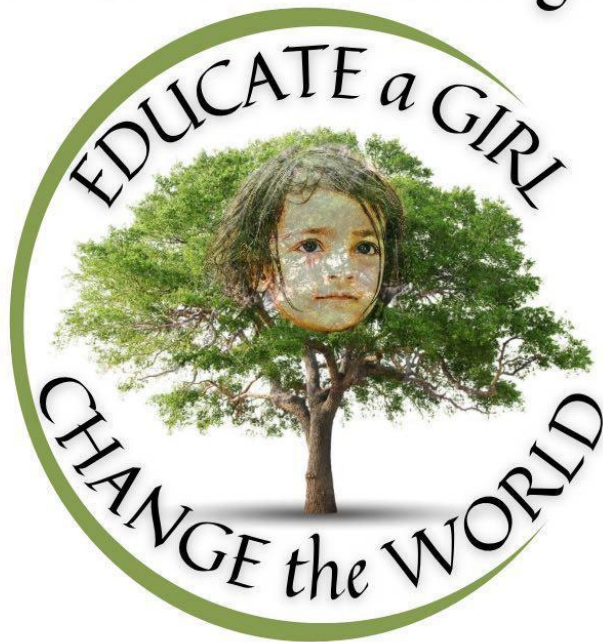


The Climate is Changing . . .



CALL TO CONFERENCE

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
91ST ANNUAL WESTERN CANADA REGION CONFERENCE

Hosted by Western Canada Region
May 2-5, 2024
Kelowna, BC

INVITATION LETTER

To say I'm excited about this Conference is an understatement. The content and the fun we plan has me pumped just about to bursting.

It started in Dublin, at the SI Convention, with so much focus on climate action. This is *the* issue for the young women we want and need to reach. It also intersects with our mission. According to Project Drawdown (research and action to save our planet), educating girls is the #6 best way to draw down carbon in our world. And we have Christina Kwauk, one of the top experts in the world, on our Keynote Panel, "Educate a Girl, Change the World."

We're packing this theme, and all the themes that Governor-Elect Chari and I have been promoting over the last 3 years, into one big box - to step out of, of course! "We *Can* Do It!" said Governor Roseanne, encouraging us to rise to the challenges that face women around the globe. Women's rights - human rights - are facing pushback at the same time as Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging become more recognized as necessary in all facets of life. And, how do we rise to the challenges? By Building Back Better. Our Celebrating Success Awards will have plenty of information to inspire clubs to best practices and great ways to empower women and girls.

"Dare to suck!" said Governor-Elect Chari! "Step Out Of the Box!" said I. We invite you to stretch yourself in sharing your Soroptimist passion and to embrace new possibilities. The Conference is out of the in-person box: our Keynote Panel *and* the Live Your Dream Lunch/ Celebrating Success Awards will be hybrid events. If you can't make it to the whole Conference, come to those crucial sessions.

YES, hybrid is great, AND . . . (get it? Yes AND!) we gather in person to hug and hang out. And we certainly have some fun planned - the stuff of Conference we always remember. Come and celebrate the impact we have in lifting up women and girls, and come to cheer on Governor-Elect Chari as she is crowned Queen of the West!

Eager to see you in Kelowna,
In Soroptimist Friendship,
Governor Suzanne

NOTICE OF WESTERN CANADA REGION SOROPTIMIST SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Western Canada Region Soroptimist Society hereby gives notice that the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held May 2-5, 2024 in person, in conjunction with the Region's 91st Annual Conference.

The meeting will be held at the Best Western Plus Kelowna Hotel & Suites, 2402 Highway 97 North, Kelowna, BC V1X 4J1.

In this document you will find:

- the agenda for the Annual General Meeting
- the draft budget for the 2024-2026 Biennium

Prior to May 2, 2024, the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Conference and AGM will be circulated to all members for review for approval at this year's meeting.

