



Founders Pennies Frequently Asked Questions

When did the tradition of Founders Pennies begin?

The tradition of giving pennies began in 1943 when they were contributed to the Madame Noel Fund. Clubs collected one penny for each year of Soroptimist's existence and used the money to help re-establish clubs in Europe that had disbanded as a result of pre-World War II political conditions and the war itself. In 1946 the fund was renamed the Founders Fund, and it provided international fellowships, scholarships and other awards to improve the status of women. Beginning in the 1960s, Founders Pennies provided funding for the Youth Citizenship Awards, and in 1972 for the Women's Opportunity Awards (then called the Training Awards Program).

How are Founders Pennies used now?

Founders Pennies are now used to fund the Women's Opportunity Awards and other SIA programs that improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. Founders Pennies represent approximately 10 percent of the \$1.5 million of contributed income needed for programs.

How are Founders Pennies calculated?

For the 2010 club year, Founders Pennies will be set at \$.06:

$$$.06 \times \text{number of years that SIA has been in existence} = \text{total contribution per member}$$
$$.06 \times 89 = \$5.34$$

$$2011 - .06 \times 90 = \$5.40 \text{ per member}$$

$$2012 - .06 \times 91 = \$5.46 \text{ per member}$$

Who gives Founders Pennies?

Founders Pennies are remitted to headquarters by each club. Clubs collect the pennies from their members in a variety of different ways.

Are Founders Pennies mandatory?

Founders Pennies are a voluntary contribution from Soroptimist members remitted to headquarters by clubs. As with all contributions, Founders Pennies are not mandatory.

What kind of recognition is given for Founders Pennies contributions?

Regions are awarded a certificate of appreciation when all clubs in the region contribute to Founders Pennies between June 1 and May 31. Contributions for recognition are based on the number of members on record at headquarters as of the end of the recognition period (May 31). Additional recognition is given to the region that has the highest per capita contributions.

Do Founders Pennies qualify a club for a Club Award?

In order to qualify for the Club Award, clubs must complete each activity listed under the program, membership, public awareness and fundraising categories. Founders Pennies is one of two qualifying activities under fundraising. Founders Pennies remitted in the suggested amount (\$5.34 in 2010) for every club member fulfills the requirement for the Club Award.