



# FounderLink

The newsletter of *Soroptimist International of the Americas - Founder Region*

**Mary Ann Redden, Governor**

September, 2003 Volume 3, Number 1

<http://www.sifounderregion.org/fr-home.html>

## ***A Message from the Editor***

Your Founder Region Leadership is working hard on Governor Mary Ann's theme to "achieve growth by sharing". This newsletter is part of that hard work. It is my commitment, as the new editor, to continue FounderLink with the same high standards as others who preceded me. This marks my first edition. I was honored when Governor Mary Ann ask me to edit the FounderLink on-line newsletter. Since joining Soroptimist International of San Ramon, a little over a year ago, I am overwhelmed by the support I receive for our local newsletter. The support is no different at the Founder Region level. A couple of months ago, when I agreed to edit FounderLink, many people stepped in to share their knowledge to bring me up to speed. With this edition, even in the middle of a busy summer, many of your Founder Region leadership were able to share enlighten articles. I am proud to be a part of an organization with such a helpful, sharing spirit.

Thanks to District Director Carol, Governor Mary Ann, Governor Elect Cathy and Webmaster Diane Allen for getting me started. And a big Soroptimist thanks to the all the Board & Committee chairs for helping with this edition. Submitted by Jean Quick

For submissions:

[www.sifounderregion.org/news/fr-news-submissions.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/news/fr-news-submissions.html)

**Next FounderLink Deadline:**

November 15, 2003

## ***A Message from Governor Mary Ann***

Dear Members of Founder Region,

It has been an exciting first year of the biennium. The District Meetings were very well attended and the working together and sharing of ideas was terrific. Thank you for your comments on the presentation on Violence Against Women. This focus is one that is very important and special to me and I appreciate you taking the time and energy to continue to work on trying to eliminate all the different forms of violence against women.

Conference was very exciting. The Friday morning panel discussion was one of the best. Again, the theme of Violence-Lessons Learned-Next Steps reminded us all of the importance of working together. We must continue to try and change society for the betterment of women. Michael Pritchard, the motivational and inspirational speaker on Saturday afternoon, brought tears of laughter to all. The award winners presented throughout the weekend, rekindled our commitment of why we exist.

The business session on Saturday brought forth many new changes for the Founder Region. Starting in 2004, there will be elections held at District Meetings for the Nominating Committee. The conference to be held April 30-May 2, 2004 in Guam will be an exciting one. Founder Region Officers, Directors and all Founder Region Fellowship Directors will be elected and installed.

Another first happened this biennium. A bus trip to the Redwood Memorial Grove was held June 7-8, 2003. Again, the reports have been positive and we will plan on another one next year. Another exciting event for the Founder Region was the chartering of Soroptimist International of American Canyon. It is very gratifying to know that we are working together and continuing to make a difference for women and girls. Thank you for your commitment to Achieve Growth By Sharing.

Governor Mary Ann

## **Director's Messages**

### **District 1 Director: Chrisann Nicholson**

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Chrisann Nicholson, your District I Director. My husband Jerry and I, have two daughters, (in their 20's!) and live in Castro Valley. I have been a Soroptimist since 1992. After moving up the club officer chain I have served the last 3 years as District Director.

Thank you past presidents and welcome incoming presidents. I know we're all looking forward to a busy and exciting year in our clubs. We will be continuing our district project, S.O.S. for Kids (Soroptimist Organizing Suitcases for Kids) and hope to add other area or district wide activities to increase public awareness of Soroptimist activities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The end result should be a rise in Soroptimist membership in District I.

Please save the date Sunday, October 19, 2003. You won't want to miss the District Meeting at the Mira Vista Country Club in El Cerrito. This terrific day will include speaker, Caterina Rando. There will also be plenty of talking and sharing time, so plan now to bring your whole club! We will again be pre-selling Fellowship basket tickets so that we can name a fellow or two at the district meeting. A "club" Fellowship ticket will be given for each member in attendance. So if your club brings 15 members, your club will have 15 extra chances to win a Fellow!

Please don't hesitate to call on me if I can be of any help to you or your club. Best wishes for a great summer. Sincerely, Chrisann Nicholson

### **District 3 Director: Carol Stein**

Plans are almost complete for the 2003 District III Meeting in Vacaville on October 4. With an agenda which includes learning about 501 (c)(3) corporations, finding out about Guam from a former resident, and the sharing of ideas and information by the clubs of the district, it promises to be an upbeat and informative day. The event will be held in Vacaville's historic Opera House.