Meet Your Conference Committee

Conference Chair:	Dana Martin
Venue Lead:	Lourdes Rodrigues de Hall
Registration Chair:	Veronica Loat
Credentials Chair:	Sandra Sterling-Weicker
Program Chair:	Governor Suzanne Heron
Memorial Chair:	Carell Wingrave
Hospitality Chair:	Diane Summers
Fundraising Co-Chairs:	Rhona Beaumont, Cindy Paddington
Technology Chair:	Anita Konczi
Transportation Chair:	Heather Rollins
Wranglers:	Hanneke Eyres, Lois Taylor
Sign Artist:	Marg Zerr

Meet Your Western Canada Region Board (2022-2024)

Governor:	Suzanne Heron
Governor-Elect:	Chari Grant
Treasurer:	Susan Barber
Secretary:	Shirley Stewart
Member at Large:	Shelley Della Mattia
Parliamentarian:	Joan Jackson

Meet Your Region Pillar and Committee Chairs

Membership:	Donna Duvall
Public Awareness:	Governor Suzanne; Social Media Committee Anney Ardiel
Fundraising:	Anna Der
Program:	Colleen Schmidt, Melanie Kenny
Live Your Dream:	Sharon Lockhart
Dream It Be It:	Anita Konczi
Celebrating Success:	Megan Eastwood
Friendship:	Darlene Jamieson
Advocacy:	Janneke Lewis, Carrell Wingrave
No Barriers.PERIOD	Rita MacKenzie, Sherri Smith

Get up to the minute Conference news: follow the Region Facebook Pages

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

1. Register for Conference **NO LATER THAN April 15, 2024**
2. Late Registration Fee of \$25.00 will apply after **March 31, 2023**
3. Walk-in registration **will not be accepted**. Please pre-register if you plan to attend.
4. Clubs attending are asked to send \$50 for a new fundraising activity this year (no raffle/auction baskets are required!!).
5. Review the Conference Rules and the Standing Rules.
6. What Presidents should have on hand for business sessions:
 - Western Canada Region Procedures
 - Western Canada Region Bylaws
 - Soroptimist International of the Americas Bylaws
 - Soroptimist International of the Americas Procedures
 - Copy of the Conference Agenda
 - Copy of the Minutes from the 2023 Western Canada Region Conference

CONFERENCE COSTS AT A GLANCE:

Best Western Hotel Room Rate	\$149.00 (plus taxes)
Full Registration – Voting Delegate	\$235
Full Registration – Non-Voting Soroptimist	\$285
Late Fees (added to Registration fee after (March 31)	\$25
Zoom attendance (Panel discussion)	\$20
Thursday afternoon Wine Tour	\$25
Thursday evening Picnic in the Park (MUST register)	FREE
Friday all day including 2 meals	\$150
Friday Lunch only	\$38
Friday Dinner only ¹	\$70
Saturday all day including 2 meals	\$150
Saturday Lunch only	\$32
Saturday Dinner only ¹	\$70
Trade Show	8' table \$50
“Heads or Tails” Ticket	\$40

¹ Choice of striploin, salmon, chicken, or vegetarian/gluten-free

NOTES FOR CLUB PRESIDENTS

1. Review the Call to Conference with your Club and Voting Delegates.
2. Review the Conference Rules and Regulations.
3. Review the Minutes from the 90th Western Canada Region Conference.
4. Complete the following documents provided in the online registration link here:
Club President's Form Package: <https://forms.gle/6V6QUPDiWkqcWpQm9>
 - Club and President Information
 - Club Delegate Information
 - Memorial Service Information – this can be submitted as many times as needed
Photos and emails can be sent to Memorial Chair Carell Wingrave at carellw@telus.net or 11-52511 Hwy 770, Carvel AB, T7Y 3P2
 - Sales Table/Club Display Table Information

NOTES FOR ALL ATTENDEES

1. If you are not able to travel to Conference, but would like to be part of the Live Your Dream Luncheon and/or Educate A Girl: Change The World Panel, we are pleased to provide you the opportunity to join these two pieces by Zoom - be sure to register so you don't miss out!
2. All documents needed to register for Conference are online in one easy form.
Conference Registration: <https://forms.gle/m1rfH88cbhPABoxb9>
3. Payment for conference fee will only be accepted by e-transfer, or by mailed cheque.
 - E-transfer: Send to Treasurer Susan Barber siwctreas@gmail.com Please indicate 2024 WCR Conference and, if your email does not have your name in it, please let us know who is sending the transfer in the comment section of the e-transfer form!
 - Mailed Cheques: Send to Susan Barber, 9829 Angus Drive, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 6A8. Payable to SIA Western Canada Region (note Conference 2024).
4. Panel discussion - If you CANNOT attend Conference in person, but would like to attend the Panel discussion via Zoom on Friday, please use this link to register:
<https://forms.gle/auLsZSZvigChoajt8>
5. All members please ensure you complete the **Conference Registration Form**:
 - Member and Guest Registration Information
 - **DIETARY RESTRICTIONS – Please indicate if your dietary choices are due to an allergy/intolerance. We will do our utmost to ensure those with allergies/intolerances are accommodated.**

