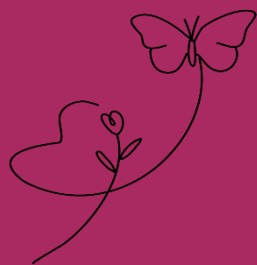


Soroptimist Western Canada Region

Conference 2025

What if you fly?



CALL TO CONFERENCE

May 1-4, 2025
Tsawwassen, BC

Hosted by Western Canada Region



SOROPTIMIST®





An invitation from the Governor...

What if you fly? When I decided on the theme for Conference 2025, I had an idea in my head of what it meant, but over the past year that idea has morphed into something quite different. Originally “*What if you fly?*” was simply meant to be a more elegant way to articulate my now-familiar catchphrase “*Dare to suck,*” but as the year progressed, the words of the theme became much more literal, embodying Soroptimist’s global mission.

In October of 2024, I was fortunate to be among 13 Soroptimists – six from Western Canada Region, and seven from the United States – who flew to Kenya to participate in the Lugari Girls’ Leadership Camp organized by Kenyan Soroptimist Khayanga Wasike. This trip not only allowed me to experience a new part of the world, but it also gave me and the other Soroptimists on the trip a whole new appreciation for the Dream It Be It program. I am so pleased that the other five Canadian Soroptimists who joined me on the trip will be at Conference and the six of us will be sharing some of our insights from the trip in a panel discussion on Friday afternoon.

Our keynote speaker on Friday morning is Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, the VP of People, Equity and Inclusion at Simon Fraser University. I am delighted that Dr. Gilpin-Jackson is able to join us, and I am so excited to hear her keynote address – Global Women as Changemakers. In this time of such global turmoil – the climate crisis, wars and conflicts, and the frightening political climate in many countries – it is women from every continent who can and *must* be the changemakers who will save our planet.

Also joining us will be Melissa Dealy and Billie Aadmi from Girls Matter, a registered Canadian charity that, like Soroptimist, is dedicated to educating girls. Melissa and Billie will be sharing the story of Girls Matter and the great work they are doing in Uganda and Kenya. I’m sure you will be just as touched as I was by this “little organization that could.”

Finally, we have a special treat at our Live Your Dream luncheon on Saturday – Alice Pu, an SI Surrey-Delta Violet Richardson Award winner, is going to share her experiences of learning to fly gliders and inspiring other young girls to take to the skies. Alice is the literal and figurative embodiment of “*What if you fly?*”

In addition to our great line-up of speakers, we have so many fun things planned for you. I can’t wait for you to join the Western Canada Region Board, SIA President Ginger Cole, and SIA Chief Impact and Engagement Officer Ilesha D. Brown in sunny Tsawwassen for a great weekend of learning and fun.

See you soon!

Governor Chari

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 1-4, 2025, in person, in conjunction with the Region's 92nd Annual Conference.

The meeting will be held at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn, 1665 56th Street, Delta, V4L 2B2

In this document you will find:

- the agenda for the Annual General Meeting

Prior to May 1, 2025, the Minutes of the 2024 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:	Janet Law
Venue Leads:	Penny Bickerton and Joan Turner
Registration Chair:	Arlene Johnston
Credentials Chair:	Cathy Coghlan
Program Chair:	Governor Chari Grant
Memorial Chair:	Rhona Beaumont
Hospitality Chair:	Colleen Schmidt
Fundraising Chair:	Anna Der
Technology Chair:	Anita Konzi and Chyler Webb
Wranglers:	Suzanne Mandy and Loreli Urquhart

Meet Your Western Canada Region Board (2024-2026)

Governor:	Chari Grant
Governor-Elect:	Shirley Stewart
Treasurer:	Lana Deruyter
Secretary:	Shelley Della Mattia
Member at Large:	Pamela MacDonald
Parliamentarian:	Dana Martin

