



Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

# Candidates for 2025-2027 SIA Board of Directors Electoral Area 9

- Judi Dunnigan-Cole, SI/San Diego
- Terry Rose, SI/Huntington Beach
- Patricia Whitacre, SI/Poway



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

## Resume for SIA Board of Directors

**Name:** Judi Dunnigan-Cole

**Member, SI of San Diego in Desert Coast Region**

### **SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE**

**Club president of SI San Diego** - Current - July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 & July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005  
(Include **significant** Club, Region, Federation, and International **Soro Optimist** service **during the past ten years with dates**):

Co-Creator & Co-Coordinator, San Diego County Live Your Dream Collaborative 2016 - Current  
Membership Chair, Desert Coast Region 2016 - 2018  
Governor, Desert Coast Region 2014-2016  
Governor Elect, Desert Coast Region 2012-2014  
Region Parliamentarian, Desert Coast Region 2010 – 2012  
District III Director, Desert Coast Region 2008 – 2010

SIA Conventions – Honolulu, HI - 2012; Vancouver, Canada - 2014; Orlando, FL - 2016; Bellevue, WA - 2024  
SI Conventions - Montreal, Canada – 2011; Istanbul, Turkey - 2015

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

Bachelor of Science – Health Care Services  
Certificate - Infection Control Risk Assessment  
Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt

### **BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

I am a health care management professional with over 36 years' experience in various aspects of the health care industry including direct patient care, administration, and facility operations. I have been employed with Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers (Sharp HealthCare) for the past 32 years. Currently, I serve as the Facilities and Planning Operations Manager for 8 multispecialty, outpatient medical centers where I oversee daily clinic activities and, supervise a diverse pool of employees from varying backgrounds and manage a budget of several million dollars. Sharp HealthCare is one of the largest health care systems in San Diego, California with four acute-care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, three affiliated medical groups and one health plan. I have been in a management role for the past 22 years.

### **OFFICES/BOARD SERVICE/MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS during the past ten years:**

Congregation President - St. Luke's Lutheran Church, La Mesa, California	January 2010 - Current
CARE Advisory Board – Grossmont Community College, El Cajon, California	August 2019 - Current

## CANDIDATE'S RESPONSES

Please answer the following questions. Total page limit for all responses is two pages.

**1. From your Soroptimist and personal activities share examples of how you have specifically supported the Soroptimist mission both in service and financially.**

My Soroptimist passion has always been our programs, and I have a special affection for our Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program. As my club's chair for many years, I have developed and maintained strong mentoring relationships with many of our award recipients. In 2016, I worked in partnership with Susan "Sam" Buchenau of SI Valley de Oro, to create the San Diego County Live Your Dream Collaborative which brought 12 clubs in San Diego County together to identify and secure more LYD applications through building relationships with our community colleges.

*The creation of this collaborative arose because clubs in San Diego County exist in close proximity. As a result, the clubs were in competition with one another to secure applications, with the result that the 'first club in the door' received multiple applications while the remainder were left with few or none. This also diluted our public awareness, as the college advisors had no idea of who Soroptimist was, so the applications just went to the financial aid office where no one really paid attention to it. In order to increase our impact and reach more women with the award, we had to figure out a better way to be equitable with applications AND have the colleges understand who we were. We also needed to communicate that we could offer something more powerful than a standard scholarship opportunity. We discovered a statewide program within each community college in California where the eligibility of students in the CARE program exactly matches our LYD eligibility and this discovery was a partnership made in heaven. Soroptimist and our Live Your Dream Award is now well known in our 10 countywide community colleges, and they now contact us at the beginning of the school year to schedule application workshops for CARE students. Because of our success in San Diego County, our collaborative approach was mirrored in Orange and Los Angeles County within the Desert Coast Region. In the last 5 years we have increased the number of awards given by 45% and working collaboratively have given 330 Live Your Dream Awards.*

I have been an active and impactful retired governor, or as we're called in Desert Coast, a STAR (Supporter, Teacher, Advocate and Resource). I've been a regular and inspirational trainer and workshop presenter at District Meetings, Leadership Trainings and Spring Conferences.

I am also a devoted supporter of SIA and have consistently given to the Laurel Society since the inception of Monthly Giving. I am a vocal supporter at my club and beyond on the importance of supporting our Federation with individual and Club Giving. I also was a strong advocate for SI San Diego's support for the Dream Big Campaign, because I believe strongly in the necessity of investing in our own future as an organization as well as in the women and girls we serve.

