

2026-2028 Governors Orientation Agenda

July 22, 2026, 8:00 am - 11:00am KST

Meeting Room: Island

INSPIRE Entertainment Resort, Incheon, South



Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:00 AM

Madoka Ushio, 2026-2027 SIA President

Teambuilding/Icebreaker

8:05 AM

Nicole Simmons, Associate Senior Director, Leadership and Volunteer Engagement

Effectively working as a team is more important than ever in today's complex and interconnected environment. As governors, your ability to foster collaboration, communicate clearly, and build trust across diverse perspectives directly influences the strength and success of your regions. This interactive teambuilding experience invites you to work together in a friendly, hands-on challenge that highlights the value of teamwork, adaptability, and shared problem-solving.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Recognize the importance of clear, inclusive communication in leadership.
- Practice active listening and asking clarifying questions to support shared understanding.
- Reflect on how leadership influence can be exercised without direct control.

Role of the Governor

8:25 AM

Ilesha D. Brown, Chief Impact and Engagement Officer

The Region Governor role is one of the most pivotal and visible volunteer positions within SIA. Governors serve as the primary link between their region board, club leaders, members, and SIA's Board of Directors. A strong understanding of governing documents and their application at the regional level is essential. Equally important is knowing the expectations of region chairs, who are accountable to the Region Governor, and developing the skills to coach and support them effectively. Finally, the ability to lead productive region meetings and ensure consistent, aligned communication across the organization is critical to overall success.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Learn the hierarchy of governing documents and gain fluency in SIA procedures that apply to regions.
- Receive volunteer management training and a clear understanding of region chair roles and responsibilities.
- Gain insights into best practices that drive high-performing regions.
- Learn how to plan and host strategically aligned region conferences.

Handouts

- Governor Position Description
- SIA Procedures

Overview of Resources that Support Governors

8:55 AM

Nicole Simmons, Associate Senior Director, Leadership and Volunteer Engagement

To lead effectively and confidently as a governor, it's essential to know where to turn for guidance, tools, and support. This session provides a high-level overview of the key resources available to you – designed to help you make informed decisions, support your regions, and lead with clarity and confidence.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Explore the essential tools, resources, and systems available to support governors in their role.
- Identify key SIA staff contacts and subject-matter experts – your partners in leadership and success.
- Gain confidence in navigating available support so you can lead effectively from day one.

Handouts:

- SIA Headquarters Support: Who to Contact
- 2026-2027 Governors Calendar
- Region Roadmap
- Region Roadmap Metrics
- Club Roadmap
- Club Roadmap Metrics
- FAQ About Our Dream Program Strategy
- 2026-2027 Strategic Plan

Living the Code: Navigating the Member and Leader Code of Conduct Process

9:05 AM

Jackie Schrauger, Membership Director

SIA's new Member and Leader Code of Conduct and Process have been incorporated into SIA's Procedures by the Board of Directors, but what does it look like in practice? In this session, you will receive an overview of the Member and Leader Code of Conduct and learn how to navigate the process.

Following this session, Region Governors will:

- Have a deepened understanding of the Member and Leader Code of Conduct.
- Understand how to manage governance issues, personality conflicts, and other situations.
- Know who their key contacts are if they encounter a Member and Leader Code of Conduct violation.

Handouts:

- Member and Leader Code of Conduct
- Member and Leader Code of Conduct Process

Break

9:25 AM

Leading with Accountability: Finance, Insurance & Risk Awareness

9:40 AM

Kim Grossman, CPA SIA Chief Financial Officer

Strong region financial stewardship and effective risk management are essential to protecting the organization's resources and ensuring long-term sustainability. In this session, participants will explore how financial oversight, internal controls, and insurance coverage work together to manage risk, support regions, and safeguard the organization's assets.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Understand risk management through a financial and insurance-focused lens, including the role of liability insurance in protecting the organization.
- Gain insight into SIA's liability insurance program and general guidelines on insurance programs in general.
- Review guidelines for supporting and overseeing region finances.
- Explore best practices for financial controls that promote transparency and accountability.
- Understand required submissions of financial reports.
- Locate key financial tools and resources available to regions.

SIA Collaborative Culture of Philanthropy: The Governor's Role

10:10 AM

Erica Cheslock, CFRE, Director, Donor Relations

Governors play a critical role in strengthening Soroptimist's culture of philanthropy. This session breaks down how governors can actively collaborate with the Fund Development team at the club, region, and federation levels, without adding heavy lift to their plates. We'll clarify how the Region Fundraising Chairs (RFC), Federation Fundraising Council (FFRC), and SIA staff work to support the regions. Additionally we will address how funds directly advance our mission, and the specific actions governors can take to support club fundraising success, inspire giving, and unlock new opportunities across their regions.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Understand the governor's leadership role in modeling and promoting philanthropy
- Learn how RFC and FFRC structures support fundraising success.
- Identify 3–5 concrete actions they can take immediately to increase engagement and revenue

Branding & Public Awareness: Strengthening Our Voice Together

10:30 AM

Laurie Sutton, Manager, Marketing & Communications

A strong, consistent brand builds trust, increases visibility, and helps Soroptimist attract members, donors, and partners worldwide. This session focuses on how governors can serve as champions of clear, unified communications across their regions. We'll cover practical ways to maintain brand consistency, leverage global resources, and amplify authentic storytelling, including how to encourage clubs to share their impact through the "Share Your Story" form and ready-to-use communications tools.

During this session, Region Governors will:

- Understand why brand consistency directly impacts growth and credibility
- Recognize their role as regional champions of communications standards
- Learn how to use existing global templates and resources (instead of reinventing materials)

Closing

10:55 AM

Madoka Ushio, 2026-2027 President