



Final Biennium Newsletter of 2024-2026

Governor's June Message

I do have a couple of things to remind you of in this my last article.

1. By now you should have received an email from SIA asking you to sign the Code of Conduct. Please do look into that and make sure you sign off.
2. SIA is having a campaign to recruit 100 Stargazers in 100 days. That runs through July 9, 2026. This is a painless way to set up a monthly donation which goes to further the Soroptimist mission. And you get a really cool star-shaped pin.

It was wonderful having time with some of you at Leadership Training in Concord and I look forward to seeing more of you at the training in Eureka followed by Memorial Grove. Being together with like-minded people and working to help women and girls is truly rewarding.

With that, I must say good-bye. My thanks to all of you who have stood with me over the last two years. It was a privilege and an honor to be your Governor. I am proud of each and every one of you and hope you continue your efforts. Most important, please remember to keep the fun in Soroptimist.

Governor Elise

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

June 23, 2026 — Leadership Round Table (LRT) SIA

June 26, 2026 — Leadership Training via Zoom

June-August — Sign the Leadership Code of Conduct. [LINK](#)

Pillar Reports

FUNDRAISING PILLAR- Joy Swank, Chair

Happy Summer from your lovely Fundraising Chair Joy Swank

Thanks for all you do for Soroptimists. My last newsletter as Region Fundraising Chair. Let me go out with doing my job, which is to ask you to please:

- Join Stargazers - Only \$5.00 a month times over a thousand women in Founder Region and we are talking impact. You also get a cute Star pin.
- Become a Laurel Society member- a thousand is a tough ask, so I recommend monthly payments- your money supports all Dream Programs
- Become a Fellow- these are the women who will change the world- again a big ask, so monthly giving for sure.

Finally, thanks for anything you can do to help support our mission. We are making a difference globally. I know, I had the privilege of attending our U.N. session in March 2025 with Governor- elect Jackie. It was a proud moment to be with so many dynamic women, yay. Soroptimists.

Hugs to all, Joy

MEMBERSHIP PILLAR- Angie Haramoto, Chair

We are coming to the end of this biennium, and I hope your club has been using the tools you received in recruiting members for your club. If you need a refresher on what was presented at this year's Conference, you can find it on [Soroptimist.org/region chair resources/](https://soroptimist.org/region-chair-resources/). Don't forget that the Region Chair and your District Director are available to assist you in recruiting members.

PROGRAM PILLAR-Jackie De Vries, Chair

Remember the deadlines- Big Goal and Dream It, Be It- June 30.

Let's gear up for the next round of Live Your Dream. Can we beat our best year ever? Last year we awarded 128 deserving women. We are making a difference and an impact! LYD Chair Maida made presentations at the Leadership Training. Follow her information next year for ways to reach more women.

Consider a Zoom application walk thru to make the application more approachable. Many eligible women self-select out because they don't think they qualify or the process feels intimidating. Hosting a brief informational session on Zoom, where you walk through the application together removes that barrier significantly. Talk to Maida or your District Rep. they are here to help.

Have a Live Your Dream winner come to your club as a speaker- it will make her feel valued and it will create excitement in your club. You can use for public awareness-remember to get a media release.

Are you interested in joining in on a Dream It, Be It program? Contact Nushi, the district III Dream It, Be It rep. This opportunity is not just open to District III clubs, but any clubs who want to join.



PUBLIC AWARENESS PILLAR- Sue Pretzer, Chair

Lessons That Actually Work: Building Club Awareness Through Local Press

As my term as Public Awareness Chair draws to a close, I find myself reflecting — with real gratitude — on the time I've spent alongside Founder Region leadership and, most importantly, with all of you, our member clubs. I hope the work we've done together has been meaningful. And as I step back, I want to leave you with what I have learned in working with the local press.

Here are three simple lessons that any club can use to earn real coverage and show your community exactly why your Soroptimist mission matters.

· **Know Your Story — and Why It Matters Beyond Your Club**

Before you ever pick up the phone to call a reporter, get clear on this: *why should someone who's never heard of your club care?* Your story isn't just about a meeting or a fundraiser. It's about a student whose life was changed. A family that got support. A community that's a little better because your members showed up. Find that thread and pull it.

· **Contact the Press Early — Before and After the Event**

Don't wait until after the event to reach out. Give your local reporter lead time to plan a story *before* the event — ideally with a compelling angle already packaged for them. Then follow up with photos and quotes afterward. Two bites at the apple, one event.

· **Do the Work: Write the Story Yourself**

Don't leave the narrative to chance. Draft an article that *could run as-is* — a real, human story about a scholarship recipient, written with care. Include quotes. Include context. Make the reporter's job as easy as possible. In our experience, a well-written draft doesn't just help; it often runs nearly word for word.

Have a great summer! Sue Pretzer

LIVE YOUR DREAM REPORT- Maida Herbst, Chair

Get Ready, Get Set....Go time is almost here so it is never too early to start. The Application Portal will open for club LYD chairs and applicants after August 1. Your Founder Region LYD directors and I are ready to help you recruit, judge and award more deserving women.