**2. As a member of the SIA Board of Directors you will represent the organization as a whole and not your respective electoral area when it comes to making decisions on the board. This is referred to as being a "representative of" versus a "representative for." There may be times when decisions need to be made that are in the best interest of the Soroptimist organization but may not be a popular decision within a Board Director's electoral area. Share how your decision-making process will ensure that you are making decisions that are in the best interest of the Soroptimist organization.**

Often in my professional life, I am called upon to make or accept decisions based on the overall strategic direction of the organization. I understand that we must consider the greater good when making decisions, even when it is difficult or unpopular. One of the things I treasure most about my Soroptimist membership is that we are larger than just the local club where we hold membership. By virtue of belonging to an international organization, we can do local work, which has a global reach. I celebrate and respect the diversity, and all cultures and languages represented within our Federation. I consider myself an ambassador for SIA and have a good understanding of the organizational structure. With this knowledge, I can distinguish between decisions that need to be made for the overall organization's futures versus what individual members or clubs may feel is customary.

**3. What is there specifically in your background, training, education, experience, and interests which qualify you to serve as a member of the SIA Board of Directors?**

The field of health care management requires a nimble, informed, and committed approach to the constant change that comes our way. We must rely on our judgement and experience to achieve the buy in from our team members. My long-term success as a manager in this challenging, ever-changing field demonstrates my abilities as a leader who can make tough decisions and act with consistency and dependability. I have a proven track record of creating exceptional teams by being committed, insightful, thoughtful and when the change challenges are the hardest, I am able to 'manage up' to achieve maximum buy in.

- Strong dedication to SIA's vision, mission and core values
- Trusted, inspirational and visionary leader
- Demonstrated natural leadership ability
- Committed mentor to those embarking on their careers or their Soroptimist journey
- Appreciate and value others' contributions and achievements
- Strong, credible, confident communicator
- Creative and collaborative problem solver
- Open to and respectful of new approaches and perspectives
- Strong ability to 'manage up' unpopular decisions
- Reliably make sound decisions
- Consistent and dependable in carrying out responsibilities
- Diplomatic
- Adapt to changing situations and remain flexible

**4. How will you leverage your skills and experiences to help SIA achieve our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?**

There is no doubt about it, clubs and members have the potential to reach the half million women and girls we've committed to by focusing on our transformational Dream programs, and by making small changes in many of our treasured legacy programs, to qualify them as Big Goal Accelerator Projects. Most members join for our mission and our programs, and we need to ensure that our clubs are engaging with their communities through the Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It, Be It. These programs possess everything needed for full club engagement. We can extend our outreach by utilizing hands on service and partnering with other clubs, community organizations and educational institutions to significantly scale up our clubs' progress to support our Big Goal. We can unleash every club's power by embracing the transformative magic in our Live Your Dream and Dream It, Be It programs combined with their own legacy local projects.

**5. Why do you want to serve on SIA's Board of Directors?**

The impact Soroptimist provides through our Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It, Be It, programs is more necessary and vital today than ever. There simply is no shortage of women and girls who desperately need the guidance and support we offer. I believe we can honor our 100 plus-year legacy, while also ushering in a new generation of progressive thinking and non-traditional membership opportunities. I am a change agent, and I'm excited to dream what our Soroptimist future holds. I want to be a part of that change. I believe I have the ability to move our organization forward to our brilliant future. I want to do all I can to ensure Soroptimist remains relevant to every member as we navigate the remarkable and often misunderstood generational variances we face today.



## Resume for SIA Board of Directors

Name: Terry Rose

Member, SI of Huntington Beach in the Desert Coast Region

### SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE

Club president of SI/Huntington Beach (7/1/2024-6/30/2025)

(Include significant Club, Region, Federation, and International Soroptimist service during the past ten years with dates):

#### Federation Experience:

- Multiple years: Soroptimist International of the Americas At Large Live Your Dream Judge
- Multiple years: Soroptimist International of the Americas Grant Judge
- Reviewer: Dream It, Be It Draft Curriculum

#### Region Experience:

- 2012-2016: DCR Live Your Dream Chair
- 2015-2016: Interim Program Chair (The Desert Coast Program Chair chose to become the District III Director and as of the Live Your Dream Chair, I was asked to step in)
- 2016-2018: District II Director
- 2018-2020: DCR Secretary
- 2020-2022: DCR Program Chair

