



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC. ®

## 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Bellevue, Washington, USA, July 22-25, 2020

### Convention Location

The 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention will be held at the [Hyatt Regency Bellevue](#). With its small-town charm and big city convenience, Bellevue, Washington is a modern oasis with endless activities and cultural attractions. Visitors will enjoy the natural beauty and scenery — from mountains to lakes — and the abundance of outdoor recreation. The convenient location and superb surroundings of water and greenery will create an outstanding environment for our convention.

### Convention Fee

The convention fee is \$550 USD per club. Invoices will be mailed in January 2020 and are due **March 15, 2020**. This fee covers the convention registration for the club delegate, however, does not include meal tickets. There will be a 10% late fee assessed to clubs for convention fee paid after the March 15, 2020 deadline.

### Registration and Meal Fees

Online registration and complete convention information is available on the [SIA Convention web page](#). Online registration is fast, easy and secure. Attendees will receive a receipt via e-mail as soon as your registration has been completed. Or, download a registration form and return it via e-mail, fax or mail. If we have your e-mail address on file, a detailed confirmation will be sent via e-mail. If we do not have your e-mail address, be sure to include it on the registration form. For information regarding cancellation and refunds, please read the [registration policies](#).

### Registration Fees:

\$550	Non-delegate Full Convention Registration Fee (Early)
\$625	Non-delegate Full Convention Registration Fee (Regular)
\$675	Non-delegate Full Convention Registration Fee (Late and On-site)
\$325	Non-delegate Daily Convention Registration Fee (Early and Regular)
\$375	Non-delegate Daily Convention Registration Fee (Late and On-site)
\$350	Guest Convention Registration Fee (Early)
\$375	Guest Convention Registration Fee (Regular and On-site)

### Meal Fees

Meal registration is open to all Soroptimists and guests. Meals are not included in the member or delegate registration fee and should be purchased at an additional cost when registering. Meal tickets are available on a first come, first served basis and may sell out before the convention. To guarantee a seat at the meal functions, we encourage you to register and purchase meal tickets prior to the late registration deadline. This year, you will be able to select your entire choices during the registration process. If you need to purchase a meal ticket for a guest, please contact SIAHQ for further assistance.

Soaring Together: Friendship Dinner and World of Dance Showcase, July 22: \$110

Trailblazers: Celebrating our Leaders Recognition Banquet, July 25: \$120

Taking it to the Top: Recognition Lunch, July 23: \$70

Membership Experience: Our Journey Upward Lunch, July 24: \$70

Please see the [convention schedule](#) for additional program information.

### Airfare

**American Airlines:** American Airlines is offering 4% off published fares (excluding basic economy and non-discountable fares) traveling on AA/OneWorld. Call American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at **1-800-433-1790** for ticket purchase or assistance with reservations from anywhere in the USA or Canada, seven days a week, from 6:00 am - midnight CST and refer to authorization number **A4370DC**. The discount can also be booked on-line at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) for AA/AE flights only, without a ticketing charge, allow at least one business hour for AA.com loading. Use the Authorization Number noted above **without the preceding A** as the AA.com Promotion Code. May not apply to some contracts. Certain restrictions apply. Reservations for the hearing and speech impaired are also available at 1-800-735-2988.

**United Airlines:** United Airline is offering a 10% discount in a variety of fare classes for travel to our convention. Please go to Visit [www.united.com/meetingtravel](http://www.united.com/meetingtravel)<<http://www.united.com/meetingtravel>> and enter: Z Code: ZHPX; *Agreement Code:* **280722** in the Offer Code box. *Note: do not include a space between the Z code and Agreement code.* Customers in US and Canada can also call United Meeting Reservation Desk at **1-800-426-1122** Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET and Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm ET. Booking fees are waived for Meeting reservations. Customers outside of the US and Canada should book online via [www.united.com/meetingtravel](http://www.united.com/meetingtravel).

