



A global volunteer organization that economically empowers women and girls by providing access to education, the single most effective anti-poverty intervention.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

January 2019 Board of Directors Meetings Summary

The SIA board met in Philadelphia January 10 -13, 2019. They began by monitoring their board policies concerning Governing Style and, as required by PA law, ratified business conducted electronically.

They reviewed the fiscal year end 2017 – 2018 (FYE17/18) results considered our six years of progress against our Big Goal of Increased Collective Impact and discussed the implications for our future. [See FYE17/18 Results Infographic](#). The board acted in the capacity of the Finance Committee and reviewed and approved the audited financials and investment reports and changes to the financial policies. Secretary/Treasurer Pat led the discussion with support of our Chief Operating and Financial Officer Sue.

Next the board's focus turned to FY18/19. The board approved the dashboard measures for FY18/19 and considered progress in leadership development, membership development and fund development. Looking further ahead, the board reviewed and discussed whether a federation dues increase was necessary for club year 2019-2020. It was agreed federation dues would not be increased effective July 1, 2019 because Soroptimist International is increasing their dues. The cost will increase from the current amount of \$5 to \$9 USD per capita. This increase is effective July 1, 2019. Communications will be sent to regions and clubs in February 2019.

The board reviewed and discussed the budget parameters for FY19/20. They acknowledged club liability insurance coverage is required for all US and Canadian clubs under a master policy covering general liability, liquor liability and sexual molestation. The board acknowledged the cost of coverage is likely to rise again due to the type of events clubs are holding. The board voted to pass along any increase on a per capita basis.

Results of small group interviews held with members in Japan during our 2018 convention in Yokohama were shared. The results addressed cultural differences, members' motivation, members' perception of SIA, perception of the SIA Dreams Programs, and recommendations that came from the interviews. These recommendations will help shape the federation's work plan in the coming years.

Day two continued the board's look ahead with a facilitated discussion about our purpose and how it is reflected in our vision, mission and tagline.

The board moved into its role as the Governance Taskforce. They reviewed and discussed the items in their work plan. Next, governance items were addressed. The Board added a Whistleblower policy to its Leadership Commitment policy at the request of our accrediting body, PANO. This policy will extend to all leadership positions at the federation and regions levels. Additionally, the framework for dividing regions was adopted as guidelines to assist regions, SIA board and staff. The policy will be added to Board Policy V. Board Value Statements H. Regions and will be provided when a region is considering division.

Procedures F. Governing Regions sections 6 and 7 were updated, as was Procedure L. Soroptimist International by updating section 4 and adding a new section 6 See [SIA website procedures](#) for revised edition.

The board concluded the day with judging of Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards.

Day three began with updates on our 2020 convention to be held in Bellevue Washington at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. The dates are July 22-25, 2020. The goals of the convention were presented as well as the convention theme and logo. The theme, Reaching New Heights, reflects our shared aspirations to help more women and girls who face obstacles as we ready to take on our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of 500,000 women and girls through programs leading to economic empowerment.

The 2020 convention will be the kick off to celebrating our 100th anniversary. The 2020 convention will be promoted at the 2019 region conferences. Convention registration is planned to open in October 2019.

President Elizabeth updated the board on the governing changes of SI affecting its member federations. Each federation has two Federation Appointed Directors to the SI Board. Their terms are two years and are staggered to take office January 1. A Federation President may no longer serve as a SI Director. A position called Federation Authorized Representative was created. This position is to be the President of each Federation. Their term begins January 1 each year. President Elizabeth began her term January 1, 2019. This Authorized Representative is to be kept in the communication loop of the business the Federation Appointed Directors are addressing for SI. SIA Board Policy II.C. was updated to reflect these changes.

The board reviewed the risk and reward SIA has accepted by producing the 100th Centennial Celebration Event. All four federations are participating on the Event Committee. Plans are being made for 750 members to attend in person, while others may attend electronically. The event site will be the Fairmont San Francisco, site of the first Soroptimist convention, October 1, 2 and 3, 2021. This event will be a premium event. Registration will open in 2020 and will be accepted from all four federations on a first come first served basis. SIA members can kick off the 100th Centennial Celebration together at the 2020 convention in Bellevue Washington.

An update on regions' health was reviewed and discussed. Training for the official visits was conducted.

The meeting concluded on day four with monitoring of the Executive Director Relationship board policies. Executive Director & CEO Liz gave a presentation on the role of the Executive Director. The board evaluated the meeting, the president and themselves, then discussed the meeting and released board papers.

The 14 board members in attendance contributed \$10,392 to SIA.