#### Club Experience:

- 2014-2024: Service Director
  - Responsible for all Service activities and committee chairs (Dream It, Be It, Human Trafficking, Dolly Wakeham Memorial Grant – Adopt 1 or 2 moms & their families, Dream Beyond – Adopt 1 or 2 former Live Your Dream Awardees & their families)
- 2014-2024: Live Your Dream Chair
- 2014-2024: Day of Empowerment Creator and Chair
  - Since 2020 in partnership with the Assistance League of Huntington Beach
  - Guests are current and former Live Your Dream awardees from SIHB and other clubs plus single moms attending the 3 community colleges in and around Huntington Beach and others from organizations such as Project Self Sufficiency, The Salvation Army and Casa Teresa
  - 25 guests are treated to a continental breakfast, a shopping spree with personal shoppers, hair & make up services, a meaningful/educational workshop, lunch, sharing, a “Swag” bag and offsite licensed childcare.
- 2020: Co-creator of SIHB’s virtual, monthly “happiness hour”
  - 2020-2023: Lead facilitator (currently hosted by SI Huntington Beach (Terry Rose) and led by Waukecha Wilkerson (former Live Your Dream awardee and now SIHB member)
  - Single moms from SIHB and other clubs and survivors of human trafficking meet virtually once a month. Each month has a “check in” and a theme selected by Waukecha.

#### Other Relevant Experience:

- 2020-present: Co-creator (with Diana Mitchell, SI Capistrano Bay) and co-chair of the Orange County/Los Angeles Live Your Dream Collaborative
  - Launched in 2020 with 14 clubs in District I and District II (Orange County only)
  - Current membership: 18 clubs

- Last year our 18 clubs gave 89 awards and over \$130,000
  - Creation and deliverance of a Live Your Dream workshop to community colleges, state colleges and universities and other organizations in Orange, Los Angeles & Riverside counties both in person and virtually
  - Review and acceptance of all applications through the application portal system
    - Coordination of application “coaches” for applicants who need additional assistance
  - Collaborative liaison with community colleges, UC’s and Cal State Universities and other organizations (e.g. the Salvation Army, Casa Teresa, Project Self Sufficiency)
- 2022-present: Charter member and Scribe (Secretary) of STATII, a coalition of Soroptimist clubs from Orange County, Los Angeles County, Ventura County & Riverside County (Desert Coast Region, Camino Real Region & Golden West Region)
  - Participant in events and conferences dealing with human trafficking and fair trade
- I was a reviewer of the Dream It, Be It Curriculum before it was released and am an active participant in our Dream It, Be It program with the Newport Harbor Area club as well as our club’s Dream It, Be It Program with Higher Ground OC.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

B.A. English Literature with a double minor (Psychology & Philosophy)

Graduate Studies: Journalism

Other:

Solution Selling

True Colors

StrengthsFinder

Top 5 strengths: Strategic, Maximizer, Positivity, Individualization, Ideation

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2008-2023: Business owner/Internet Retailer: Gifts from a Distance
  - Grew business from \$0 to \$225,000
  - Supported artisans, fair trade wholesalers and small, family-owned American businesses as well as American mass manufacturers
  - Donated a portion of the company’s proceeds to Soroptimist clubs and other small nonprofits
- 2020-present: Independent Contractor – Coachella Valley Women’s Business Center (remote)
  - Consultant to women starting or trying to expand their businesses
    - Expertise: strategic planning, business and marketing plans, articles, press releases and content management, grant writing
    - Conduct webinars on starting a nonprofit and grant writing

**OFFICES/BOARD SERVICE/MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS during the past ten years:**

2016-present: Advisory board member of the following community colleges:

- Coastline Community College, Fountain Valley, CA
- Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA
- Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA
- Saddleback Community College, Mission Viejo, CA
- Mount San Antonio College (Mt. Sac), Walnut, CA

2023-present: Member, The Assistance League of Huntington Beach

- 2023-present: Leader of the Day: Operation School Bell
- 2024-present: Co-Chair Operation New Beginnings

2024-present: Board member, Project Self-Sufficiency, Costa Mesa, CA

**CANDIDATE’S RESPONSES**

Please answer the following questions. Total page limit for all responses is two pages.

1. From your Soroptimist and personal activities share examples of how you have specifically supported the Soroptimist mission both in service and financially.

From my joining in 2005, my heart and my passion has been in total alignment with our mission and that is to improve the lives of women and girls through access to education, training and mentorship leading to economic empowerment as you can see by my involvement, creativity and focus.

Every activity I do, including the other organizations I am affiliated with has to do with making a difference in the lives of others, particularly women and their families and girls. I am a cheerleader when they need someone to cheer them on and a pair of ears when they need someone to “just listen”.

I believe I was born with service to others in my DNA. I didn't like candy as a child so when I was 8 years old, my mother gave me a can, and I trick or treated for UNICEF. I also helped collect donations for the Mothers March of Dimes and the United Way while still in grade school.

