PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Hear from SIA President RoseMary Reid

MOVING FORWARD IN FY15/16
View SIA’s year-end infographic

LEADERSHIP NEWS
Meet SIA’s 2016-2017 president-elect

Recommitting to SIA’s Dream Programs
President’s Message

Yoko Ichigatani resigned from her position as SIA president-elect in order to concentrate on recovering from a traumatic head injury she suffered during a home invasion and robbery. Yoko is making progress and demonstrating incredible resilience and resolve. We continue to keep Yoko and her family in our thoughts.

In response to Yoko’s resignation, SIA sent an emergency mail ballot in December. The election is now complete and beginning on September 1, 2017, SIA will be led by our new 2016-2017 President-elect Dawn Marie Lemonds, SI/Newport Harbor Area, CA (Desert Coast Region). Congratulations and thank you, President-elect Dawn Marie, for taking up this leadership position under extraordinary circumstances! 🌟

Above and Beyond

Processing the mail at headquarters is full of amazing moments—a plain envelope came in recently, was opened, and there was a check for $10,000 from SI/Hanford, CA (Sierra Pacific Region). Also in the envelope was the club’s reply form, with a small 20 percent penne in by the club. SI/Hanford had unanimously voted to double their annual contribution after reading the Club Giving appeal, which told the heartbreaking and courageous story of Live Your Dream Awards recipient Esperanza.

President Maureen Larkin shared a few words on why she encourages other clubs to give generously to women like Esperanza, who is using her award to help trafficking survivors. “In addition to the obvious goal of helping women there is a less evident one. … The importance of understanding that collectively we are a much more powerful force for positive change.”

The proceeds from the club’s “Festival of Trees” fundraiser will join forces with proceeds raised by clubs in each of the 20 countries and territories that form SIA. Together, these Club Giving contributions will travel the world to change the lives of those who need it most. We know it takes every club member working together to make these contributions possible—thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. 🌟

Transformation: A View from Spruce Street

A message from the SIA Executive Director & CEO

If we change the way we look at things, the way things look will change.

Your SIA Board of Directors has been helping us change to shape our future—a future where we:

• Meet the needs of MORE women and girls through our Dream Programs
• Are well known for the impact we have on women and girls
• Attract financial support for our programs
• Engage more people in our mission through our clubs and LiveYourDream.org

To accomplish this, your SIA Board identified the Big Goal of increasing our collective impact. To accomplish this Big Goal, we need to work together—as one—to address the needs of disadvantaged women and girls.

Will your club help SIA achieve creating greater focus on our Dream Programs by making them the center of your efforts?

Now think about the 2,500 women we didn't help. It's a sad thought … all those unfulfilled dreams and unmet potential.

Over the next three years, we want to give a larger number of Live Your Dream Awards than we've ever given in a single year, and we also want to expand our Dream It, Be It program for disadvantaged girls.

We need your help to achieve those goals.

Our Soroptimist future is to help even more women and girls through our Dream Programs. This is how we will change the world. I hope you will join me. 🌟
For the better part of 100 years, Soroptimist has played an important role of helping disadvantaged women and girls live better, more productive lives. We've known what the international development community and organizations like the Gates and Clinton foundations have recently come to realize: investing in and educating women and girls is key to solving many of the world's problems. In fact, educating women is the single most effective anti-poverty intervention.

Our *Live Your Dream Awards* program intervenes in the life of a woman after she's broken free from the obstacles that held her back—domestic and sexual violence, poverty, homelessness, addiction. She is on a path to rebuild her life and achieve her dreams.

Our new *Dream It, Be It* program is the perfect bookend for our tried and true *Live Your Dream Awards*. *Dream It, Be It* is an interventional program that reaches out to disadvantaged girls to help them move on to a healthy path.

We estimate about 20 million disadvantaged women and girls in our 20 countries and territories need our programs. 20 million! And that's where our next Big Goal comes in. Starting in 2021, our members want to increase the capacity of our Dream Programs to reach more women and girls.

We also know our clubs want more members, greater recognition, and more outside financial resources to fund our programs.

The best thing you can do to help SIA and your own club gain more recognition is by doing what we tell the world we do. That means making our Dream Programs the center of your club's efforts.

Clubs also tell us, "But we've been doing our breast cancer project, or our sex trafficking project, or our domestic violence project for years and we don't want to give them up." You don't have to give up working on those important issues that make up some of the biggest obstacles facing women and girls. We're just asking you to think about them a little differently.

Our Dream Programs fill a void other programs don't. We hear a lot about domestic violence awareness, and saving women and girls from trafficking. But what happens to the women and girls post-crisis? Our programs are designed to fill that gap.

The vast majority of our *Live Your Dream* awardees have survived both poverty and domestic violence. One late bill. One sick child. One broken down car. That's all it would take to send a woman spiraling backward, erasing her hard-won progress.

Poor women often lack access to health care and are significantly more likely to die of breast cancer than their better off counterparts. And, of course, women and girls with choice and opportunity are far less vulnerable to being caught up in the nightmarish world of sex trafficking.

