



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Jackie De Vries
Governor

Founder Region Connections

Empowering Through Education

October, 2026



Governor's October Message

Happy Fall, Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our District meetings for District I and II and District III and IV. Your participation, questions, and enthusiasm made each meeting a success, and it was wonderful to connect with so many of you in person. Events like these remind us that our greatest strength is our members. Our District I and II meeting had an extra reason to celebrate: it fell on October 3rd, the 105th anniversary of SI/Oakland, the Founder Club!

As you read this, I am getting ready to go to District V to enjoy the Island hospitality at our District V meeting on the 17th followed by Leadership Training on the 18th.

In my presentation on our global impact, I mentioned attending the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN. It is a wonderful experience, and you can find out how to apply in the SI & United Nations Updates section on the next page.

I also want to thank our District Directors for their excellent presentation on Artificial Intelligence. AI may not be for everyone, and that's perfectly fine. Our goal was simply to show you what these tools can do so you can decide for yourself. If you choose to use AI, we encourage you to use it responsibly, as one more tool in your toolbox and never a replacement for your own judgment and experience, as the Directors emphasized.

Thank you for all you do for Founder Region. I look forward to seeing you at our next gathering. Please be sure to read my [October Governor's Blog](#)

We value your input about our meetings and programs. Please use this QR code to help us be responsive to your comments and ideas.

Warmly,
Governor Jackie



SIA News

October marks the start of our first #SorooptimistsUpliftHER focus of the club year: intimate partner violence. Together, we can help create greater awareness, support survivors, and empower women to build safer, brighter futures. [Explore UpliftHER resources.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to all the clubs celebrating a milestone anniversary during the month of October!

SI/Oakland - The Founder Club, CA (Founder Region)- 105

Looking to grow your club? Check out SIA's recruitment tips [here](#).

SIA will begin using AI translation services. You can read about their methods [here](#).

IMPORTANT SIA Survey. As our new Education Pillar Chair, Joy Swank mentioned, SIA needs your input to find out what members want from this new pillar. Use the QR code below to complete the survey. Please take about 7 minutes to complete it today.



English - SIA Ed & Training Needs Assessment

SI & United Nations Updates

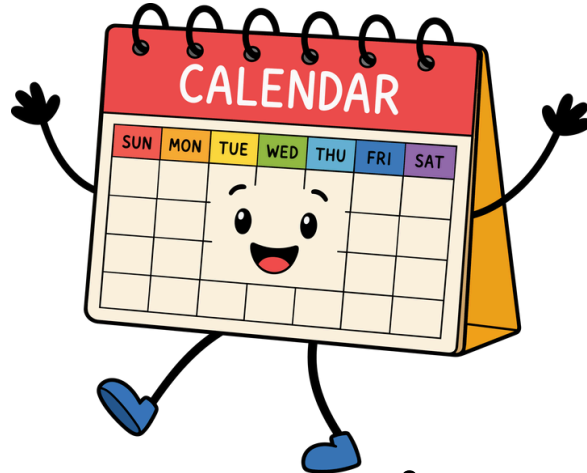
Represent SI at CSW71

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.



Calendar of Important Dates



Upcoming:

November 15, LYD Portal Closes

December 1, Nominations due for the nominating committee

December 15, Violet Richardson Applications close

January 15, LYD Club winners due for early incentive drawing



All District Meeting resources will be published on the Founder Region Website in November so that you can share with your clubs.



Founder Region Fellowship

Founder Region Fellowship President's Message



Apples for Education is this biennium's opportunity-drawing campaign to win a fellowship while supporting this year's Fellowship grant awardees. For a \$20 donation per apple, you receive a 1-in-50 chance to win a fellowship. When the basket is full, we will draw a winner and announce the result on our Facebook page. We will also post a progress thermometer showing how close we are to filling the next basket. At the conference in May, we will return all apples not drawn during the year to the basket for a second chance to win a fellowship. Remember, you do not have to be a Soroptimist member to participate in the fellowship program. Please invite your friends and family to purchase an apple for our basket. Participating is easy: simply scan the QR code below to visit our new Zeffy page and make your purchase. We will add your name and phone number to a tag and place it in the basket for you. It's that simple!

District meetings for Districts I, II, III, and IV have been completed and were very successful. Next, we will visit Hawaii District V. We are grateful to participate in these meetings, spread the word about fellowships, and give members the opportunity to ask questions. We also thank everyone who supported our sales table and participated in the Fellowship basket drawing by using the number system instead of hard-copy tickets. We conducted the drawings using Google's random-number generator. In addition, we drew two fellowships in each district from clubs that sold all their tickets. Winning clubs may use the fellowship awards to recognize a deserving member.

We are also making it easier for you to become a monthly donor and fellowship supporter. We heard your concerns about online platforms such as PayPal, so our new forms include a QR code and a link to our Zeffy account. Zeffy allows you to donate by credit card, direct bank transfer, or check—without completing multiple forms.