If you were an LYD club chair, please consider serving again or mentoring the new chair. Clubs should give strong consideration to having at least 2 people on the LYD committee. One person can manage the Application Portal. The other committee member can assist with other components. If you have not used the Application Portal, or have heard that it is hard, the district directors and I can walk you through every step.

For the June/July 2026 period, clubs can start with these steps:

1. Your club treasurer will update the on-line roster when they are paying dues. SIA will send the club LYD chair an email at the end of July. This is where the LYD chair signs the on-line confidentiality agreement.
2. Use the link here to access the SIA LYD resources: <https://bit.ly/4mRuYct> The first resource you can download is called Step By Step Guide: How To Give a Live Your Dream Award. This 2 page guide gives you a brief overview of the 10 steps of giving an LYD award.
3. The Step by Step guide gives you a link to the download for the LYD Club Participation Toolkit - yes it is 48 pages long, but you don't have to print it. The Table of Contents gives you hyperlinks to the sections you want to access.
4. Learn about the research and impact of the LYD program: <bit.ly/4l26yes> This will give you LYD infographics you can share for your recruiting and fundraising activities.
5. Next go to the recruiting applicants section: <bit.ly/445RFRE> This section gives you everything you need to find your LYD applicants.

In 25/26, clubs proved that they believe in and support Live Your Dream, the SIA identifying project. Let's get ready for 26/27.

For questions, encouragement or help, please email me at MaidaRHIA@aol.com.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

From Across the Region

DISTRICT I- Director Laura Koehler

This month is my last month to serve as District Director. I have enjoyed working with all the clubs and being able to get to know everyone better. It has been a great experience for me, especially improving my ability to speak in front of groups and expanding my leadership skills. I couldn't have done it without all the support I received from our amazing District 1 clubs and particularly the club presidents. I feel confident that Jennifer Chiarelli will be a wonderful District 1 Director for the new biennium and that she will receive the same support I have received from all of you. Thanks!

DISTRICT II-Director Dana Holve

As we close out this biennium, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for every club. Your dedication, passion, and tireless commitment to improving the lives of women and girls has been truly inspiring. Each club has brought energy and heart to our shared mission, and it has been an honor to serve alongside you all.

As we look ahead, I am excited to continue serving on the board as your District II Director for the upcoming biennium. Together, we will continue to uplift, educate, and empower, stronger than ever. Thank you!

DISTRICT III-Director Nancy Koski

Welcome to the last month of Founder Region's 2024-2026 Biennium! Many of you are celebrating the Installation of your club's 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Many are attending Leadership Training this month. You have held gala fundraisers, including crab & lobster feeds (one lasting TWO days), book faires and afternoon teas, coastal architectural tours, raffles, Finko and Bingo nights, silent auctions and lavish luncheons, "Mary Poppins," women in film nights, and walks for women.

Your efforts have allowed you to honor LYD winners and local community support for women and girls who need a hand up, and so much more. You are the most amazing women! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication and friendship.

DISTRICT IV- Director Crystal Arbuthnot

Greetings from beautiful Redwood Country—District IV!

As we wrap up this biennium, we'll gather in the heart of the redwoods for Leadership Training in Eureka and the Memorial Grove Ceremony at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, where we honor and remember those who have gone before us. It is always a meaningful event and a wonderful opportunity to come together as a Soroptimist family.

Many of our clubs take a break during the summer months, so I want to wish each of you a joyful, relaxing, and well-deserved summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first Presidents Round Table (PRT) meeting in August—if I don't see you at Leadership first!

And yes...that also means I was elected as your 2026–2027 District IV Director. LOL!

As a reminder, please be sure to submit your new officer information and complete the SIA Code of Conduct if you haven't already done so. Thank you for your attention to these important tasks.

It has been a pleasure working with all of our club presidents over the past two years, and I look forward to continuing those relationships while welcoming our new—and returning—leaders.

Take care, enjoy your summer, and I'll see you soon!

Crystal Arbuthnot

District IV Director

DISTRICT V-Teri Sato

Hafa Adai and Aloha District V: I am humbled and thank you so much for having me as your District Director. It has been truly a joy. I have witnessed your clubs embracing and growing as we work toward our mission of empowering women and girls. I have learned so much from all of you. As we start our new biennium, let's welcome Lisa Ma as your new District Director! Thank you for nominating me for Fellowship Director. I am humbled and will do my best to serve all of you and share as much as I know about Fellowship as we continue to work toward our Soroptimist mission

DREAM IT, BE IT-Jackie Arnold, Chair

As my time as Founder Region's Dream It, Be It Chair comes to a close in just a few short weeks, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Serving in this role has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Soroptimist journey.

Thank you to every club, coordinator, volunteer, and member who worked tirelessly to empower girls through Dream It, Be It. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to helping young women achieve their dreams have been truly inspiring.

I am especially grateful to Founder Region for your incredible support, encouragement, and friendship throughout the year. The memories we have made together will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will truly miss working with all of you in this capacity.

I hope everyone has submitted their Dream It, Be It project reports and celebrated the remarkable impact they have made in their communities.

