region members.

HALF PAGE · HONOLULU

Kaimukī Lei & Flower Co.

Aloha, Founder Region! Fresh lei for installations, award winners and every celebration in between.



10% off for conference attendees
Show your badge

[Street Address], Honolulu, HI
(808) 555-0142 · [website]

QUARTER PAGE · HONOLULU

Mānoa Morning Café

Kona coffee, fresh malasadas and a warm welcome to every Soroptimist in town.

Open daily 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.

[Street Address], Honolulu, HI
(808) 555-0118

QUARTER PAGE · SOLANO COUNTY



Green Valley Family Dental

Proud to support the women and girls of Solano County. New patients welcome.

[Street Address], Fairfield, CA
(707) 555-0187 · [website]

SAMPLE ADS · SOROPTIMIST CLUBS · $40 EACH · 8 PER PAGE

Business-Card Ads

Congratulate a Live Your Dream winner or Violet Richardson awardee, thank your president, share your theme or brag about your club. Send us your words and we'll design the ad. Samples are shown enlarged and are for illustration only.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

Thank You, Members of SI/Santa Rosa for your hard work this year!

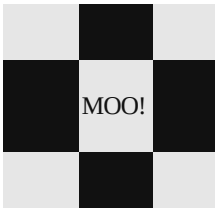
Love from the SI/Santa Rosa Board

OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Live Your Dream Awards

Helping women who head their households finish their education and build a better life.

Soroptimist International of Vallejo



OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER

Ask us about Cow Chip Bingo!

Soroptimist International of Crescent City

CELEBRATING NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the ʻOhana!

[New Member], [New Member] and [New Member]: we're so glad you joined us this year.

Soroptimist International of Honolulu

OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Dream It, Be It

Career guidance that helps girls set goals and reach them. Proud to mentor [#] girls this year!

Soroptimist International of Calistoga

CLUB BRAG

105 **Years of service**

Where it all began

Soroptimist International of Oakland — The Founder Club

WELCOME MESSAGE

E Komo Mai, Founder Region!

Welcome, sisters. Enjoy the conference!

Soroptimist International of Central Oʻahu

AWARD SPOTLIGHT

Violet Richardson Award

Congratulations to [Honoree], a young woman making a difference through volunteering.

— Soroptimist International of Eel River Valley

FOUNDER REGION, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Program Ad Order Form

2027 Conference · April 30 – May 2, 2027 · San Ramon, California

DUE WITH PAYMENT
March 31, 2027

1 · ADVERTISER INFORMATION

Business or club name

Contact name

Phone

Email

Mailing address

City, State, ZIP

2 · CHOOSE YOUR AD

☐	**Conference Sponsor** · only one available · full-color back cover, conference banner, 2 promo items in conference bag	**$2,000**
☐	**Inside Front Cover** · full color · 1 promo item in conference bag	**$1,000**
☐	**Inside Back Cover** · full color · 1 promo item in conference bag	**$1,000**
☐	**Full Page** · black & white · 7.5" × 10"	**$450**
☐	**Half Page** · black & white · 7.5" × 4.75"	**$275**
☐	**Quarter Page** · black & white · 3.625" × 4.75"	**$150**
☐	**Business Card** · black & white · 3.5" × 2" · how many? _____	**$40 each**

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ _____

3 · YOUR ARTWORK

☐ I'm sending my own print-ready **PDF or PNG** (interior ads in black & white).

☐ **Please design my business-card ad.** My wording is below (about 20 words).

Headline

Message

Name as it should appear

4 · REFERRAL THANK-YOU

Did a club or club member refer you? They'll receive a free business-card ad as a thank-you.

Referred by (club or member name)

5 · PAYMENT

Make checks payable to **Founder Region Conference 2027**

Mail payment to Danelle Tegarden,
3505 Pine Street, Eureka, CA 95503

Email this form to frgovernorjackie@gmail.com by March 31, 2027.

Check number

Amount

Signature

Date

Email artwork and questions to frgovernorjackie@gmail.com

Jackie De Vries · (925) 726-8948