Meet Your Region Pillar and Committee Chairs

Membership:	Colleen Penrowley and Heather Rollins
Public Awareness:	Vacant
Fundraising:	Sandra Sterling-Weicker and Rhona Beaumont
Program:	Colleen Schmidt and Melanie Kenny
Live Your Dream:	Colleen Beresh
Dream It Be It:	Ching Shih
Celebrating Success:	Megan Eastwood
Friendship:	Darlene Jamieson
Advocacy:	Carrell Wingrave and Suzanne Heron
No Barriers.PERIOD	Rita MacKenzie and 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, 2025**
2. Late Registration Fee of \$25.00 will apply after **March 31, 2025**
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 the fundraising activity this year.
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 2024 Western Canada Region Conference

CONFERENCE COSTS AT A GLANCE:

Coast Tsawwassen Inn	\$235 to \$260
Full Registration – Voting Delegate	\$245
Full Registration – Non-Voting Soroptimist or guest	\$295
Late Fees (added to Registration fee after (March 31)	\$25
Thursday afternoon Early Bird Shopping	FREE
Thursday evening Build your own burger (MUST register)	FREE (with Full Registration)
Individual meal costs if NOT attending full Conference, or if bringing a guest:	
Thursday evening Build your own burger (MUST register)	\$35
Friday all day including 2 meals	\$150
Friday Lunch only	\$38
Friday Dinner only	\$65
Saturday all day including 2 meals	\$150
Saturday Lunch only	\$45
Saturday Dinner only	\$80
“Heads or Tails” Ticket	\$40

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 91st Western Canada Region Conference.
4. Complete the following documents provided in the online registration link here:

Club President's Form Package: <https://forms.gle/uCPUnE3rWx4npVp28>

Club and President Information

- Club Delegate Information, club sales tables (\$25 for ½ table, \$50 for full) & display tables
- Memorial Service Information – this can be submitted as many times as needed

Photos and emails can be sent to Memorial Chair Rhona Beaumont at

rhona.sivw@gmail.com

Note: there are a limited number of sales tables available. Reserve early!

NOTES FOR ALL ATTENDEES

1. All documents needed to register for Conference are online in one easy form using ZEFFY. Conference Registration: <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-soroptimist-western-canada-region-conference> **SEE IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ZEFFY BELOW.**
2. Payment for conference fees will only be accepted by credit card or by pre-authorized debit (PAD).
3. 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 prefer, for your convenience, here is a QR code to complete your registration:



Change the voluntary contribution amount to Zeffy here:



The screenshot shows a Zeffy payment interface. At the top, it says 'Support the 100% free Canadian platform we use! ca' with a 'Learn more' link. Below this is a dropdown menu currently set to 'Other'. Underneath the dropdown is a 'Contribution' field with a value of '0.' and a dollar sign. At the bottom, a 'Total' bar shows '\$1.00'. A blue arrow points from the text 'Change the voluntary contribution amount to Zeffy here:' to the 'Contribution' field.

A note about Zeffy. Because Zeffy doesn't charge non-profits a fee for using their services, they ask ticket purchasers to make a VOLUNTARY donation to them to cover their processing costs. **Note:** the default is 15% - about \$45 on a non-delegate registration.

You will pay the amount on the payment screen unless you override it by selecting OTHER and then setting the contribution amount to what you would like to pay. In the example above, the amount has been overridden to 0.00. Please consider adding a few dollars to support Zeffy.

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 SUNNY TSAWWASSEN!

Tsawwassen is one of three thriving communities within the City of Delta. A beachside town located next to the US/Canada border and BC Ferries terminal, Tsawwassen is a tourist destination and a beach paradise for locals. The town features natural spaces, including Boundary Bay Regional Park and Fred Gingell Park, and many recreational opportunities, including golfing and water sports. It offers a mix of housing and businesses, as well as a central shopping corridor with local boutiques and more.

To the northwest of the community are the lands of Tsawwassen First Nation, a people of Coast Salish ancestry who have used this land since at least 200 B.C.



For outdoor enthusiasts, there are many parks and hikes near Coast Tsawwassen Inn for you to enjoy. Check out Millennium Trail for a leisurely stroll or a more challenging hike, enjoy Boundary Bay Regional Park or its sandy beaches or scenic trails for hiking and horseback riding, or head on over to Fred Gingell Park for a great place to watch the sunset.