**Delta Airlines:** Delta Air Lines is pleased to offer special discounts for Soroptimist of the Americas Biennial Convention. Please [click here](#) to book your flights! You may also call Delta Meeting Network® at **1-800-328-1111**, Monday–Friday, 7:00 am – 7:30 pm CT and refer to *Meeting Event Code:* **NMTRZ**.

*\*Please note there is not a service fee for reservations booked and ticketed via our reservation 800 number.*

### Airport Ground Transportation and Parking

Shuttle Express from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport: Take sky-bridge 4 to the SeaTac Parking Garage. Shuttle Express departs from Level 3 of the Parking Garage, in the center of the Ground Transportation Plaza. One-way fares starting at \$26 per person. Call 1-425-981-7000 to book in advance. Click the [Shuttle Express for more information](#).

Uber or Lyft can be hired using your telephone app. Depending on time and any upcharges, Uber rates are approximately \$25-30 one way, when there are no surges.

Regular taxi service from SeaTac Airport to Hyatt Regency Bellevue is also available. The rate is approximately \$50-\$65 and includes 15% gratuity, and is subject to change.

Additionally, a car hired through [Airport Seatac Transportation](#) will cost \$60-65 for a sedan and \$95 for an SUV (pricing subject to change).

Parking for registered guests at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue is \$28 USD plus tax per day (self park) and \$38 plus tax per day (valet). This special rate is for SIA through the convention dates. In addition, self-park *ONLY* is **FREE** from Friday 8pm through Sunday 8pm and includes all in-and-out privileges.

For self-parking, use the entrance on Northeast 10th Street marked Bellevue Place. Head down the ramp on the right side and past the gate. Then take an immediate right and you will see the Winter Garden Elevators on your right-hand side. You can park in this area, designated as P3. If P3 is full continue straight to the back of the garage and you will see a ramp on your left which you can use to access the lower levels of parking. Alternatively, you can use the Hyatt Regency Ballroom elevators, which will take you to the first floor of our Olympic Tower.

### Hotel Accommodations

[Hyatt Regency Bellevue](#) is the location for all convention events and offers a special Soroptimist rate of \$219 plus 14.4% tax (single or double occupancy), per room, per night. The hotel charges \$25 per day, plus tax for rollaway beds. Triple and Quad rooms are available at \$244, and \$269 plus 14.4% tax, per room, per night, respectively.

There are a limited number of Hyatt Regency Club Room upgrades available at the hotel. The cost is \$85.00 per day, per person. This upgrade can be requested at the time you make your reservation.

To make your reservations, please use the official SIA Convention reservation site [Hyatt Regency Bellevue](#). The cut-off date for reservations is **June 10, 2020**, so please make your reservations early. After June 10, we cannot guarantee that rooms will be available at the SIA rate.

To make your reservation by phone, or if you need additional assistance, please dial **1-877-803-7534** and mention the group block code SROP, or click [here](#) to find contact information by Region.

### Staying Connected

Information about our convention will be posted on the [SIA Convention web page](#). You can also get the most up-to-date information by visiting the [SIA Facebook page](#). Post recommendations and experiences you've had while visiting Bellevue, Washington, or attending past conventions, ask convention questions, or even find a roommate or travel companion. Follow SIA on [Twitter](#) for convention news by searching the hashtag: #SIAConv2020. Also, use this hashtag when posting your own tweets. By using the #SIAConv2020 hashtag, it will be easy to follow all the convention news.

### Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish for all general sessions, meals and workshops only held in the general session ballroom and meal ballroom.

### Laurel Society Celebration

We'll be Puttin' on the Ritz to honor and thank our generous donors for their continued support of our Dream Programs. So dress in your best 1920s style, and join us for a night of festivities and fun! Friday, July 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm **for active Laurel Society members** (have given \$500 in the 2018-2020 biennium) and new Laurel Society members (minimal donation: \$1,000). Visit [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org) to join the Laurel Society or, if you are a Laurel Society member, give your contribution to remain an active member (\$500). A special invitation will be sent to all Laurel Society Members.