**If you require any special assistance in any way,
please let us know at time of registering.**

CONFERENCE RULES:

1. The Voting Delegates of the Region shall be the Western Canada Region Board and three (3) accredited Delegates of each Western Canada Region Club in good standing.
2. A Club shall be deemed to be in good standing upon meeting all requirements of Federation, Region and Club By-Laws by the time of the Delegates' registration.

STANDING RULES:

1. All Voting Delegates must wear their official badge at business sessions. All Voting Delegates must be seated together by club at the front of the Conference Room promptly at the beginning of each session.
2. The Agenda as adopted shall be the Order of the Day.
3. Ringers on cell phones shall not be allowed during business sessions and workshops.
4. Only registered Voting Delegates shall answer the roll call or vote.
5. Upon rising to address the Chair, each Delegate shall state their name and the name of their club.
6. A registered alternate may only replace a Delegate for serious reasons and after withdrawal of the registered Delegate has been received and approved by the Credentials Committee.
7. During a debate, a member may speak for two (2) minutes and once only, unless no one else wishes to speak.
8. All non-routine motions shall be submitted in writing to the Board Secretary on approved forms at the time they are made.
9. Where inconsistent with the Soroptimist laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

Follow us on Facebook: Soroptimist Western Canada Region Members Only

GET TO KNOW BEAUTIFUL KELOWNA!



Kelowna is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the syilx/Okanagan people.

Kelowna is the largest community in the Regional District with a population of over 143,000. It is located along the beautiful shores of Okanagan Lake, in the heart of the stunning Okanagan Valley. The lake offers opportunities for boating, swimming or fishing, while nearby mountains attract hikers, skiers and outdoor enthusiasts. Golfers tee-it-up at their 14 courses, and bustling urban centres offer restaurants with delectable food, award-winning wines, craft beers and ciders, local shopping, museums, live entertainment and cultural festivals.

Kelowna is the birthplace of BC wine, with more than 40 wineries in and around the city. In April, it's time to celebrate BC wine month and the arrival of new wine releases, particularly aromatic white wine varietals.

Fruit trees in the area also start to bloom in April - those who love golf can be surrounded by blossoms when playing a round at The Harvest Golf Club, which is nestled amongst fruit trees and vineyards. You'll have expansive views of Okanagan Lake from the greens, too.

The increasing temperatures mean outdoor markets start to reopen, too. The Kelowna Farmers' & Crafters' Market, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2020, will kick off its outdoor season on April 2. The market runs on Wednesday and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the corner of Dilworth Drive and Springfield Road.

Do you love discovering insider tips on the winery you're visiting, getting the behind-the-scenes perspective with a barrel tasting, meeting the winery owner or winemaker, and not having to navigate from one winery to the next? Then booking a wine tour with the experts is the right choice for you. Let a guide with local knowledge take you around to our Kelowna wineries, give you the story on each winery and Kelowna's wine industry, and be your designated driver.



City of Kelowna: <https://www.kelowna.ca/>

Tourism Kelowna: <https://www.tourismkelowna.com/>

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association: <https://www.totabc.org/>

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Best Western Plus Kelowna Hotel & Suites

2402 Highway 97 North, Kelowna, BC V1X 4J1

For Reservations: 1-888-860-1212

Ask For: Group Name: Soroptimist International Room Block

Group Registration Code: 161710

To book online use this link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.62001.html?groupid=L11TZ1B7



This beautiful facility is situated in the shopping area of Kelowna but isn't far from the "downtown" core and the beautiful beach area.

Each room has a balcony or patio so you can take in the views and the fresh Okanagan air.

Free parking and free airport shuttle available (more information on the next page!)

Unlike most properties of this caliber, Best Western Plus Kelowna has an amazing grass courtyard for guests to enjoy during their stay – perfect for some down time with a book, or a quiet spot to catch up with friends from other clubs!