Best of all, Fellowship pays no fees to use this platform, so 100% of your donation goes to the nonprofit organizations we support. Zeffy may ask you to contribute an optional platform fee, but it's not required. We previously paid considerable fees through PayPal, and we want as much of your donation as possible to support the grant program. If you already use PayPal, don't worry—we will continue to accept PayPal donations.

The fellowship application portal opens October 15 and closes January 16. Special thanks to Kris Chorbi for revising the application, which the board has approved.

As we approach the end of 2026 and the holiday season, please consider the tax benefits of donating to fellowships. More importantly, remember that your support helps women and girls improve their lives and achieve their goals through these grants.

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

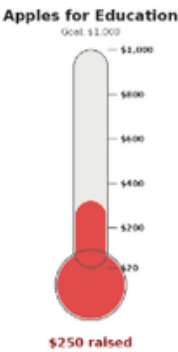
Apples for Education Campaign



Scan Code to Donate



Watch our Progress





Membership Pillar

By: Kimmie Radford, Founder Region Membership Pillar Chair

Membership: Belonging, Growing, and Moving Forward Together

Membership is more than inviting new women to join Soroptimist. It's about creating a place where women feel valued, connected, and inspired to stay.

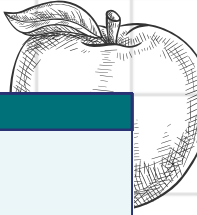
As we launch our Driven by Dreams membership campaign, let's remember that one of the most effective ways to grow is to take care of the members we already have. Retention begins with belonging. Take time to check in with members, celebrate their contributions, ask about their interests, and make sure they have meaningful opportunities to participate. Sometimes, a simple "We're glad you're here" can make all the difference.

As we welcome new members, let's invite them into the experience, not just the meetings. Connect them with other members, introduce them to our Dream Programs, give them opportunities to share their talents, and help them discover where their own passions intersect with Soroptimist's mission.

Every member has a story, a reason she joined, and something valuable to contribute. When we create an environment where women feel seen, appreciated, and connected to our mission, we strengthen our clubs from the inside out.

Let's make Driven by Dreams more than a membership drive. Let's make it an invitation to belong, to contribute, and to grow together. Because when our members thrive, Soroptimist thrives!





Soroptimist "S" Club Connection

By: Sonia Freytes, Founder Region "S" Club Chair

Growing Leaders • Building Friendships • Serving Communities



The Soroptimist "S" Club program gives young people an opportunity to develop leadership skills, build confidence, serve their communities, and make a positive difference. As we work to strengthen and expand "S" Clubs, let's focus on connecting our Soroptimist clubs and sharing our experiences.

Let's Connect!

Soroptimist clubs with successful "S" Clubs can support clubs that are interested in starting a program. Clubs can share meeting ideas, service projects, recruitment materials, fundraising suggestions, and lessons learned. Sometimes, a simple phone call, email, Zoom meeting, or club visit can provide the encouragement and information needed to get started.



Clubs can also create opportunities for "S" Club members to connect through joint service projects, leadership activities, community events, or special gatherings. These experiences allow young people to meet others who share their interest in service and leadership.

Helping New "S" Clubs Get Started

If your Soroptimist club is considering starting an "S" Club, begin by reaching out to a local school, teacher, counselor, or youth organization. Connect with students who are interested in making a difference and help them choose a meaningful first service project. Experienced "S" Clubs can serve as mentors by sharing resources, answering questions, and offering encouragement.

Together, we can build stronger connections, support new "S" Clubs, and inspire the next generation of community leaders.

Let's connect, share, and grow "S" Clubs together!





Live Your Dream

By: Maida Herbst, Founder Region Live Your Dream Chair

One month to go for applicants to submit their application by November 15. Most applicants complete their application in the month of November so keep recruiting. Places we have recently heard about include mental health counselors, religious organizations, domestic abuse shelters, and local business owners.

The most important thing an LYD chair can do now is this: when the LYD Awards team at SIA contacts you, log on to your application portal and download the application. I like to print them out and immediately review for eligibility. You can find the eligibility guidelines by going to this link:

<https://bit.ly/4yFPa6r>

Please note that Guideline #4 of the eligibility guidelines discusses graduation dates. If an applicant is graduating before January 2027, they will not be eligible to go forward for District judging. The club can still award them if they choose, but the applicant cannot advance to your District judging if they are a club's #1 winner.

Questions, suggestions, problems??? Please contact your District LYD Representatives Jennifer Chiarelli, Judy Lloyd, Nancy Giltner, Debbie Coles, Wendy McDonald, or me.

Thank you all for making Live Your Dream happen.

Maida Herbst
Founder Region Live Your Dream Chair
707-337-7673 (before 8PM)