### Special Events and Meals

There will be a number of special events for which you can register as part of the convention at an additional cost. These events may sell out before the convention. It is recommended you purchase tickets when registering. These include:

**Soaring Together: Friendship Dinner and World of Dance Showcase.** Wednesday, July 22. We're going to kick off convention with an evening that will soar our attendees to new heights! Not only will the Friendship Dinner be a chance to reunite with Soroptimist friends and make new connections, but the fun-filled night will include a variety of interactive activities to get to know those seated at your table – or across the room! The highlight of the evening will be our WORLD OF DANCE SHOWCASE! Because dance is the universal language, we are inviting members from up to ten clubs (or members from the same Region) to share with us a dance that represents their part of the world, or a style of dance your members enjoy performing. This welcome event will take place on Wednesday, July 22 beginning with the reception from 7:00 – 8:00 pm, followed by dinner at 8:00 – 10:00 pm. Those interested in participating with an entry should contact Convention Vice Chair Sue Riney at [riney@whidbey.net](mailto:riney@whidbey.net). Space for the Friendship Dinner is limited, and the deadline to indicate interest in participating in the World of Dance Showcase is **May 15, 2020**.

**Soroptimist Afterhours.** Tell the doorman "I'm with the club" and join us Friday night, July 24, from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. in our swanky hideaway bar. Kick back in the cocktail lounge, relax with friends old and new. Having fun is required, but dancing is optional – as is singing out loud in our karaoke bar! Tickets to this soirée are limited; just \$30 to enter our secret club. A cash bar will be available. If you have a song you would like to request, post it on the SIA Facebook page.

**Trailblazers: Celebrating our Leaders Recognition Banquet.** The highlight of any convention! Put on your finest dress and come celebrate the women who lead our organization! We will recognize our incoming and outgoing leaders and enjoy a lovely dinner and entertainment. This will take place on Saturday, July 25 starting with a reception at 6:00 pm, and dinner at 7:00 pm.

### Suggested Dress

The average temperature in Bellevue, WA in July is a low of 55° F (13° C), and a high of 77° F (25° C). Business or business casual attire is recommended for the meetings and luncheons. Traditional or native dress or evening attire is requested for the Friendship Dinner. Dressy attire is recommended for the Recognition

Banquet. It is highly recommended to bring a sweater or light jacket to wear during the meetings as the hotel is air conditioned.

### Local Information

For more information on visiting the Seattle/Bellevue area go to: <http://www.visitbellevuewashington.com/>. For local exploration, please peruse the [Bellevue Travel Guide](#). With Seattle only being less than half hour away, you may wish to do [additional exploration](#), if time avails. More of a time commitment-of course- is [Vancouver](#), British Columbia at 2.75 hours journey by car and ferry. Here's a blog that provided with lots of ideas on places to visit around Bellevue <https://www.jasminealley.com/things-to-do-bellevue/>.

### Visa Requests

The United States offers visa-free entry for citizens of Canada, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan who hold a valid passport (for at least six months) and confirmed airline tickets. For more information on the Visa waiver program and its requirements please visit [The US Travel Visa-Wizard](#).

All other countries in SIA will require a visitor visa. To obtain a visitor visa, contact the nearest embassy or consulate of the United States of America. Invitation letters will be sent upon request, with confirmation of paid registration in the registered member's name only. The wait times to receive a visa will vary depending on consular location, so please apply and register for convention early.

### Workshops

More than 20 workshops will cover topics including leadership development, personal development, program, membership, public awareness and fundraising. Workshops will be open seating and will not require pre-registration. More information will be available on the [SIA Convention Web page](#).

Please call 215-893-9000 or e-mail <[siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org)> with additional questions. Check the [convention web page](#) and [SIA Facebook page](#) periodically. Convention communication will be primarily through email, so **make sure to include your email when you register.**