Other hotel highlights:

- Complimentary "grab and go" breakfast or enjoy breakfast in the atrium from 6:30-10:00 am (but of course we will be done by 8:00am!)
- Heated mineral pool and hot tub (bring your bathing suit)
- 97 Street Pub on site (15% off food for hotel guests!)



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

All roads lead to the Best Western Plus Kelowna – literally! But some are really, really long drives! So...here's a bit of information for those flying from points east and those driving from the island and lower mainland



If arriving by plane at Kelowna International Airport:
There is a free shuttle bus that will pick you up, and take you back to the airport after the conference. You MUST book ahead to reserve a seat. Once you have your flight details, call the number below and reserve for your arrival time and your departure time at the end of the conference.

Concierge Shuttle - 1-250-863-4213

If arriving by car from the island and lower mainland:

- Take Trans Canada Hwy BC1East to Merritt
- Take BC-5North and BC97C to Kelowna

Your drive from Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal will be about 4 hours 46 minutes. From the West Vancouver area your drive could be around 5 hours 6 minutes.

Of course, these times don't take into account coffee breaks and the subsequent pee breaks along the way! But that we'll leave for you to sort out!



Are you driving to Conference and may be looking for a travel buddy or two? Why not use our fantastic Facebook page to get the word out!?

Follow us on Facebook: Soroptimist Western Canada Region Members Only



ARRIVING A BIT EARLY? WHY NOT JOIN US FOR A WINE TOUR THURSDAY AFTERNOON!

About a 20 minute drive from the hotel, Peak Cellars has panoramic views of surrounding orchards, vineyards, rolling mountains and the glistening water of Okanagan Lake. Once again we will be visiting a winery that has a vibrant, successful woman as part of the winemaking team.

Stephanie Stanley was born and raised in the Okanagan Valley and is well-experienced with all grape varieties in the region. She received a Bachelor of Science with Honours from Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture program in 2003 where she was also awarded the President's Medal. From 2003 to 2015 Stephanie was mentored by esteemed winemaker, Howard Soon, at Sandhill Wines. During that time, she also worked as the lead winemaker for Wayne Gretzky Okanagan when it launched in British Columbia, as well as lead winemaker for Peller Estates Okanagan. She left Andrew Peller in 2015 to propel her career by working two vintages each year for the next four years, dividing her time evenly between New Zealand (at Wither Hills, Marlborough) and the Okanagan. During her 2016 visit back to the Okanagan, she installed and commissioned the new Fitzpatrick Family Vineyards winery; in 2017 & 2018, she worked at Peak Cellars. Stephanie has been leading the winemaking at Peak Cellars since August 2019.



This is a **FREE** activity!

If you plan on attending the Picnic in the Park, you **MUST** register so we have numbers for catering!

*

Don't forget a sweater in case it's chilly! If it rains we have a backup location.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, May 2, 2024

- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Pre-Conference Board Meeting
- 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Wine Tour - Peak Cellars Winery (must register)
- 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm Registration open (hotel lobby)
- 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm “So You’re a Delegate?” (Board Room)
Review of delegate’s responsibilities and parliamentary procedure.
Focus for first time delegates – everyone welcome
- 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Picnic in the Park - Hot Dog Roast
Hotel Green Space
Hosted by: WCR Board and Region Chairs

Friday, May 3, 2024

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration (hotel lobby)
Breakfast in the hotel atrium
- 8:00 am Assemble for Procession
- 8:15 am – 8:50 am Opening Ceremonies (Tower Conference Centre)
Anthem: O Canada
Opening Remarks/Land Acknowledgement
Introduction of WCR Board, SIA Federation Guest
Introduction of Past Governors, Past Federation Board Members
SIA President Bobbi Enderlin’s Greeting
Welcome to Clubs
Introductory Remarks
- 8:50 am – 9:30 am Conference & Society AGM Call to Order
Roll Call
Credentials Report
Adoption of Standing Rules
Adoption of Agenda
Introductions:
 - Region Team
 - First Timers
 - Long Standing Members
Approval of Minutes of 90th WCR Conference
Business arising from minutes:
- 9:30 am - 9:35 am Stretch Break
- 9:35 am – 10:00 am Board Reports
Board Member at Large - Shelley Della Mattia

Secretary - Shirley Stewart
Treasurer - Susan Barber
Governor Elect - Chari Grant
Governor - Suzanne Heron
Open for Questions