Our host hotel, Coast Tsawwassen Inn is a great place for golf lovers to stay. Kings Links and Tsawwassen Springs are two golf courses that are only a few minutes from the Inn and are open all year round. Kings Links offers stunning views of the ocean, Coast mountains, and Mount Baker creating an unforgettable backdrop for your golf game. Tsawwassen Springs is a beautiful par 70 golf course with views of the North Shore Mountains and 32,000 square-foot amenities from yoga classes to Pilates, a restaurant & bar and much more.



If you're looking for something a little more laid back, explore the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary which features 300 hectares of wetlands, marshes, and low dykes where millions of birds take refuge during their yearly migration, spend a day shopping at Tsawwassen Mills with nearly 200 stores and first-to-market retailers, tour the Westham Island Herb Farm to see colour flower and herb gardens, or visit Emma Lea Farms, a family farm since 1885 and is located across the century old, wooden bridge on Westham Island.

Feeling a little lucky!? Cascades Casino Delta is a short drive from our hotel. The property spans 160,000 square feet and features a spectacular gaming floor with 500 slot machines, 18 live table games and 24 electronic table games. It also includes Gateway's signature restaurants.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Coast Tsawwassen Inn

1665 56 Street, Delta, BC V4L 2B2

Email: frontdesk@tsawwasseninn.com

For Reservations: 1-800-716-6199

Ask For: Group Name: Soroptimist Western Canada Conference

To book online use this link: <http://coa.st/SoroptimistInternationalWesternRegion2025Conference>



The Coast Tsawwassen Inn is nestled in the seaside community of Tsawwassen, conveniently located near the BC Ferries' Tsawwassen Terminal for connections to Vancouver Island, downtown Vancouver, Vancouver International Airport and Highway 1.

As a full-service hotel, they offer guests the following services and amenities:

- Complimentary high-speed WiFi and business centre
- Complimentary continental breakfast for hotel guests
- Fitness Centre - spacious and well-equipped with natural light
- Underground and over-height parking with electric charging stations, doggie wash & bike repair station
- Browns Social House onsite dining experience
- Valet laundry service and onsite guest laundry room
- Complimentary in-suite Starbucks coffee and tea
- Complimentary local calling from your guestroom
- Meeting, convention and event facilities with on and offsite catering



Your guest stay will now be even more enhanced by their upgraded guest rooms, a bright modern lobby with spacious breakfast area and a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre that overlooks a sunny courtyard.

Refreshing guest suites all boast a microwave, coffee maker, mini fridge, iron and ironing board, hairdryer, large format botanical-based bathroom amenities, air conditioning, 2 flat screen TV's, high-speed WiFi, and voicemail. Suites feature either 1 Queen or King size bed or 2 Queens or Double size beds in the bedroom and a sofa bed in the living room. **NOTE: All 2 queen and 2 double rooms are already booked. 1 Queen + sofa bed or 1 King + sofa bed suites still available.**

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

Tsawwassen Coast Inn has a special negotiated rate to or from *BC Ferries' Tsawwassen Terminal* and *Vancouver International Airport* with **Delta Surrey Green Cab 604.943.1111**.

If arriving by plane at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), a cab/UBER ride will be approximately 22 minutes, depending on the time of day.

If walking on BC Ferries, a cab/UBER ride will be approximately 7 minutes depending on traffic.

If arriving by car/ferry from the island:

Take Highway 17 (Ferry Causeway) to 56th Street Turn right and continue into Tsawwassen, the Coast Hotel will be on your right.

Parking is free and located in a secured underground parking lot as well as outside parking at the rear of the hotel.

For those of us driving EVs the hotel has six electric vehicle charging stations, including two Tesla Supercharger stations.

If you are 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



TSAWWASSEN MILLS

ARRIVING A BIT EARLY? WHY NOT JOIN US
THURSDAY AFTERNOON FOR SHOPPING AT
TSAWWASSEN MILLS!

About a 7-minute drive from the hotel, Tsawwassen Mills offers over 1 million (yup 1,000,000) square feet of retail bliss to explore! Some of the world's leading fashion and lifestyle brands have made a home here. We will organize car-pools to Tsawwassen Mills from 3 to 5:30 if enough people are interested. Please indicate your interest in the Conference Registration form you complete using Zeffy.