Already getting down to work, the presidents of District III met for a special Presidents Workshop at the home of District Director Carol in July. From protocol to parliamentary procedure, from fun to fundraising, the day was dedicated to working together, planning the year's activities, and becoming effective presidents as well as fostering the award-winning spirit of District III members.

Members of Founder Region's District III have completed their first year of a two-year long literacy awareness program. Challenged by District Director Carol, a former adult literacy worker, each club has been participating in some way, starting with the 2002 District Meeting where attendees donated books for a women's transitional housing facility. Many clubs already fund college scholarships. Others gained knowledge of literacy with speakers provided by library adult literacy programs or hearing local experts on reading to children. One club at its local library to benefit an adult literacy program sponsored a Trivia Bee.

Among the many other activities and awareness programs are: recruiting authors and literacy directors as members, providing a "Reading Lady" to read to children at recess time, being hands-on volunteers at an author's luncheon library fundraiser, funding a program to provide someone to read to children at medical clinics with free books for the children to take home, pledging up to \$20,000 to help with decorating a new library's children's room, providing financial resources for a family center, donating books and funds to libraries, sponsoring a Bridge to Kids program to allow high school students to tutor elementary age students.

A partnership with Rotary provides all third graders in one town with free dictionaries. Another club has donated dictionaries to all third graders in their newly opened elementary school. A live-in substance abuse program is receiving donations from another club.

District III Soroptimists are committed to improving literacy in their communities. Submitted by Carol Stein

## **Founder Region Committee Messages**

### **Legislative Advocacy Committee Message**

We continue to focus on Governor Mary Ann's theme for this biennium, which is domestic violence. Domestic violence is a problem throughout the world and violence against women and children know no boundaries. Domestic violence is not a social problem but a crime that exists in all economic segments of society, all cultures and in all countries of the world. The cycle of domestic violence must be broken. We, as an organization will continue to promote awareness in our own communities and keep others informed as to agencies where help and guidance can be found.

In keeping with Soroptimist policy our Founder Region Legislative Advocacy Committee is continuing to lobby and involve club members in issues having 'Political' Implications.

We have successfully put together packets that were distributed among Founder Region Clubs for distribution throughout clubs in the United States to get CEDAW ratified first in the Foreign Relations Committee and finally earmarked for the Senate. CEDAW, the Convention For The Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, is a treaty for the rights of women and is the most comprehensive international agreement on basic human rights for all women. This mass mailing effort was designed to let our Government Representatives know who we are and what we stand for, Awareness, Advocacy, and Action. The US is the only industrialized country that has not signed this treaty.

We have emailed information to Founder Region members to be aware of and familiarize themselves with California SB921 and how it could affect their health insurance if it becomes law in the state of California. This bill has passed the Assembly and been sent to a Senate Health Committee for review.

We plan on pursuing and lobbying the state through our elected representatives in California to enact a law leading to the prosecution of those who commit crimes relating to "the sexual trafficking of women and children". Washington is the only state in the USA who has a law against trafficking. Trafficking is the most treacherous form of human trade going on in the world today and it has no boundaries. We must find ways in which to alert and educate law enforcement and other social service agencies of the need to identify and recognize that there is an existing problem in our own communities.

We continue to keep our members informed through emails on what is happening in any one of our six programs of service, Health, Education, Environment, Economic and Social Development, Human Rights/Status of Women, and Goodwill and Understanding. We pass on any legislation we are able to find.

I wish to thank my committee members Carrie Domogalla, Jane Bartke, Dion Weaver, Tess Albin-Smith, Jo Bennett and Angie Haramoto for the joint teamwork that makes this committee a success. Submitted by Gloria Scoggin, Founder Region Legislative Advocacy Committee Chairman

For additional information: [www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-legislative.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-legislative.html)

## ***Fellowship Committee Message***

Founder Region Fellowship is a separate incorporated company that you created uniquely within our Founder Region to give money to women in their final dissertation year. Our mission is to advance the status of women by supporting them in fields traditionally held by men or fields that have great social importance to the world. We gave away \$30,000 last year.