10:00 am - 10:45 am Region Chair Reports
 Fundraising - Anna Der
 Public Awareness – video report from Anney Ardiel

Laws and Resolutions

Nominating Committee Report
Nominations from the floor

10:45 am - 11:00 am Memorial Service

11:00 am - 11:15 am Coffee Break

11:15 am – 12:40 pm Keynote Panel, Q & A: Educate a Girl, Change the World

Announcements – Conference Chair Dana Martin

Heads & Tails Ticket Sale

12:45 pm – 2:10 pm Lunch – Sponsored by Darlene Huff & Keen Alignment
Hosted by SI of the Langleys - (South Conference Centre)

2:10 pm - 2:25 pm Candidate Speeches - Governor Suzanne Heron
Member at Large
Secretary
Treasurer
Governor Elect

2:25 pm - 2:30 pm Stretch Break

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Workshop – Dream It, Be It: It's for Everyone

3:30 pm Announcements – Conference Chair Dana Martin

END OF THE BUSINESS DAY

Friday, May 3, 2024 Evening

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm First Timers Reception (by invitation, Governor's Suite)
Cocktail Hour – No Host Bar

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Dinner – Hosted by SI of the TriCities (South Conference Centre)

8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Fitted Sheet Folding Contest (Bring a sheet!)
Lip Synch, Dance

Saturday, May 4, 2024

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Registration (hotel lobby)
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Call to Order (Tower Conference Centre) Credentials Report Thought for the Day Soroptimist Foundation of Canada Presentation Voting if necessary or Introduction of 2024- 2026 Board
9:00 am – 9:20 am	2024-2026 Proposed Budget
9:20 am - 9:25 am	Stretch Break
9:25 am – 10:00 am	Region Committee Reports: Membership – Donna Duvall Advocacy - Carell Wingrave Friendship - Darlene Jamieson
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:15 am – 11:00 am	Federation Address & Workshop – SIA Board Member Melanie Kenney
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Conference 2025 – Region Conference Team (Video) SIA Convention video
11:15 am – 11:50 am	Region Committee Reports: Program/ LYD - Sharon Lockhart Program/ DIBI - Anita Konczi Program/ Dream Accelerator Announcements – Conference Chair Dana Martin
12:00 – 2:15 pm	Live Your Dream Awards Luncheon (South Conference Centre) <i>Hosted by SI Canada West Online</i> Live Your Dream Awards – Sharon Lockhart Celebrating Success Awards – Megan Eastwood
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Workshop: The Power of Storytelling - Sharleen McBlaine, Kelowna Toastmasters (Tower Conference Centre) Announcements – Conference Chair Dana Martin

END OF THE BUSINESS DAY

Saturday, May 4, 2024 Evening

PROPOSED 2024-2026 REGION BUDGET

JULY 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026

INCOME

Conference auction proceeds		\$2,400.00
Interest income		\$559.00
Membership dues - Life Members		\$180.00
Membership dues - Active Members	(325 x 50.00)x2	\$32,500.00
Membership dues - Personal Risk Insurance	based on 325 members	\$9,750.00
Club D&O Insurance	(15 x \$365.00)x2	\$10,950.00
Mandatory Conf Fee	(16 clubs x \$150)x2	\$4,800.00
Region Conference registrations	(100 x \$300)x2	\$60,000.00
Gender Equality Forum		\$10,000.00
Leadership Retreat revenue		<u>\$10,500.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$141,639.00</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Bank charges		\$116.00
Financial reporting		\$2,500.00
Insurance/bonding - Region		\$2,000.00
Insurance/Personal Risk	\$3800 x 2 yrs	\$7,600.00
Insurance/D&O	\$5464 x 2 yrs (of 3 yr contract)	\$10,928.00
Postage/fax/telephone/office		\$245.00
Computer for financial and software		\$500.00
Domain registration		\$100.00
Web hosting/maintenance		\$500.00
Board misc expenses		\$500.00
Total administrative expenses		\$24,989.00

CONFERENCE/CONVENTION EXPENSES

SIA Federation Convention/Governor's Round Table		\$3,500.00
Soroptimist International Convention		\$3,200.00
WC Region Conference - Board		\$8,500.00
WC Region Conference Expenses		\$59,000.00
Mandatory WCR Conf Registration Fees		\$4,800.00
Total conference/convention expenses		\$79,000.00