And that's not all! From family-oriented events, to entertainment, culture, art and architecture, it is so much more than a shopping destination, They boast that Tsawwassen Mills is "an unrivaled shopping experience."

To see more for yourself, visit: <https://www.tsawwassenmills.com>

Will you be at the hotel on Thursday night?

Join us for BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER from 7PM to 9:30.

Choose from a chicken or veggie patty, and lots of toppings. Served with fries and garlic aioli, and fresh crudites.

BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER is included in your conference registration fees, but YOU MUST REGISTER. Let us know you will be there when you complete your registration using Zeffy. There is a NO CHARGE Registration option. Please select that if you are paying for a full registration.



* Wear comfortable shoes. We have a fun Bhangra dance activity planned after dinner. Thanks to [PT Dance Company](#)

AGENDA

Thursday, May 2, 2025

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Optional Tsawwassen Mills shopping trip
4:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Registration open (Foyer)
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	“So You’re a Delegate?” - WCR Parliamentarian Dana Martin Review of delegate’s responsibilities and parliamentary procedure. Focus for first time delegates – everyone welcome
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Opening Reception – Boundary Bay Room <i>Hosted by:</i> WCR Board and Region Chairs Activity – Bhangra dance lesson – PT Dance Company

Friday, May 3, 2025

8:30 am – 9:30 am	Registration - Ballroom Foyer Breakfast on own
9:00	Assemble for Procession
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Opening Ceremonies
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Call to Order – Governor Chari Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Region business Approval of Minutes of 91st WCR Conference – Business arising from minutes
10:30 am – 11:30 pm	Global Women as Change Makers – Yabome Gilpin-Jackson SLD Consulting
11:30 am - 11:45 am	Memorial Service – Rhona Beaumont
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:10 pm – 1:40 pm	Public Awareness Presentation Creating an Effective Club Website: From Vision to Launch
1:40 pm – 1:55 pm	Fundraising Presentation –Rhona Beaumont & Sandra Sterling-Weicker Building your Fundraising Confidence: Overcoming Your Fear of the Ask

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Kenya trip panel discussion – Governor Chari Grant
Panelists: Sharon Fisher, Megan Eastwood, Cindy Paddington, Anna Der,
Colleen Schmidt

3:10 pm – 3:15 pm Announcements – Conference Chair Janet Law

END OF THE BUSINESS DAY

Friday, May 2, 2025 Evening

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

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Dinner (Main Ballroom)

8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Surprise activity/Dance

Saturday May 3, 2025

7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration

8:30 am – 9:00 am Call to Order – Governor Chari Grant
Soroptimist Foundation of Canada - (15 minutes)

9:00 am - 9:30am Board Reports

9:30 - 10:30 Committee Reports
 Membership – Colleen Penrowley & Heather Rollins -25 min
 Combating the Great Membership Decline

 Advocacy – Carell Wingrave & Suzanne Heron - 5 min
 Friendship – Darlene Jamieson – 5 min

Laws and Resolutions – Board Member at Large Pamela MacDonald
• Proposed changes to WCR Bylaws
• Review of changes to WCR Operating Procedures

10:40 am – 11:50 am The Journey to Girls Matter: How they got here, where they are going
Keynote: Melissa Dealy & Billie AAdmi, Girls Matter

11:50 am – 12:10 pm Region Committee Reports
 Program - Colleen Schmidt – 20 min
 Reaching the Big Goal Together: Best Practices

Announcements – Conference Chair Janet Law

12:10 pm - 2:00 pm	<p>Live Your Dream Awards Luncheon – Sponsored by HUB International</p> <p>Guest Speaker – Alice Pu, SI Surrey-Delta Violet Richardson Award Winner</p> <p>Live Your Dream Awards - Colleen Beresh</p> <p>Celebrating Success Awards – Megan Eastwood</p>
2:00 pm – 2:05 pm	Conference 2026 – Region Conference Team
2:05 pm - 3:25 pm	<p>Federation Address - Embracing Change, Celebrating Success, and Committing to Inclusivity: A Call to Action – SIA President Ginger Cole</p> <p>Federation Presentation – Thriving through Change – SIA President Ginger Cole</p>
3:25- 3:30	<p>Announcements – Conference Chair Janet Law</p> <p>END OF THE BUSINESS DAY</p>