Fast forward to the 90's. I spent 9 years as a volunteer for Working Wardrobes and was on the Planning Committee for most of those years for Working Wardrobes Day of Self-Esteem for Women and later for men, as well. In addition to being on the Planning Committee for the Days of Self-Esteem, I was a Success Coach for 6 years. As a Success Coach, I led job readiness training for women parolees and formerly homeless women and men. The job readiness training included conducting a True Colors workshop, discussing transferable skills, SMART goals, resume writing and interview skills.

Speaking of True Colors, I conducted a workshop for 95 Soroptimists at a Desert Coast Region Leadership Academy.

When I first joined Soroptimist, I still worked full time and traveled extensively for my job but I still joined 2 committees: one focused on the Huntington Beach Duck-A-Thon, which raised money for the community clinic and the other was our Dolly Wakeham Memorial Grant Program, where we adopted a single mom who was going to school and helped her by providing essential non-food items, assistance for school-related expenses, like college admission fees and more. I quickly became the Chair of the Dolly Wakeham committee which then morphed into being the chair for Live Your Dream and later, the Service Director for our club.

As the District II Director, I visited all of the clubs at least twice during my biennium, ensuring that every club and every member felt important and heard.

More recently, I have done Big Goal Accelerator Projects presentations for several clubs.

In 2014, the City of Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce awarded me the International Athena Award, given annually to a professional female leader who has demonstrated significant achievements in business, community service, and the professional advancement of women.

From a financial perspective, I am a member of the Laurel Society and a Stargazer and a member of Laurel Legacy. I participate in all of my club's fundraisers plus those of other clubs, too.

2. As a member of the SIA Board of Directors you will represent the organization as a whole and not your respective electoral area when it comes to making decisions on the board. This is referred to as being a “representative of” versus a “representative for.” There may be times when decisions need to be made that are in the best interest of the Soroptimist organization but may not be a popular decision within a Board Director's electoral area. Share how your decision-making process will ensure that you are making decisions that are in the best interest of the Soroptimist organization.

I firmly believe in working for the good of the whole. I sold enterprise software for 20 years to the federal government, municipal governments and Fortune 100 companies. I led large sales teams which included

executives in the companies I worked for. I believe that everyone has a voice and should be allowed to express their opinions but, I also believe that when you are on a team of any kind, that you leave your personal agendas and biases at the door and focus on what is good for the whole. We are a multi-country, multi-cultural organization and if we don't work together as one, we won't survive.

3. What is there specifically in your background, training, education, experience, and interests which qualify you to serve as a member of the SIA Board of Directors?

I believe my background in leading teams as well as being a team member, my training in consensus management, working with diverse teams, my education both formal and in business, my experience as a team leader and a business owner with employees and my interest in helping women and girls see their true potential and feel worthy of "going for it" despite the obstacles they have to overcome along the way and my undying passion for our mission qualify me to serve as an active and dedicated member of the SIA Board of Directors.

I succeeded in business because I did my homework and knew how the company operated, what their vision and mission was, how they stacked up against their competitors and because I was good at analyzing and adept at presenting concepts which led to improving a company's bottom line.

I feel blessed to remain in contact with many of the women our club has helped over the years – long after we have helped them, or they have been a Live Your Dream (formerly Women's Opportunity Award) honoree. I was instrumental in helping a former woman who attended our Day of Empowerment become the Desert Coast Region's webmaster. She is also a member of our club now and a woman I am proud to call friend.

4. How will you leverage your skills and experiences to help SIA achieve our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?

I believe my skills in sales, managing diverse teams and being a business owner will help SIA achieve its Big Goal. I believe we have a long way to go to realizing that dream, and I would like to be part of the team that helps get us there. I am comfortable dealing with C-level executives and giving presentations to small and large audiences.

5. Why do you want to serve on SIA's Board of Directors?

I am a big picture person who thinks outside the box. I look at how something is and imagine how it could be and how I can contribute to making it better. At one point during my software career, I sold a shop floor scheduling system based on simulation technology. Since I had been selling into major corporations, I knew that there was more funds for products that helped in planning vs scheduling and sold the first multi-million dollar deal to a major aerospace company to their planning department. I was the number 1 salesperson in the company that year. Another time, I sold a shop floor control software that had only been sold to semiconductor companies but, I saw a need for companies who manufactured medical devices because their challenges were the same. I sold the first multi-million dollar deal to the second largest manufacturer of pacemakers. I was the number 2 salesperson in the company that year. It is for those reasons, plus my passion for our mission, that makes me want to serve on SIA's Board of Directors.