GENERAL EXPENSES

Board travel		\$5,000.00
Training and development		\$300.00
Committee expenses		\$200.00
Public awareness		\$1,000.00
Governor's Travel		\$7,500.00
Region Leadership Retreat		\$6,300.00
Gender Equality Forum		\$6,300.00
Growth and Development - Chartering		\$600.00
Growth and Development - Club Grants		\$9,000.00
No Barriers. Period Region Program		\$500.00
Virtual Career Library		\$950.00
Total general expenses		<u>\$37,650.00</u>

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$141,639.00

EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

\$0.00

NOMINEES FOR 2024-2026 WESTERN CANADA REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF GOVERNOR-ELECT – SHIRLEY STEWART, SI OF THE LANGLEYS

SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE:

2006 April	Became member SI of the Langleys
2008 – 2009	Club Vice-President
2009 – 2010	Club President
2013 – 2014	Club Vice-President
2014 – 2015	Club President
2020 – 2021	Club Vice President
2021 – 2022	Club President

Additional Club Experience

2006 – 2008	Club Public Awareness Chair	2019 – 2021	Club Public Awareness Chair
2008 – 2009	Club Program Chair	2022 – Present	Club Membership Co-Chair
2017 – 2019	Club Program Chair		

Western Canada Region Experience

2018 – 2022	Region Public Awareness Chair
2022 – 2024	Region Secretary

Currently enrolled in Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Potters Nursery, <i>Department Manager/Customer Service</i>	October 2018 - Present
BC Community Response Network (contract), <i>Coordinator of Programs</i>	Feb 2019 – Feb 2020
John Aldag, Member of Parliament, <i>Constituency Office Manager</i>	Nov 2015 – Dec 2016
Langley 2014 BC Seniors Games (contract), <i>Operations Manager</i>	Feb – Sept 2014
Langley Spirit of BC Committee (contract), <i>Executive Director</i>	Oct 2007 – Mar 2010

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:

I have been knitting since I was eight years old and love the challenge of a difficult pattern
I am an avid reader and enjoy a variety of genres.

EDUCATION:

Level 1 FOODSAFE Certification – Fraser Health
Go2 – National Professional Certification Program - Special Events Coordinator Program
College of Geographic Sciences (Lawrencetown, NS) - Certificate in Planning Technology

AWARDS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER HISTORY

Co-chair of Volunteers for RibFest Langley (August 2017 & 2018)
Recipient of 2017 Women of Excellence Award presented by Rotary Club of Langley Central
Past Local Coordinator, 2014/2015 Public Relations Chair for Special Olympics Langley;
Gateway of Hope Christmas Kettle and Christmas Hamper Volunteer (2014-present)

I agree to the nomination and hereby certify the above information to be true.

DATE: October 15, 2023

Signature Shirley Stewart



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF TREASURER -
PAMELA MACDONALD, SI CANADA WEST ONLINE**

SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE:

I joined the Soroptimist in the Fall of 2022 (Western Canada Online club) and joined the Friendship circle. I try to attend those meetings when I can. I am willing to learn the role of Treasurer and participate in the regional monthly meetings. I am grateful to be part of Soroptimist whose focus on women speaks to me personally. I have a personal vision to assist 'women holding hands around the world' and work tirelessly toward this aim.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

In brief, my career and personal life have been dedicated to serving women in communities. Here are some of the highlights:

- I retired from government work 10 years ago, I was a probation officer and family court counsellor for 30 years for the Provincial Government of BC. I earned a medal from the Queen for my work with women and girls (Darlene Jamieson would be a personal reference and she has introduced me to Soroptimist)
- Prior to the year 2000, I started and ran a Transition House and Women's Shelter for about 7 years in a small town in BC. I also was the Victim Assistance Coordinator through the local RCMP. I was Executive Director of a not for profit that managed over 20 contracts from the government and community, and applied for grants in support of women addressing violence in relationships.
- I host a women's travel club meetup and travel with women all over the world (been doing this for 12 plus years out of Victoria BC. I am a travel agent working from home, affiliated with Departures Travel on Oak Bay Ave in Victoria BC)
- I currently am the BC representative on VRA Canada board and have for the past number of years. Also I was (up to June 2023) the treasurer of the VRA BC board – which has now ceased to be a society. VRA Canada is Vocational Rehabilitation Association at the national level.
- I currently am working as a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant for humanworks in BC, assisting teachers to return to work and to support teachers with work sustainability.