Saturday, May 3, 2025 Evening

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<p>Region Team Reception (by invitation, Governor's Suite)</p> <p>Cocktail Hour - No Host Bar (Ballroom Foyer)</p>
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	<p>Closing Banquet</p> <p>Presentation of Region Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isobel Gillespie Membership Award – Treasurer Lana Deruyter • Frances Wagner Women of Achievement Award & “Surprise Activity” - Governor-Elect Shirley Stewart

Conference Adjournment

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Below are proposed amendments to the Region's existing Bylaws. Each amendment will be voted on individually during the Saturday, May 2, 2025 business sessions.

ARTICLE IX

Finance

Section 9.4

The mandatory Conference registration fee shall be ~~\$150.00~~ **\$210.00** per club. This entitles each club to send up to three voting delegates to Conference.

Rationale: *The cost of hosting the annual Region Conferences has increased as a result of varied influences over the past few years. This modest increase will assist in offsetting these increases.*

ARTICLE XIII

Dissolution Clause **(NEW)**

Section 13.1

Upon the dissolution of the Region, its governing body shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Region, dispose of all the assets of the Region exclusively for the charitable purposes of the Region to a successor Soroptimist Region, or in the case of no successor region, the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada.

Any assets not so distributed shall be distributed by a court of competent jurisdiction of the province or territory in which the Region's principal office is then located exclusively for the Region's charitable purposes. The use of any surplus funds for private inurement to any person in the event of a sale of the assets or dissolution of the Region is expressly prohibited."

RATIONALE: *A dissolution clause is essential in bylaws to provide a clear, legally sound process for closing an organization if it becomes necessary. It ensures proper handling of remaining assets, compliance with laws, and protection for members and stakeholders, preventing confusion or disputes. Current WCR by laws do not have a dissolution clause. Soroptimist International of the Americas has recommended we include this in our bylaws.*

Proposed Changes to Operating Procedures

The following revisions will be made to the Operating Procedures of Western Canada Region:

OP IV – Officers

Governor

- Prepares and distributes the agenda for all meetings of the Board at least ~~two weeks~~ **[one week]** in advance of the meeting.
- Attends ~~Governor's~~ **[Leadership]** Round Table in each year of the biennium.

Governor-Elect

- Attends ~~Governor's~~ **[Leadership]** Round Table in the non-convention year.

Secretary

- Sends out a draft agenda to each Board member ~~two weeks~~ **[one week]** before any scheduled meeting of the Board.
- Takes minutes of all meetings of the Board and distributes them within ~~30~~ **[14]** days to all members of the Board and the Parliamentarian.

Treasurer

- ~~Reports membership statistics at every meeting of the Board, and at other times as requested by the Governor. TO BE REMOVED~~
- ~~Forwards Conference registration information to the Conference committee. TO BE REMOVED~~
- Collects the money from ~~the silent auction~~ **[fundraising]** at Conference.

Board Member-at-Large

- ~~Assists the Conference Memorial Services Chair. TO BE REMOVED~~

OP-VI – Meetings

Conference

- A Conference Manual shall be available to ~~all clubs hosting Conference~~ **[the Conference organizing committee]**.

OP-IX – Finance

Governor

- Funds shall be designated for Governor's Round Table. In a non-convention year, the amount designated may not pay all of the Governor's expenses. ~~In a Convention year, the Governor will have her flight, food and hotel paid for by the Federation. TO BE REMOVED~~

Growth and Development

- Under exceptional circumstances, clubs with ~~19~~ **[between 13 and 19]** or more regular members may apply for a Growth and Development grant. **The amount will be no more than \$ 500.00 (per biennium) and is at the discretion of the board.**
- ~~Funding of programs that will promote the leadership and growth in the Region.~~ **TO BE REMOVED**

Website

- ~~The Governor shall approve all postings to the website.~~ **TO BE REMOVED**

Region Awards & Programs

- ~~The Conference body must ratify any additions and deletions to Region awards and programs.~~ **TO BE REMOVED**

Present awards are:

1. The Isobel Gilhespy Membership Award
2. The Frances E. Wagner Soroptimist Woman of Achievement Award
3. **Celebrating Success [NEW]**

Federation Guests



Iesha D. Brown, Chief Impact & Engagement Officer Soroptimist International of the Americas

As Chief Impact & Engagement Officer, Iesha D. Brown is responsible for implementing the strategic direction for member recruitment/retention, leadership development, and programs.

