



# FounderLink

The newsletter of *Soroptimist International of the Americas - Founder Region*  
*Mary Ann Redden, Governor*  
*March, 2004 Volume 4, Number 1*

## Governor's Message

The rush of the holidays is behind us and I hope that everyone enjoyed the season. Things are still very busy within the Region. The nominating committee has completed their task and has produced a slate of candidates for Region Officers, Directors and Fellowship Directors to be elected at Conference, May 1, 2004. The Women's Opportunity Awards, Violet Richardson Awards, Making A Difference For Women and Violet Richardson Ward "Service to Youth" Award Committees are in the process of accepting the club applications to determine the District and Region winners to be presented during Conference.

On March 27, a caucus will be held in Cloverdale to discuss the proposed amendments to the bylaws. It is important to send delegates to the caucus in order to participate in the discussions. Holding a caucus allows more information to be shared and makes the deliberations during conference easier. Conference is scheduled for April 30, May 1 and 2, 2004. Soroptimist International of Guam and Soroptimist International of The Marianas are working very hard to ensure that this Conference will be wonderful. Our official visitor, President of Soroptimist International of the Americas Takiko Hayaishi, guest speakers Executive Director Leigh Wintz and Federation Fund Development Council Member Linda Manor will be providing us with current and important information. Conference is a special time to share our accomplishments and recognize the importance of the service we provide as an organization.

Governor Mary Ann

## Governor Elect's Message

Preparations are underway, e-mails are flying, and deadlines are looming! What am I talking about - our annual Founder Region Conference which begins April 30 in Guam!

The Guam clubs are in constant touch with Conference Coordinator Linda McDoniels and the clubs and Governor Mary Ann are planning the best conference ever!! Some important deadlines for you to remember:

- March 1 Deadline for hotel registration
- March 12 Payments due for Group Airfare to the Travel Store of Kona, Inc
- April 1 Deadline for Conference Registration – mail to Del Nickerson

In your call to conference there was a flyer giving information for an optional tour. The correct date is Sunday, May 2, 2004. The date on the flyer says Sunday, May 3, 2004 which is incorrect. What a way to end the conference, an opportunity to experience the cultures of Guam!!

Another date to remember - March 27, 2004 caucus which will be held in Cloverdale at the Veteran's Memorial Building (directions were included in the call). This is an opportunity to discuss the amendments in an informal way and meet the candidates running for office. Please plan to attend.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at caucus and conference.

Hafa Adai!!

Governor-elect Cathy

## **Secretary's Message**

### **The Leadership Challenge**

In May, you will elect the leaders of Founder Region for the next biennium. It has been said that the one ingredient essential to the success of any organization is its leadership. Great leaders may be very different in their leadership style nevertheless; they all seem to share some, if not all of the following ingredients:

A guiding vision, has a clear idea of what she wants to do and the strength to persist  
Independent thinking, is not afraid to question, to learn and to take risks  
Passion and enthusiasm for what she does. A leader who communicates with passion gives hope and inspiration to the team  
Knowledge of the organization, its practices and its culture and the desire to know more  
Integrity, which includes self-knowledge, candor and maturity

Finding quotes by women on the subject of leadership is a bit of a challenge. Does this mean women do not lead? Absolutely not. Women are excellent leaders; they just don't write or speak about it often. Following are some quotes I think you will enjoy.

"A leader's power depends on his or her ability to make other people powerful."

"The only safe ship in a storm is leadership" – Faye Wattleton

"Develop a skin as thick as a rhinoceros hide!" -- Eleanor Roosevelt

"Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world." – Eleanor Roosevelt as quoted in the book Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way

"If (women) understood and exercised their power they could remake the world" – Emily Taft Douglas

"You don't manage people; you manage things. You lead people." – Admiral Grace Hooper

"The extent to which you are able to transform your 'self-concern' into 'other concern' will determine your effectiveness in getting others to follow along." – Anon.

"What I wanted to be when I grew up was – in charge." – Brigadier General Wilma Vaught

There are a myriad of books and seminars on leadership, but the best way to develop your leadership style is to be brave enough to become a leader.

Leadership in Soroptimist is about getting involved. A quote from our region leadership binder says, "As Soroptimists we accomplish so much through teamwork.... By joining the team you chose a means of developing your leadership skills and take advantage of the opportunity to fine tune your abilities." The nominees for the Founder Region Board and Fellowship Board are doing just that and they need your support. Join the team, get involved and send your delegates to conference so you will have a voice in the teams that lead the next two years.

Sue Finch, Region Secretary

## **Annual Club Campaign**

The Annual Club Campaign runs from September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Club contributions enable Soroptimist International of the Americas to maintain our excellent programs: the Women's Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist Club Grants, Violet Richardson Award and the SIA programs that prevent and end domestic violence. These outstanding programs identify Soroptimist in every country of our federation and all clubs benefit from the positive public relations generated by them.

In order to reach the \$300,000 goal for this year's club campaign, each club needs to contribute at least US \$205. Those clubs that give a greater amount will be recognized as a gold club for a gift of \$1,000 or more; as a silver club for a gift of \$750-\$999, or as a bronze club for a gift of \$500-\$749. Clubs giving at recognition levels will receive a special certificate and ribbon for their club banner.

Clubs can send their checks to headquarters with either a club contribution or financial transaction form. Both forms can be found in the library of the member's only section of the SIA's website: [www.soroptimis.org](http://www.soroptimis.org). The club contribution form is found in "Contributions/Club Giving" and the financial transaction form is in "Club Members/Club Administration."

Please send in your club contribution today. Let us have 100 percent participation by Founder Region.

