



# Riversidelines

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE FEBRUARY 2025

### SOROPTIMIST VISION

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

### SOROPTIMIST MISSION

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 TAG LINE

**“INVESTING  
IN  
DREAMS”**

### SOROPTIMIST CORE VALUES

Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

- GENDER EQUALITY: Women and girls live free from discrimination.

- EMPOWERMENT: Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.
- EDUCATION: Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.
- DIVERSITY & FELLOWSHIP: Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

### SOROPTIMIST BIG GOAL

Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Edith Gingerich*  
2024-25 President

Soroptimist International of Riverside was remarkably busy in January. Kicking off the year with our annual Human Trafficking Awareness Workshop featuring dynamite speakers including Professor Paul Chang, Riverside Police Chief Gonzalez, Katrina Castro from Riverside's Human Trafficking Taskforce and our own Dr. Tiffanie Tate. The workshop was held at the Civil Rights Institute in downtown Riverside.

We're also proud to announce that our esteemed judges, Kathy Allavie, Barbara Purvis and Barbara Shackelton were very helpful in scoring our finalists' applications for SI Riverside's Live Your Dream Education and Training Award. This award is given to women who are the sole support of their family, are attending college or a vocational school and have a financial need to help get them through school. Three very deserving women will be honored and awarded at our Salute to Service Program in April.

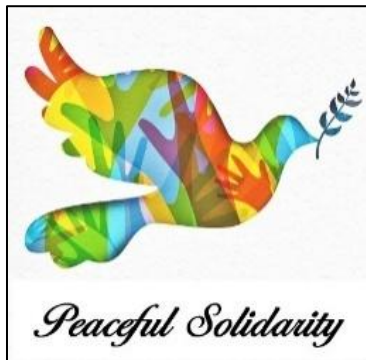
Our second annual Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction will be held on February 21st at the Elks Lodge in Riverside. Chairs Melanie McKee and Tiffanie Tate and all the committee members are working hard to give a fun

time to our guests. We're lining up great auction items, both for the live auction and the silent auction. We'll also have our balloon jewelry grab again this year. Hope to see you there!

Chairs Michelle Paradise and Rosa Santos-Lee and committee members have been working non-stop lining up professional panelists, fabulous speakers and planning for our annual Live Your Dream: Dream It Be It Conference to be held in March on the Riverside Community College campus. This conference hosts middle school aged girls and introduces them to professional women in various career fields. Two career fields featured this year are medical and law enforcement. It's a huge project but it is so worth it to the girls who attend. They come out of the conference enlightened and encouraged to attend college and have great careers!

Stay tuned! More to come as the year progresses!

Edith Gingerich  
2024-25 SI Riverside President



## FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

February

- 4 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 6 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**
- 11 **BUSINESS MEETING**  
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 11 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE**
- 14 **V-DAY - GLOBAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**
- 21 **RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS & AUCTION FUNDRAISER**  
Riverside Elks Lodge

NO PROGRAM MEETING  
IN FEBRUARY

## MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

March

- 4 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 11 **BUSINESS MEETING**  
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 15 **LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE**  
Riverside City College
- 21 **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

NO PROGRAM MEETING  
IN FEBRUARY

## DATES TO REMEMBER

# Save the Date

April 29, 2025  
**SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON**

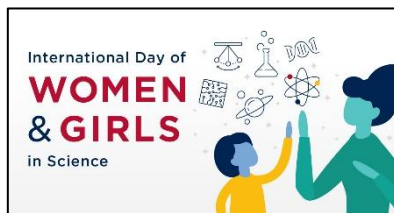
June 5-8, 2025  
**GWR SPRING CONFERENCE**  
We-Ko-Pa Resort & Casino  
Fort McDowell, Arizona

July 2027  
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Soroptimist International of Riverside, a club in District 1 of the Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Business meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday and Program meetings are on the 4th Tuesday. Business meetings are hybrid on ZOOM and in person at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside. Program meetings are in person only at Habitat for Humanity. Meetings will last from noon until approximately 1:15 PM. Please arrive a little early so we may begin promptly at noon.

## FEBRUARY 11, 2025 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



The theme for the 2025 International Day of Women and Girls in Science is "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science". The day will be celebrated on February 11, 2025.

What the theme means:

- The theme highlights the importance of women and girls in science and technology.
- It aims to end bias and increase opportunities for women and girls in STEM.
- It also calls for more inclusive media representation to challenge gender stereotypes.

What the day celebrates:

- The day recognizes the contributions of women in science and technology.
- It also celebrates women's leadership in science as a way to achieve sustainability.

What the day aims to achieve:

- The day aims to promote gender equality in STEM.
- It also aims to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality.

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



## OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Each grant season, our inboxes are flooded with stories of survival, pain, hope, courage and determination. The messages of many single moms masquerading as mere mortals, "performing superhuman feats without a cape," as our own *Live Your Dream Awards* recipient, Shirlee Draper once said.