Iesha comes to Soroptimist with a 25+ year professional background in association management, project management, and program development. She previously owned her own association management consulting firm and served as the director of chapter development and membership for The Institutes, a risk and insurance knowledge group. Before that, she set up and managed global operations for membership and certification for the Project Management Institute.

Iesha is passionate about SIA's mission and is impressed by the commitment of Soroptimists.



Gloria "Ginger" Cole, Ed.D., President Soroptimist International of the Americas

Dr. Ginger Cole of Los Angeles, CA (Camino Real Region), is currently serving a one-year term as president of Soroptimist's international of the Americas Board of Directors. In this role, Ginger will guide the board in shaping the organization's vision, overseeing its financial and strategic direction, and leading efforts to amplify Soroptimist's global impact in empowering women and girls to achieve their full potential through access to education.

A member since 2007, Ginger has held several leadership positions, including board president-elect and secretary; region governor and secretary; and club president and vice president.

"I am deeply humbled that the membership of SIA has elected me to this leadership position," Ginger said. "Our membership represents a very diverse constituency, united and committed to improving the lives of women and girls throughout the world. I've had the privilege of witnessing the transformative nature of our programs and I look forward to our continued collective efforts to invest in the dreams of those we serve."

Ginger retired from her career in 2011 after working as an administrator for the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1979. She holds a doctorate's degree in educational leadership from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition to her work with Soroptimist, she is also a member of the Foothill Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

KEYNOTE AND PANEL PRESENTERS



Global Women as Change Makers – Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, SLD Consulting

Friday, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson (she/her) is a proud African-Canadian who was born in Germany, grew up in Sierra Leone, and completed her studies in Canada and the USA. Dr. Gilpin-Jackson is Simon Fraser University's first Vice-President, People, Equity & Inclusion and Founder/Principal Consultant at SLD Consulting. She is a scholar-practitioner in the interdisciplinary Human/Organization Development field, bringing background and experience in Organization Development, social change consulting, executive & Board coaching, facilitation and subject matter expertise in social change and justice work related to systemic equity, diversity and belonging.

She has a doctorate in Human and Organization Systems, is a Certified Executive Coach and holds her Institute for Corporate Directors' Designation. She has served in Executive Leadership roles within the British Columbia Public Sector, in healthcare and a Crown corporation. Yabome is community-engaged and has served on a variety of non-profit Boards including Chair of her international professional association, the Organization Development Network. She is currently a Simon Fraser University Beedie School of Business Advisory Board member and a Board member of the Immigrant Employers Council of BC.

Among other awards, she has been named International African Woman of the Year by UK-based Women4Africa, was the inaugural recipient of the Emerging Organization Development Professional award from US-based Organization Development Network and the recipient of several Canadian awards including the prestigious Harry Jerome Professional Excellence Award for Black-Canadian achievements, 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women, 100 Black Women to Watch and a YWCA Woman of Distinction nominee.

Her inspiring talk at [TEDxSFU](#) is about how to get past disconnection to social change. Her publications include, [Transformation After Trauma](#), [The Power of Resonance](#), co-editor for the [2022 Palgrave Handbook of Learning for Transformation](#), the [We Will Lead Africa](#) book series and [short story collections](#) about global African experiences: *Identities, Ancestries, Destinies*. [When asked about her work in the world](#), Yabome describes it as “developing our human capacity to be, think and do things differently and better.” If you ask what she is best known for, she will tell you, her wicked laugh!