Did you ever wonder where your money goes when you give to Fellowship? I'll admit, a small portion goes to running Fellowship, but as the board members can attest, I'm so tight with your money, I squeak when I walk! Every year, you, as members of Founder Region give \$2.00 as part of your yearly dues to this cause. Donations are made in memory of deceased members or family members, people are given the honor of becoming a Fellow for a donation of \$1000, or donations are made when a speaker comes to speak to your club. (Give your speaker a card with the story of Fellowship on it and tell them a donation has been made in their name to this organization. By the end of the year, you will have enough to make your club a Fellow and you won't have to buy small gifts! Ask your Director for more information.) And at conference, your board members run around with silly hats on their heads and sell chances to become a Fellow at conference. And did you know that we have set up a time pay system that you can become a Fellow on time? Ask your Directors about our Coupon Books! At the August board meeting, a budget from last year's profits are put aside to give out to the candidates and the rest is put into CDs. We work off of the income from these CD's and your donations. Every year our principal is increasing!

A by-product of your money going to these young women is not seen, but heard from all the recipients. All say how much this affirmation of their special work means to them because it comes from a group of women. Your support means that all what they are doing is worthwhile.

This year you gave to Margaret Carne who is studying Interest groups in Political campaigns. I wouldn't be surprised to see her in political office sometime! Katherine Dunphy is making the machines that the doctors will use to cure with her engineering. Irum Shiekh is researching racial profiling and how our country views differences. Candace Lutzow-Felling is showing how we effect environmental change by studying the DNA of Kola Nut trees from different Islands. The Fellows who met these young women at the Invitation Only Cocktail Party (for members that are Fellows!) before the girls spoke to the open conference were very impressed. Your money at work.... it's a good thing! Submitted by Linda Sue Hansen, President, Fellowship

For additional information: [www.sifounderregion.org/fellowship/frf-home.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/fellowship/frf-home.html)

## ***Membership Committee Message***

"ACHIEVE GROWTH BY SHARING" The title of our committee's FounderLink article is the theme Governor Mary Ann chose for Founder Region this biennium. There are so many ways for clubs to "Achieve Growth by Sharing".

Each club member should seek to sponsor at least one new member. Every one of your members should know of prospective members to share Soroptimist membership with.

Develop Soroptimist orientation programs for current members and new members. Please share Soroptimist knowledge. This has a lot to do with the retention of memberships.

Consider sponsoring a new Soroptimist club in your community. There are those in your community who cannot meet on your day and time. Share Soroptimist membership with a new club and thus share community service and projects with one another.

Did you know that at federation level, the Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training Committee has been separated into two committees and renamed? Share this change with your membership. The two committees are "Soroptimist Orientation" and "Leadership Development". We need to get back to "developing" leaders.

Let's share leadership expertise, thus making our clubs stronger and more effective.

Do you truly want to grow your club and enable it to thrive not just survive? Then it's time to fling open the doors and windows of your club, let in some fresh air and dust and clean out the nooks and crannies and move that furniture around! Take a good look at your club, infuse flexibility and consider real change! Here are some suggestions.

Consider abandoning attendance and participation rules. Consider meeting where you can abandon mandatory meeting fees. Allow your members to participate, as they are able. They will do what they can. Make it easier to be a Soroptimist. Make Soroptimist membership more “user friendly”. Look to the community for funding and lift the financial load that some of your members are currently carrying. Call a representative of the Founder Region Member Services Committee to speak to your club or to present a Soroptimist Orientation meeting for you. Call on us to attend prospective member gatherings. And call on us to go mall walking for members with you! It is fun and it produces results!! This is how the new club Soroptimist International of American Canyon was formed! Please share your club with us and allow us to share our knowledge and ideas with you! Submitted by Susan Joyce, Founder Region Membership Committee Chair

## **“S” Club Committee Message**

Described as a “junior” version of a Soroptimist club, “S” Clubs are a group of high school students, both boys and girls, serving their communities with service projects. Their sponsoring Soroptimist club offers leadership and guidance affording the “S” Club members the opportunity to learn the skills required to effectively participate in their communities as “service” volunteers. They learn the duties of officers and directors, committee structure, fundraising methods, leadership skills, parliamentary procedure and protocol. All of this comes from their sponsor Soroptimist club.