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES: travel, quilting, walking in nature and cold water swimming

EDUCATION:

- Bachelor of Arts degree, University of Calgary with major in Sociology (grad 1980)
- Took one accounting course after my University graduation
- Accepted into U of C Law School in the 1990's, did not finish the program

I agree to the nomination and hereby certify the above information to be true.

DATE: 13 December 2023

Signature: Pamela MacDonald



CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY – NOEMI VICTORINO, SI TRI-CITIES

SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE:

I joined the Soroptimist in the Fall of 2023 and in that short period of time joined the Fundraising Committee.

I am grateful to be part of Soroptimist whose focus on women speaks to me personally. I plan to be a part of other committees and willing to share my experience and support in planning events and membership growth.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

In brief, my career and personal life have been dedicated to serving Canadians. Here are some of the highlights:

- I served as Senior Officer with the Canada Border Services Agency ensuring compliance by conducting verifications within and outside Canada
- I currently hold the position of Director of Low Entropy Foundation, a not for profit organization that has impacted over 10,000 under-resourced individuals and families struggling with food insecurity, mental health and homelessness.

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:

- Kickboxing
- Community volunteering
- Networking

EDUCATION:

- DIPLOMA/DESIGNATION . 2003 . BOMI INTERNATIONAL
Achieved Facilities Project Administration Designation
- CERTIFICATE . 2002 . CCRA HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORATE
- CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY
- Management Development Program
- Training for First Line Manager
- COLLEGE. 1989. ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, Manila

AWARDS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER HISTORY

- I am presently an Ambassador of the TriCity Chamber of Commerce
- I am part of the Executive Leadership of BNI (Business Network International)
- I am part of the Executive Leadership for SPS (Senior Professional Services).
- I was Team Captain for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser
- I was the Regional Workplace Campaign Coordinator for the Canada Border Services Agency
- I was Head Usher for the Vancouver Singing Christmas Tree

I agree to the nomination and hereby certify the above information to be true.

DATE: December 10/23

Signature: Noemi Victorino



CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE – SHELLEY DELLA MATTIA, SI OF THE LANGLEYS

SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE

July 2022 -Present	Board Member-at-Large, Western Canada Region
June 2023 – Present	Fundraising Co-chair, SI of the Langleys
2021 May	Co-Chair, Western Canada Region Conference Committee, this was a wonderful experience which I considered a learning event with my co-chairs (Diane Summers & Shirley Stewart) as mentors
2019 – 2022	Club Gaming Chair
March 2018	Joined SI of the Langleys

WORK EXPERIENCE

Currently I am the Manager, Regional Centre Services BC Cancer, Abbotsford. I am a licensed Pharmacy Technician and in good standing as a member of the College of Pharmacists of BC. My skills, experience and ongoing education professionally are beneficial to the role of Board Member-at-Large.

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

I enjoy walking/hiking and sharing time with my family and friends. I look forward to traveling with my husband and friends and want to start exploring more of our wonderful world.

EDUCATION

I hold a Pharmacy Technician Diploma from Vancouver Community College. I have various other certificates and course completions related to my position at BC Cancer, including Project Management in Health Care from BCIT.

AWARDS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER HISTORY

I have held various volunteer positions with schools and sport organizations that my children have attended but I am now 5 years volunteering with Soroptimist International of the Langleys and looking forward to many more.

I agree to the nomination and hereby certify the above information to be true.

Date: November 22, 2023

Signature: Shelley Della Mattia

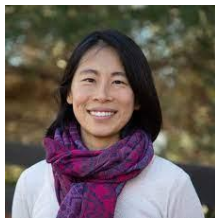
FEDERATION GUEST AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Keynote Panel, Q & A: Educate a Girl, Change the World

Friday, May 3, 11:15 AM - 12:40 PM

Fact: One of the best ways to draw down carbon in our world is *educating girls*. We'll connect the dots between what we do best - empowering women and girls - to the # 1 issue for young people (think: recruitment), and practical examples in Canada and elsewhere (think: "Eco-DIB!!")