**RESUME FOR SIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ELECTORAL AREA 9**

**NAME: PATRICIA WHITACRE**

**MEMBER OVER 33 YEARS OF SI of POWAY IN DESERT COAST REGION**

**SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE:**

**REGION:**

2022-2024 – Governor  
2020-2022 – Governor Elect  
2010-2020 – Served on various committees as needed  
2008-2010 – Fundraising Chair  
2004-2006 & 2002-2004 – Secretary  
2000-2002 – Parliamentarian

**DISTRICT:**

2006-2008 – District III Director  
1998-2000- District III Secretary  
Leadership Council for District III and District II

**CLUBS:**

President, President-Elect, Vice President and Secretary for two separate clubs

I am currently an Inner Circle member of the Laurel Society and Laurel Legacy.

I have attended every DCR Spring Conference in my region, several conferences in other regions and SIA Federation Conventions since 1991. I have also attended the SI Conventions in San Francisco in 1995, Sydney in 2003, Glasglow in 2007, Montreal in 2011, Istanbul in 2015, Kuala Lumpur in 2019 and Dublin in 2023.

**EDUCATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry – California State University of San Bernardino, 1970  
California Laboratory Scientist Certification, 1977  
American Association of Clinical Pathologists, Specialist in Blood Banking – 1987  
Several technical and professional courses as part of Continuing Education requirements over 40 years  
Worked as an Immunohematologist/Supervisor (Blood Bank Specialist) in the medical field (hospitals, reference laboratories and donor centers) from 1976-2017.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

Member in AABB (Organization in Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide) from 1980 to present – Accreditation Assessor since 1992 to present.

Member in CBBS (California Blood Bank Society) since 1986 to present –  
Chair of the Bylaws Committee from 2004-2006  
Serve as member and chair of the Clinical Scientist Committee from 2013 to present

Member of the Board of Directors in the Southern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ (SCNCUCC) from 2018 to the present.

Southern Association of SCNCUCC- Vice Moderator, Moderator and Past Moderator (2015-2018), served as Registrar from 2018-2024.

Community Church of Poway, UCC – Served as clerk, Vice Moderator, Moderator and Past Moderator. Currently serving as Chair of the Trustees meeting since 2018.

## **CANDIDATES RESPONSES:**

### **1. How have you specifically supported the Soroptimist mission both in service and financially:**

For over 30 years, I have been learning, growing and heavily involved as a Soroptimist. I am enthusiastic about serving Soroptimists and furthering our mission to “Improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.” My support for the Live Your Dream and Dream It Be It programs in my club, region and federation is ongoing as I provide financial and committee participation. My contributions to the Laurel Society and the Big Goal Program have been an important part of being a Soroptimist making a difference.

### **2. Share how your decision-making process will ensure that you are making decisions that are in the best interests of the Soroptimist Organization.**

As Federation Director, I vow to keep the membership updated and informed of what they need to know about SIA. I am committed to supporting what is best for the members and for the Federation. As a scientist, I listen to all the evidence, and everyone involved to make an informed decision on what is the best action to take. It is important to create a “team effort” whenever possible.

### **3. What is there specifically in your training, education and experience which qualify you to serve as a member of the SIA Board of Directors?**

The organizational and administrative skills that I have developed in my professional life, coupled with my years of Soroptimist experience will allow me to serve the members with competence, integrity and honesty. I am a team player, active listener and hard worker, dedicated to the task at hand. My demeanor is steadfast and flexible, which provides strong problem-solving skills. Also, I have internet and email capability and most importantly, I am accessible and accountable.

### **4. How will you use your skills and experiences to help SIA achieve our 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?**

Being committed to the Big Goal since its inception, I will encourage the membership to become engaged and financially supportive in the Big Goal. I challenged DCR members to match my \$10,000 donation and as a result, over \$20,000 was raised in 2023. I look forward to expanding our influence in our communities and to educating people about Soroptimist. I am committed to to

providing mentorship and the resources necessary to help women and girls on their journey to reach their full potential to lead full and productive lives. As one of my duties as Federation Director, encourage the membership to strive for diversity and fellowship among our members.

**5. Why do you want to serve on SIA's Board of Director?**

I am passionate about continuing to serve Soroptimists and furthering our mission. To achieve our goal and live up to our name, we must be consistent in our focus and find new ways to be of service to women and girls. We must welcome innovative ideas as we work together to make clubs relevant, vital, successful and attractive to new members.

It would be an honor and privilege to be selected as SIA Federation Director. I look forward to continuing my own personal growth and will strive for diversity, friendship and fellowship for all.

Patricia Whitacre  
Member of SI Poway  
Desert Coast Region