## **DISTRICT ONE'S MESSAGE**

Thank you District I for allowing me to be your district director for two terms. Wow, what an experience! Visiting your clubs and events I have made many new friends, and have always felt welcome. I am proud of our many accomplishments as a district, and your numerous club successes. Soroptimists of our district have varied interests, backgrounds, professions, and beliefs; but we will always be bound together by Soroptimist values and goals.

Like children, clubs are unique in their interpretation of Soroptimist. Some clubs quietly serve their communities in numerous small ways. If you don't look carefully, you'd hardly know these clubs were there, but their benefactors appreciate them greatly. Other clubs are gregarious, bold, and daring; they cannonball into their events creating a big splash! Still other clubs are in the middle. Sometimes loud and sometimes quiet, but steadily working for the betterment of women. All our clubs have members who are hard working, fun loving Soroptimists who focus on one goal, "Making A Difference For Women."

Proof of our District I fundraising success is the increase in funds raised at our district meetings. In the past four years the amount raised for Fellowship, Founder Region's identifying project, has increased from a few hundred dollars per meeting to \$2,000. We named one Fellow at the 2002 district meeting, and two Fellows at the October 2003 district meeting, which represents a two year district meeting donation of over \$3,000 to Founder Region Fellowship.

We've completed one Soroptimist year of our ongoing, hands-on District Project, "S.O.S. For Kids." Congratulations to all thirteen clubs for delivering over 800 suitcases and 400 stuffed animals to the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Department of Social Services.

Add these district successes to the individual club fundraisers supporting hundreds of service projects in our district; the numerous hands-on club projects which cost only volunteer time, effort, and hard work; and it is undeniably clear that District I is made of spectacular women who are phenomenal Soroptimists. Kudos to District I for another successful year. Here's to continued fundraising prosperity and service successes, may they always multiply.

Chrisann Nicholson  
Director, District I

## **S CLUBS NOT “S’ NOOZIN”– THEY’RE S ‘NEWS’IN”**

S/I San Ramon (District I) has continued their highly successful first year of their Cal High S Club. “Character Counts” is big on campus and in the community. The energy and enthusiasm for this project in the S Club and S/I San Ramon has netted both clubs the reward of new members and raised community awareness.

S/I East Contra Costa Co. (District II) has revived their Liberty Union High School S Club with concerted effort on the part of their members. S Club is a hands-on service project that can really energize a Soroptimist club.

S/I Dixon (District III) has been busy, they will be chartering an “S” Club at Dixon High School soon. The “S” Club has chosen an identifying project (an after school reading program at Silveyville Elementary) and the members have served at an S/I Dixon fundraiser to officially start their financial accounts. Dixon club members are working with the new club and their school advisor, Jennifer Grey. They are offering guidance but mostly are encouraging the “S” Club members to make their own decisions.

Other S Clubs in Founder Region are looking forward to submitting applications for the Barbara Stevenson S Club Award (deadline March 1st) and to attending the S Club Conference in Fresno, offered by Sierra Pacific Region (deadline March 10th). Contact your District S Club representative for more information.

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**

The Regional Legislative Advocacy Committee in keeping within Soroptimist policy continues to lobby and involve club members in issues having 'Political' Implications with respect to women's issues.

Following last years Regional Conference the committee passed out packets of information on CEDAW , the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to each of our Founder Region District Representatives. These packets were to be distributed to our clubs and mailings were included to send on to clubs within the United States to get a letter writing campaign started to get CEDAW back to the Foreign Relations committee for passage and on to the Senate for ratification.

A recent survey asking for an accounting of Founder Regions clubs level of participation in this project is rather a disappointment. Many clubs have not participated. We would like to encourage our clubs to participate in a letter writing campaign to show our interest in getting AB1342 (Jackson) within the state of California passed. This bill declares the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to adopt the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to insure that state departments and agencies adhere to its principles in the implementation of State policies and programs.

We are in the process of talking to some of 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 are closely watching through information passed on to us the ambitious program going on in Hawaii to get legislation passed on the prosecution of traffickers of women and children.

In the January 2004 issue of the SIA Soroptimist Magazine is an article of interest under the heading UN Protocol Against Trafficking. It quotes that on September 29, 2003 the International Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force after being ratified by member countries. However, the Convention's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, will not enter into force until it is ratified by 40 countries. The protocol specifically addresses the prevention of trafficking and the protection of trafficking victims. It calls on all countries to cooperate in combating trafficking. It also requires state parties to implement laws that offer trafficking victims the right to compensation, train law enforcement and Immigration officials in trafficking prevention; and requires states to safely repatriate their citizens who have been trafficked abroad. As of 12-10-2003, the UN website for the protocol listed 147 signatories and 56 parties. All of the eligible countries of SIA have signed the protocol but only 8 countries have ratified. The USA has not. Our clubs may in the future have further letter writing work to do. Gloria Scoggin, Region Legislative Advocacy Committee Chairman

## **SPECIAL MESSAGES**

Soroptimist International of Crescent City marked its 50th Anniversary with a celebration on Jan 10 in Crescent City. In addition to Soroptimist members celebrating the anniversary, attendees also included regional & district officers and governors, and rotary and county officials.

A special presentation by Founder Region Governor Mary Ann Redden coined Jan 8th as Crescent City's Soroptimist Day.

The gathering also announced that \$2370 was raised for Youth Scholarship from the group's most recent fundraiser, a wine raffle. Donna Ayers presented club member Erin Malone with a fellowship.

For photo go to: <http://www.sifounderregion.org/news/photos/sicc-040110-50anniv.html>