Panelists:



Christina Kwauk

Unbounded Associates & Project Drawdown (by Zoom)

Christina Kwauk is a world expert on girls' education in developing countries, 21st century skills and youth empowerment, and the intersections of gender, education, and climate change. She co-authored *What Works in Girls' Education: Evidence for the World's Best Investment* and other works including "The new green learning agenda: Approaches to quality education for climate empowerment." She serves on the Girl Rising's Advisory Council, the International Jury for the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, and formerly as Head of Climate and Education at the Education Commission.



Janna Wale, M. Sc (in person)

IGS Sustainability

Janna Wale is Gitksan from Gitanmaax First Nation as well as Cree-Métis. Where possible, Janna uses a complex human-environmental systems approach, and believes that this lens can be used when looking for ways to bridge western and Indigenous climate work



SI President's Appeal Project: Shaping Environmental Leaders (by Zoom)

In collaboration with Fundacion Moises Bertoni in Paraguay, Opening Doors to a Brighter Future holds Youth Environmental Camps at the Mbaracayú Forest Nature Reserve. The project for 17 - 21 year olds combines empowerment through sport with topics ranging from climate change to agrometeorology.

Tentative: Roots and Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute's youth-led global community action program, equipping an entire generation of young people to become activated and empowered conservation minded citizens in their daily lives (in person).

Moderator - Janet Law, SI Vancouver

Soroptimist International of the Americas Federation Address - Board Member Melanie Kenny

Saturday, May 4, 10:15 - 11:00 AM



Melanie has been actively engaged with Soroptimist International of Saskatoon since 2010, contributing significantly to various projects and initiatives. She has served as President of her local club twice and is a past Governor of the Western Canada Region (2018-2020) serving on the Region Board for 6 years. In 2023 she was elected to SIA's International Board of Directors (2023-2025). Currently Melanie is Western Canada Region's Program Co-Chair.

Workshop Facilitators

Dream It Be It: It's for Everyone - Brooke Gordon

Friday, May 3, 2:30 - 3:30 PM



Brooke offers coaching for women who want to be a confident leader. Together, they work on developing inclusive leadership strategies, business acumen, and communication skills to create sustained change.

She is a member of SI Canada West Online

The Power of Storytelling - Sharleen McBlain, Kelowna Toastmasters

Saturday, May 4, 2:30 - 3:45 PM



Sharleen is the owner of Secret Hair Affair and a certified Fearless Living Coach. After many years behind the chair and having personal insights and connections with people and their personal challenges, she is now Certified Fearless Living Life Coach. Life is about being beautiful inside and out and confident enough to show your true colours anywhere, anytime with anyone.

Don't Be Like This Little Guy!



Be sure to get your Heads or Tails Tickets before they are all gone!

Heads or Tails is one of the fastest fun-d-raisers around!

*Members and non-Soroptimist guests in attendance at the Saturday Banquet are invited to participate in a **Heads or Tails** 50/50 fundraiser. Pot will be split 50/50 between the Region Growth and Development Fund and the winner.*

1 entry per person!

Tickets are \$40 each and a maximum of 100 tickets will be sold.

Tickets can be pre-bought when you register for Conference (if there are any left, they will be sold at Conference) or... you can and be like this little fellow and suffer from a titch of FOMO!

*We invite all Soroptimists and all clubs
to create a post in our **Conference Program***

We are selling spots in the program and want to see what you have been up to or what you or your fellow club members have been up to.

Celebrate a fellow Soroptimist, a milestone birthday, a life event, kudos or a thank you to your favourite Soroptimist sister or that favourite recipe everyone asks you for.

Submit a recipe to be judged on its merit by Hotel Chefs! We hear there will be a yummy prize for the winner!

Let's celebrate how great we are!!!

Business card size, half and full page. We will place these posts in the program for everyone to see and find. Make it a surprise for your Soroptimist to find during conference.

Business card \$25.00

Half page \$50.00

Full page \$100.00

Please send us your ad, including all pictures and wording. Please have the document formatted to EPS or JPG. All posts will be in black and white regardless of what you send in. The deadline for submissions is **March 23, 2024**.

Our preferred form of payment is e-transfer to: siwctreas@gmail.com and cheques made out to Soroptimist Western Canada Region & mailed to:

Susan Barber, Western Canada Region Treasurer 9829 Angus Dr. Chilliwack, BC, V2P 6A8

Questions? Contact Board Member at Large, Shelley Della Mattia - shelleydm.silangleys@gmail.com