### Each Year We Invest in Women

- \$2.7M invested in Education Grants through the Live Your Dream Award Program.
- 1,800 women and their families empowered through the Live Your Dream Awards.

We know education is the tool to achieving women's social and economic empowerment. This is why we invest more than \$2.8 million in education grants to

1,700 women every year through the Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women program.

**Education holds the power to transform women's lives, families and whole communities.**

Research has shown that single motherhood and lack of a college degree are two of the strongest indicators of poverty.

All of the women we support through the Live Your Dream Awards provide the primary financial support for their families while working towards a college degree or gaining skills through specialized training programs. Most of these women are also survivors who have overcome enormous adversity in their lives.

**The Ripple Effect: Women Helping Women**

Many award recipients choose to work in areas that help others live their dreams: 79% of Live Your Dream Awards recipients enter helping professions such as nursing, legal and social work with the intention of helping others improve their lives.

This results in a ripple effect that continues the positive cycle of women helping women.

From SIA's  
[LiveYourDream.org](http://LiveYourDream.org) website



**FEBRUARY 21, 2025  
RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS  
& AUCTION**



Join Soroptimist International of Riverside for an afternoon of excitement and purpose at our Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction Fundraiser on February 21, 2025 at the Riverside Elks Lodge.

This event will feature a live auction, silent auction and a rib sticking BBQ lunch. Additionally, attendees can purchase balloon mystery gifts, participate in our wine and spirits game and have the opportunity to bid on lunch with esteemed local leaders.

The live auction will include exclusive experiences such as a luncheon with Riverside Mayor Lock Dawson, a luncheon with Police Chief Gonzalez, a dinner at a Riverside Firehouse, a Las Vegas Condo getaway, a cabin in Big Bear and a stunning Riverside Raincross necklace.

Tickets are priced at \$65 per person and can be purchased on the SI Riverside website ([soroptimistriverside.org](http://soroptimistriverside.org)). Click on the fundraiser link on our homepage.

Saddle up in your best western duds for some boot stomping fun! In addition to partaking in a high-falutin' good time, your contributions will have a positive impact in our community as we help to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Melanie McKee & Tiffanie Tate  
RCA Co-Chairs

**MARCH 15, 2025  
LIVE YOUR DREAM:  
DREAM IT, BE IT  
CONFERENCE**



**“SAVE THE DATE”**

**March 15, 2025  
Riverside City College**

The Live Your Dream Conference Planning Committee met on January 27th and everything continues to move smoothly.

Fourteen sites have received 12 student applications with Jurupa receiving an extra 20 for foster youth students. The turnaround time for the students to turn in their applications was shortened so that students did not forget about the opportunity.

Lt. Col. Jengi Martinez, pilot, United States Air Force, has been confirmed as the morning speaker. Our own Dr. Tiffanie Tate will be the afternoon speaker.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided by McGrath's Catering and we will provide snacks on the tables for attendees.

Charlene Johnson and Rosa Santos-Lee will collaborate on completion of the name badges for attendees.

We do not need to purchase backpacks as we have sufficient supplies on hand.



We have already received donations of \$3,250 and JoAnn Moore has graciously agreed to handle the SIA grant submission for the 2026 conference.

Michelle Paradise  
LYD Conference Chair

## SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION & TRAINING



## THE SOROPTIMIST DREAM PROGRAMS

Soroptimist's Dream Programs ensure women and girls have access to the education and training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Soroptimist is committed to investing in programs that have a sustainable, measurable impact on the lives of women and girls.

### Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards

Our signature program the Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women, has provided cash awards to more than 39,000 women since its inception in 1972, empowering them to achieve economic independence.

Every year, Soroptimist distributes more than \$2.7 million in education grants to about 1,800 women all over the world.

Over half of our Live Your Dream Awards recipients are survivors of

domestic violence, trafficking or sexual assault. Nearly all of the women and families we serve have overcome enormous obstacles including racism, poverty, teen pregnancy and substance use disorder.

Live Your Dream Awards recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation. This unique program is helping women find their voice and purpose while offering the resources they need to succeed.

The women and girls we serve are some of the most courageous, powerful and inspiring people you'll ever meet. Each and every one of them is a superhero. We are honored to share their extraordinary stories which demonstrate the impact members like you make.

Article from:  
Soroptimist 101

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



### No Birthdays in February



## FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Pam Bradford**  
**2-13-1990**

**Annamarie Megrdochian**  
**2-22-1996**

**Debbie Kelley**  
**2-7-2022**

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**SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE**



**I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist and to The ideals for which it stands:  
The Sincerity of Friendship,  
The Joy of Achievement,  
The Dignity of Service,  
The Integrity of Profession,  
The Love of Country.  
I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold, and defend these ideals, for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.**

**RIVERSIDELINES**



EDITOR  
Pam Bradford

DEADLINE  
Submit articles and photos by the 25th of each month to Pam at:

pambradford@pamsemail.net

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