All Soroptimist clubs that have chosen to sponsor “S” Clubs have learned that this is a most rewarding experience. It provides the Soroptimist club with a “service” project that fulfills so many of the aims and goals of our organization. Any Club that is considering a focus on youth for their club year, providing them with a valuable learning experience (while helping their own members along the way) should be considering “S” Club sponsorship. The first year of this biennium, I was able to attend an “S” Club Conference, presented by Sierra Pacific Region, with “S” Clubs from California High (S/I San Ramon) and Ferndale High School (S/I Eel River Valley). It was a great trip. I can tell you, with great pride, that Founder Region was well represented and we are anxious to attend next year.

As is typical of Soroptimist, there are a number of tools available to sponsor clubs for chartering an “S” Club. Soroptimist International of the Americas offers a handbook that includes development of an “S” Club, their structure, suggestions for fundraisers and the “S” Club constitution. Founder Region Procedures, J., 2, b. and c. and Appendix A, 5 offer technical information. A new appendix to Founder Region procedures provides an eight-step guide to chartering an “S” Club.

As the chairman of the Founder Region “S” Club committee, I am to provide information to the clubs and my committee members as well as report to the Founder Region at our annual conference. I also provide the sponsor clubs with information and updates regarding the Founder Region Barbara Stevenson “S” Club Awards. You can contact your district committee member or me, for further information on obtaining the guides and handbook or to schedule a speaker for your club meeting. (See the Founder Region roster for their names and contact information.)  
Amelia Benko, Founder Region “S” -Club Chair

## **Violet Richardson Award Committee Message**

Greetings from your Violet Richardson Award Founder Region Chair! Can you believe it’s already time to request the application packets from Headquarters?! All clubs in the Founder Region are encouraged to participate in this program. The information for the award and club instructions is now available on-line in the Members Only section of the website for Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA): [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org). The applications still need to be ordered by fax.

So... who is a Violet Richardson Award Honoree? She is someone who is caring, compassionate, creative and committed to making the world a better place through service. She is a young woman who has initiative in trying to solve a problem and who has noteworthy accomplishments as a volunteer. This award honors the first president of Soroptimist International, Violet Richardson Ward. She was a woman who not only believed in community service, but also, through her volunteerism, did what she could to make the world a better place.

For a young woman to be eligible to apply for the award, she must be between the ages of 14 & 17 on the date of the application. She must be involved in a volunteer activity, preferably projects that benefit women and children, but any project that benefits the community and makes it a better place qualifies. The most important thing to note about this award is that it is based solely on volunteer work. It is **NOT** a scholarship, but a way to recognize a young woman who is committed to making the world a better place. Grades and transcripts are not required for a young woman to apply for the award.

The Violet Richardson Award is a way to reward them for their service. The monetary award does not need to be much as recognition for service is what the award is about. All club winners have the opportunity to move onto District, Founder Region and Federation level competition. Cash awards for both the young woman and her organization are given on the Founder Region and Federation level. Imagine the impact a club could have on a young woman by just by recognizing her work in the community. The young woman you honor today just may be a future Soroptimist.

For further information or if you have any questions, contact your District Chair. They would be happy to help. Submitted by Stephanie Corrington, Founder Region Violet Richardson Committee Chair

For additional information: [www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-VRichardson.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-VRichardson.html)

## **Women's Opportunity Awards Committee Shares**

The Women's Opportunity Awards Program (WOA) is the major service project of Soroptimist International of Americas (SIA), and gives each of our clubs an opportunity to shine in our own communities by presenting cash awards to women, head of households, that have demonstrated a financial need in order to improve their employment status.

The program starts in each club and then advances to District, Founder Region, and finally to Federation where the finalists are awarded \$15,000.00. In the 2002/03 year, 59 clubs in Founder Region presented local awardees with \$55,800.00, and Founder Region awarded \$4500.00 to six District winner. Seven of our clubs did not participate, so Your Founder Region WOA Committee knows we can improve this record.

Please contact your District WOA Chair, if you need information, a speaker, etc.