So, by actively growing our life-changing Dream Programs, we are making a tangible difference in addressing the myriad obstacles that can derail a woman or girl's life: sex trafficking, domestic violence, lack of healthcare access. Our Dream Programs are about the path forward. *Dream It, Be It* puts girls on that path. *Live Your Dream Awards* keep women on the path they've already chosen.

For nearly a century, Soroptimist has been on the frontlines of empowering disadvantaged women and girls. To remain there means recommitting to doing everything we can to stay relevant.

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**It’s the key to our future viability as an organization**

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Empowering women & Girls through our access to education dream programs

**Live Your Dream Awards**
- **1,355 deserving women** received an award (+5%)
- **$1.9 million** in education grants was disbursed through the program (+7%)
- **82%** of recipients who completed their education increased their standard of living
- **81%** club participation rate (+3%)

**Dream it, be it**
- **8,634** girls participated
- **80%** said they have the tools to overcome obstacles to their success
- **87%** feel more prepared to pursue their career goals
- **24,825** volunteer hours by clubs (+27%)

**Gaining New Members & Supporters**
- **3,761** new members (+1%)
- **22** new clubs chartered (+38%)
- **414** clubs had a net increase in members (+17%)
- **77,387** LiveYourDream.org supporters (+24%)

**Attracting More Financial Support**
- **$1.7 million** raised (+2%)
- **$747,593** in total individual contributions (+19%)
- **$668,617** contributed through Club Giving
- **$13,176** raised through LiveYourDream.org (+2%)

**Growing Recognition**
- **736,289** visits to Soroptimist.org and LiveYourDream.org (+5%)
- **35,021** social media followers (+19%)
- **22,272,954** people reached through SIA and LYD.org social media networks (+13%)

*Percentage increases over FY14/15*
In Memoriam
Mary Prunty, 1999-2000 president, passed away in January. A Soroptimist since 1979, Mary also served as 1992-1994 and 1994-1996 governor of Northeastern Region. A nursing professor, Mary retired from Northern Essex Community College as assistant dean of academic affairs after serving there in various functions for 38 years. She held a master of guidance and psychology degree from Assumption College and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Fitchburg State College. She is survived by her two daughters. Visit <http://bit.ly/soroptimist-in-memoriam> for more information.

Program
Live Your Dream Awards: Start Recruiting Early
Now is the best time to start recruiting applicants for the Live Your Dream Awards. You don’t have to wait until the start of the next club year to begin sharing the application around town. Many members think they should wait to recruit until they have new materials for the upcoming club year, but SIA headquarters does not update applications every year. Headquarters encourages all clubs to begin recruitment now with existing materials. So share the Live Your Dream Award application far and wide as early as possible!

Some suggestions for where to share applications:
- Vocational/training schools
- Places of worship
- Government public assistance offices
- Women’s health centers
- Childcare/daycare facilities

Membership
Top Clubs Reveal Their All Aboard the Membership Success Stories
As members, you are the heartbeat of our organization! And you know the more members we have, the more women and girls we can help to live their dreams. To gain and engage members, we hope you are participating in our All Aboard the Membership campaign—now in its second year. During our last fiscal year (FY15/16) we saw success by welcoming 3,761 new members (an increase of 1 percent over FY14/15) and 22 new clubs chartered (an increase of 38 percent)! Curious about how membership grew? We were too! We asked the top club in each region at the end of the first phase of the campaign to share the secrets of their success. Read what they had to say here <http://bit.ly/clubs-success-stories>.

Public Awareness
Annual Report
View SIA’s new annual report to read a summary of the hard work, dedication and impact from our clubs and members around the world! It’s proof that when we join together and focus on addressing need, our collective impact can be realized <Soroptimist.org/pdf/annual.pdf>.

New Logo Policy
To help with SIA’s branding efforts, your SIA Board is requesting all regions, clubs, and members use the SIA “S” logo exclusively. SIA will be communicating to ensure this important branding initiative is implemented. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/emblem-logo-faq>.

Fundraising
A New Development
Susan Fink has joined SIA as the new development director. Susan has worked as a long-time advocate for women and girls, serving both national and international NGOs. Her most recent role was as senior vice president and chief development officer at one of the nation’s largest food banks. Welcome, Susan!

SAVE THE DATE
July 30-August 2, 2018
SIA’s 45th Biennial Convention
Yokohama, Japan
Follow Soroptimist on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube! Simply visit these social networks and search for “Soroptimist International of the Americas” to follow SIA today!

DOES SIA HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

**Members:**
Email is the primary way we communicate with our members. Make sure you are receiving important emails and alerts by reviewing your profile at <Soroptimist.org/members/membership/updateprofile.html> and making any necessary changes.

**Clubs:**
The best way for headquarters and potential members to contact clubs is through the Soroptimist club email accounts. A designated member should be checking the club email account regularly (at least once per week) to keep up to date with the latest SIA news or to connect with potential members.

For help with setting-up or accessing the account, see the members area on SIA’s website <Soroptimist.org/members/membership/clubadmin.html> or contact <siahq@soroptimist.org>.

Get in the Network!

CHECK OUT THESE FEATURED SALES ITEMS AND MORE AT <Soroptimist.org/rise/store> AND ORDER TODAY!

- **Silver Heart Pin (#113)** $20
- **Gold Heart Pin (#112)** $20
- **Canvas Pin Holder (#131)** $15

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