**Kenya trip panel discussion, Q&A – Governor Chari Grant,
Friday, 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm**

Panelists:

Sharon Fisher



Megan Eastwood



Cindy Paddington



Anna Der



Colleen Schmidt



Chari Grant - Moderator





The Journey to Girls Matter: How they got here, where they are going – Melissa Deally & Billie Aadmi, Girls Matter
Saturday, 10:30 am – 11:40 am

MELISSA DEALLY
CO-FOUNDER, Girls Matter

Melissa's journey spans continents and cultures, beginning in Australia and taking a pivotal turn in Tokyo, Japan, where she enjoyed an International School education. Her adventurous spirit led her to explore the world, after completing a Commerce Degree including a transformative two-month camping safari through Africa in 1990.

Having witnessed firsthand the global disparities in educational access, particularly in Africa, Melissa's passion for making a meaningful impact was ignited. As a mother of two girls and a dedicated Girl Guide leader, she found inspiration in the documentary "Girls Rising," which unveiled the uphill battle nine girls faced in their fight for education. This poignant experience prompted Melissa to reassess the significance of her successful hotel career and set her on a path to contribute positively to the world.

In 2016, a life-changing conference by Allysian Sciences became the catalyst for Melissa's "a-ha" moment. Instead of waiting to amass personal wealth, she realized the power of taking immediate, purposeful steps toward her dream of educating girls. Collaborating with friends Malcolm and Megin, who shared a similar vision, they co-founded Girls Matter in January 2017. Through this non-profit organization, Melissa's impact started in Buyaya, Uganda.

The narrative continued to unfold in 2021 when Melissa connected with Jali Sisters in Kenya, an organization empowering women in the Nairobi slums to earn a livelihood. Girls Matter expanded its reach to support the education of daughters within this inspiring community. Melissa's dream is to break the poverty cycle, 1 girl, 1 family, 1 village at a time, as we raise the GDP of countries, further increase access to education for girls.



BILLIE AADMI
BOARD MEMBER Girls Matter

Billie Aadmi is a first-generation Canadian and a dedicated single mother of two. Her parents immigrated from India in the 1970s in search of a better life for their family. Having visited India numerous times, Billie understands the critical importance of education for girls.

With two decades of experience as a police officer, Billie has witnessed the devastating effects of sexual violence on women. Her passion for giving back to her community and helping those in need has led her to humanitarian work with Habitat for Humanity in Kenya and Choice Humanitarian in Nepal. Inspiring young women through her own stories of resilience and perseverance is a cause close to her heart.

As a single mother, Billie is even more committed to instilling the values of generosity and community service in her children. She is currently transitioning from her career in policing to a fulfilling role in brain training and results coaching, having founded Go Mindspire Inc. Through her training, she connected with Melissa and

together co-launched Amplify Impact Academy, which certifies and trains coaches and practitioners. Additionally, they have partnered with Girls Matter, donating 10% of all earnings to support their mission.

Billie is honored to be part of this important initiative to educate girls and prevent teenage marriages, and she is dedicated to expanding this powerful mission as far as possible.



Live Your Dream Awards Luncheon Guest Speaker

Alice Pu, SI Surrey-Delta Violet Richardson Award

Alice-Xinyue (Alice) Pu is a double-licensed Glider Pilot and Private Pilot through training scholarships awarded by the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program. She doesn't know how they trusted her alone to pilot engineless planes (gliders) at 17, or single-engine land planes for flights as long as 185 kilometers at 18, but she does know that she is grateful for the countless lessons they taught her, and the opportunity and mentorship to reach for the skies.

She is now the cadet leading her squadron of over 60 youth aged 12-18 on weekly training nights to deliver lessons in aviation, deportment, marksmanship, wilderness survival, and leadership right here in Tsawwassen, and reforming the way that complex and dense aviation lessons are taught to younger cadets in interactive, comprehensive ways. Outside of the Cadet program, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology at UBC with a goal of becoming a veterinarian.



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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.

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

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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, 2025**

Payment options:

E-transfer: send to Treasurer Lana Deruyter siwctreas@gmail.com. Please indicate 2025 Conference Program ad (remember, 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 Lana Deruyter, 5445 Extrom Road, Chilliwack, BC, V2R 4S7. Payable to SIA Western Canada Region (note 2025 Conference Program ad).

Questions? Contact Governor-Elect Shirley Stewart at mrmackb64@gmail.com