**\*\*REMEMBER;** each club must order WOA applications from Federation themselves. Your Founder Region committee might have a few extra copies, but we cannot order them in bulk. **Please order WOA applications ASAP, and distribute them to your local contacts immediately.**

**\*\*APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CLUB LEVEL AWARDS IS DECEMBER 15th.** You can back this date up, if December is too hectic, but you must have all applications in your hands by December 15, 2003.

### FEDERATION CHANGES;

1) Club WOA Program kits will no longer be mailed, but may be obtained on the Federation Web Site in the Library of the Members' only section: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org). Most WOA information and materials, including judging sheets, and transmittals, will be found in this section. If you have trouble accessing this material, please contact your District WOA Chair. This is a cost savings measure, and together we can make it work!

2) Clubs will no longer be required to submit a photograph of their winner. Federation will contact us at the club level, if a photograph is need. We know this is a very welcome change.

You can contact your district chair for additional information: Founder Region Chair: Ginger Marsh, District I Chair: Deanna Hanks, District II Chair: Ginger Marsh, District III Chair: Dina Smith, District IV Chair: Nikki Johnson, District V Chair: Beverly Jones, District VI Chair: Alice Matsuno Submitted by Ginger Marsh

For additional information: [www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-WOA.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/service/fr-WOA.html)

## **FOUNDER REGION EVENTS**

### ***Concord Conference***

Thanks to Governor Mary Ann and the Founder Region Board, I was able to enjoy once again the job of Conference Coordinator. It was really a fun experience. The Conference held in May at the Hilton Hotel in Concord was FANTASTIC.... Friday set the tone with a splendid workshop presented by the Legislative Committee. The information was well given, and from comments to me, one of the best in years. The luncheon honoring our Women of Distinction and Human Rights recipients was beautifully done.

Friday afternoon had a first with the Fellow Reception. This is the first time the Fellowship Board has had a chance to thank those who have given so generously over the years. The Fellowship winners joined the group, wine and cheese were consumed, and all had a great time. Friday night started the official proceedings with the Fellowship recipients, and the opening ceremony.

Saturday's highlight was Michael Pritchard. His humor and message were received with laughter and tears of joy. The business of the Founder Region was handled well and went very smoothly. Elections were held for Fellowship Board and Nominating Committee members. Saturday night was the Membership acknowledgement, and dancing.

Sunday's Memorial was stirring and the Awards were inspiring as ever.

My thanks to you as members for your attendance and support, and to the members of Concord and Pleasant Hill for their efficiency and spirit as Hostess clubs. They made my job easy and made every thing run perfectly.

I hope to see many of you at our next Conference in Guam. It is a chance for you to participate in the international flavor that makes our organization so very special. In Soroptimist friendship, Del Nickerson, Conference Coordinator

For future conference dates & location: [www.sifounderregion.org/fr-conference.html](http://www.sifounderregion.org/fr-conference.html)

### ***Leadership - Honolulu, Hawaii***

On June 21, 2003, District VI Leadership was held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. Governor Mary Ann and Governor-elect Cathy traveled to Honolulu to attend the Leadership Training. District VI Director Julie Kamanawa-Kala was also there. All of the Hawaiian clubs, but one was represented at the training.

We began the morning by reviewing the Leadership Manual and discussing the information in each section. Lunch was held downstairs, and we broke up into various groups as we ate and spent the time getting to know each other. After lunch, we went back upstairs to continue our meeting.

The afternoon session was spent discussing the concerns of District VI and how to solve them. The inter-island airfare has risen from \$40.00 round trip to \$160.00 round trip, which has made it extremely difficult for the clubs to participate in President's Roundtables, District Meetings, and Leadership Training. The members' brainstormed, trying to arrive at some solutions. The most important thing that we learned is that the clubs in District VI do not want to be treated any differently than the clubs in the other five Districts, and they want to participate in all of the events. One possible solution to eliminate some of the expense was to conduct the President's Roundtables via e-mail, telephone calls, and/or holding one of the Roundtables immediately after the District Meeting.

After the training, Director Julie conducted a roundtable for those presidents who were present at the meeting. The members that attended the training (and some of them were very new members) were able to bring back to their clubs the tools needed to have a successful year. New friendships were made, old friendships were renewed, and those that attended left knowing how important they are to our Founder Region. Submitted by: Cathy Mitchell, Governor-elect

## **Leadership Training Retreat - Walker Ranch, California**

The Club Officers and Members Training Retreat were held on June 27-28, 2003 at Walker Creek Ranch. 172 Soroptimist members attended the retreat.