As one chapter ends, another exciting one begins. I know Founder Region is in wonderful hands, and I look forward to seeing all the amazing things Governor Jackie will accomplish in the year ahead.

Thank you for your support, your dedication, and the many memories we have shared. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Dream It, Be It Chair.

With sincere gratitude,

Jackie

Founder Region Dream It, Be It Chair

"S" Club- Dawn Shepherd, Chair

A BIG Thank You to all of our "S" Club liaisons in Founder Region!!!!

It is now June, which brings our club year to a close. In reflection, our Liaisons mentored our "S" Clubs on how to work together as Officers, shared insight on how to recruit members, provided guidance on programs our "S" Clubs may be interested in and encouraged "S" Club members to take advantage of Soroptimist scholarship opportunities.

Our liaisons celebrated success with our “S” Clubs and cheered them on throughout the year. Thank you to our Soroptimist Liaisons and the Clubs who support them. You make a difference! Happy summer to all!
Dawn

SIA UPDATES

News from SIA

Through our combined efforts, we are achieving our Big Goal of helping make the dreams of half a million more women and girls come true by 2031!



Did you sign the Leadership Code of Conduct yet?

Leadership Code of Conduct [LINK](#)

Code of Conduct Process [LINK](#)

Convention Store

Shop convention favorites with a brand-new online ordering experience and mobile pickup. Browse the sample showroom during convention and discover exclusive merchandise, including limited-edition scarves, convention t-shirts, collectible pins, and more. Don't miss this fresh new way to shop for your convention must-haves!



Virginia “Gigie” Penalosa Named President-elect

Congratulations to Virginia “Gigie” Penalosa of SI/Mandaluyong (Philippines Region), who was elected to serve as 2026-2027 SIA President-elect from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027. She will assume the office of president on September 1, 2027, and serve in that position until August 31, 2028.





FELLOWSHIP REPORT

“Solving Puzzles by Degrees”

Greetings Founder Region,

The 2024-2026 biennium is soon coming to a close and in a couple of weeks the new biennium will begin. Your club should be working on your 2026-2027 club budget, so I want to remind you to make Fellowship contributions a line item in your budget so you can all continue to support Founder Region’s identifying project. Donation suggestions:

- Donate \$1,000/year and name a club Fellow each year
- Donate \$500/year and name a club Fellow every two years
- Budget for more than one Fellow each year to honor more members
- Donate any amount in honor of your President or other board members for their service
- Update your bylaws to make Fellowship your “charity of choice” for memorial contributions
- Honor your members with donations to Fellowship for club milestone anniversaries and special recognitions

Founder Region Fellowship is almost completely financially supported by our members and clubs; the more you promote Fellowship, the more your members will find value in our mission. Thank you for your continued support.

It has been such an honor and a privilege to be Fellowship President these past two years and I thank you all for your trust in me as I began this Fellowship journey two years ago. In fact, it has been an incredible journey for me over the past twelve years serving on the Founder Region board and then these last two years with Fellowship. I have learned so much and made so many great friends. Although I will miss serving in a board capacity moving forward, I will still continue to serve Founder Region and Fellowship as best I can.

I love Fellowship, I love being a Soroptimist, and I love and appreciate you all.

Thank you,

President Vicki

Fellowship Board

President—Vicki Ham

Treasurer—Danelle Tegarden

Fellowship Directors

District I—Amelia Benko

District II—Kay Kelley

District III—Laurie Gallian

District IV—Tess Albin-Smith

District V—Cindy Rasmussen

Website:

www.founderregionfellowship.org

Email:

vickiham01@gmail.com

Treasurer Email:

danelletegarden@gmail.com

Address:

3505 Pine Street, Eureka, CA
95503



OUR MISSION:

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





**Become a
Fellow**

Congratulations Fellow Winners at Conference!

Friday Night Table Drawing

Jean Aldinger, SI/St. Helena

Puzzle Games

Judy Moon, SI/Martinez, gifted to Juliana Chiarelli

Barbara Young, SI/Santa Rosa

Allyne Brown, SI/Ukiah

Michelle Klimesh, SI/Eel River Valley

Bobbi Enderlin, SI/Benicia

Lydia Justice, SI/The Tri-Valley

Cara Begley, SI/Antioch

Amanda Reed, SI/Eureka

Bev Gomer, SI/Martinez

Prize Wheel Instant Fellows

Debbie Thompson, SI/Eel River Valley

Amanda Reed, SI/Eureka

Carolyn Bolton, SI/Oakland-The Founder Club

Sally Munger, SI/Clear Lake

A special "Thank You" to those who donated \$1,000

S. Kalani Brady, SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

Teri Lynn Sato, SI/Honolulu

Karen White, SI/Vacaville Twilight

Loretta Tognoli, SI/Ukiah

Club Named Fellows

Janice Ishiara, SI/Central Oahu

Marianne Gerardo, SI/Sonoma Valley

Fellow Award from Donations in Honor of Colleen Ganaye

Maddy Leader, SI/Sonoma Valley

Please consider donating monthly to Founder Region Fellowship to ensure women are fully represented in research and academia.