Registration began Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Members checked in, were given their room assignments and materials, and were free to visit with other members until dinner at 6:00 p.m. We were welcomed in the dining room by Susie Dodge, Conference Manager, who filled us in on housekeeping details and told us about the many animals we may encounter. After a delicious dinner of chicken, corn, salad, and brownies, we adjourned to the Maple Room.

Governor Mary Ann welcomed everyone to the retreat and then introduced Soroptimist International of San Ramon. The San Ramon club had been asked to speak to the assembly about their success. Not too long ago, their club was in jeopardy and they were in danger of losing their charter, they are now 21 members strong, they have started a "S" Club, and they had the most members attending the Leadership Retreat - 11. It was great to hear the enthusiasm from the members of Soroptimist International of San Ramon, and they gave the audience some good ideas to bring back to their clubs.

Governor Mary Ann then introduced Jean Quick, a member of Soroptimist International of San Ramon, and the new editor of Founder Link, the Founder Region newsletter. Jean told us how each club can develop their own website and newsletter and she also gave us an overview of the Founder Region newsletter, FounderLink.

Saturday morning began with breakfast at 8:00 am, and then we adjourned to the Maple Room to hear the Leadership Workshop presented by Nick Sensley\*. Nick was a speaker on the Friday morning panel discussion held at conference. He is a Sergeant with the Santa Rosa Police Department and President of Cross-sector Solutions. His workshop defined leaders, and what it takes to be a good leader. His workshop was interactive and many of the members in the audience participated with their definitions of leadership and asked him a lot of questions. His workshop was a huge success, and there was a lot of positive feedback about Nick and his workshop.

After lunch on Saturday, there were breakout sessions for the officers of the clubs and the members. This was an opportunity to meet with the District Directors and Founder Region Officers and ask questions and learn about the club offices. After the breakout sessions, we met back in the Maple Room to wrap up. Soroptimist International of Healdsburg and Marin County spoke to the assembly about their successes in recruiting new members. The Retreat ended with the members holding hands and reciting the Soroptimist Pledge.

Believe it or not, next year's Leadership Training is already in the planning stages. I would like to hear from members who may have suggestions regarding the retreat i.e.: Workshop topics, guest speakers, and Friday night program. Please e-mail me; I would appreciate hearing from you. Submitted by, Cathy Mitchell, Governor-elect, [cmitch9986@aol.com](mailto:cmitch9986@aol.com)

For photos at Walker Ranch go to SI San Ramon's: <http://www.soroptimist-sr.org/eventlead1.htm>

### **\*"Leadership" by Nick Sensley**

#### **Portrait of a Leader**

1. Decisive
2. Forward Thinking (Visionary)
3. Good Listeners
4. Keeps Commitments
5. Consistent
6. Good judgment
7. Fair
8. Gives recognition
9. Removes work barriers
10. Develops followers
11. Responsible and accountable

#### **Superb Leadership**

Superb leaders are:

- Committed to the "core ideology"
- Builders of trust within the organization
- Developers of subordinate leadership
- Maintainers of trust sustaining organizational architecture and culture

## **Club Message**

### ***The Cancer Walk, July 26, 2003***

Over 80 of the Valley Girls from the 6 Napa Valley Clubs- SI Calistoga, SI St Helena, SI St Helena Sunrise, SI Napa, SI Napa Sunrise, and the brand new Valley club, SI American Canyon joined together with the American Cancer Society at their annual Cancer Walk to help raise awareness and funds to prevent all kinds of cancers. We pitched our tents on the football field at Napa Valley College and walked the track in teams for 24 hours. The walk started off with survivors of cancer walking around the track with all of us on the sidelines cheering them on! Not a dry eye was seen. Doves were released and names read. We walked in shifts while others rested to take over when we were tired. And yes, someone did have the 3 a.m. shift and was out there walking! We helped raise over \$314,000. At 9 p.m., they lit luminary bags in honor of or in memory of cancer victims and placed them around the inside and outside rings of the track. They also spelled out the word HOPE which is what we, as Soroptimists, are doing. We hope for a cure to end this dreaded disease. Submitted by Linda Sue Hansen