



Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE
DECEMBER 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.

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



November seemed to fly by and was filled with activity as usual. Many planning meetings for our upcoming fundraiser, Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction, and our Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference were held by virtual means. Even our business meeting was virtual, due to Veteran's Day.

However, we got to meet in person for our annual Friendsgiving on November 18th, which was very well attended by our club members, guests and Habitat for Humanity staff members.

We are looking forward to our next chance to meet, which will be on December 9th at the dedication of our long awaited History Walk in downtown Riverside. Many thanks to Susan Exon and her committee members for having the fortitude to see this project to fruition. Councilman Phil Falcone was greatly instrumental in making this happen. Our December business meeting will follow the History Walk dedication.

December 11th is the date of our annual Holiday party, which is always a joyous gathering. We will have a delicious Italian buffet, games and an opportunity to donate toys for Arlington Temporary Assistance.

I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Holiday season full of laughter, hugs, family and friends.

Lynn Scecina DC
2025-26 President



DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

- 2 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 2 **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY**
- 5 **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**
- 9 **HISTORY WALK REDEDICATION**
11:30 AM, Riverside County Courthouse
- 9 **BUSINESS MEETING**
1:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
Please Note Time Change
- 10 **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**
- 11 **HOLIDAY PARTY**
5:00 PM at Susan Wolf's Home

No Program Meeting in December

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR



- 6 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 9 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 11 **NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY**
- 24 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION**
- 27 **PROGRAM MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

DATES TO REMEMBER



February 20, 2026
RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS & AUCTION FUNDRAISER
Riverside Elks Lodge

March 7, 2026
LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE
Riverside City College

September 30 to
October 2, 2027
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Prague, Czech Republic

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.

DECEMBER 10, 2025 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



2025 Theme: Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials

In this period of turbulence and unpredictability, where many feel a growing sense of insecurity, disaffection and alienation, the theme of Human Rights Day is

to reaffirm the values of human rights and show that they remain a winning proposition for humanity.

Through this campaign, we aim to re-engage people with human rights by showing how they shape our daily lives, often in ways we may not always notice. Too often taken for granted or seen as abstract ideas, human rights are the essentials we rely on every day.

By bridging the gap between human rights principles and everyday experiences, we aim to spark awareness, inspire confidence and encourage collective action.

The campaign emphasizes that human rights are positive, essential and attainable.

Human rights are POSITIVE

They not only protect, they also bring joy, happiness and safety into daily life. Human rights are lived realities. They are in the food we eat, the air we breathe, the words we speak, the opportunities we pursue or the protections that keep us safe.

Human rights are ESSENTIAL

They are the essentials we all share, the common ground that unites us across differences of race, gender, belief, or background. In a world of uncertainty, human rights remain our everyday constants. When everything feels unstable, your right to safety, to speak freely and to participate in decisions that affect us, become the bedrock of our lives.

Human rights are ATTAINABLE

They begin with us, with the small, everyday choices we make from treating others with respect, speaking up against unfairness, and listening to those whose voices are often ignored. Everyday choices and voices matter more than you may realize; they build a culture of dignity and fairness around us. But human rights also depend on collective action, when communities, movements, and nations come together to demand justice and equality.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



POSITION PAPERS

Soroptimist International's Position Papers outline our global advocacy stance on key issues affecting women and girls. Each paper reflects our commitment to human rights, gender equality and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

WHERE WE STAND ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

POSITION SUMMARY

- Universal access to safe, inclusive and high-quality education and training for

women and girls is a fundamental human right and is crucial to ensure sustainable development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education;

- Global cooperation is required to address the challenges associated with access to education and training. Unified actions from Member States, the private sector, NGOs and civil society are necessary to promote gender equality in education and remove systemic barriers facing women and girls.

WHERE THINGS STAND

Access to high-quality education and training throughout the life course transforms lives and communities. Recognized globally by SDG 4 on quality education, the crosscutting benefits of education on sustainable development and its fundamental role in achieving gender equality are established human rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The United Nations Human Rights Council reaffirmed the Human Right to Education in its 41st Session on July 19, 2019.

Educating women and girls goes beyond individual empowerment. It produces better health outcomes, fuels economic growth, and contributes towards stable and peaceful societies. The social and economic imperative to improve access to education and training for all women and girls is evident, with better-educated women and girls contributing to informed healthcare, reduced fertility rates, and healthier children. A 2018 World Bank study underlines the economic impact, revealing that restricted

access to 12 years of education for girls globally costs countries USD 15-30 trillion in lost lifetime productivity and earnings.

Despite progress, recent data reveals persistent disparities in access to education driven by income gaps, gender-based violence, socio-economic barriers, conflict, and climate change. Poverty and education are interconnected, with high poverty levels making education less accessible. Furthermore, even when education is available, children, especially girls, are often expected to work and earn money rather than attending school.

Regional disparities also persist, particularly in West and Central Africa and South Asia, while child marriage compounds the issue, reducing the likelihood of girls completing secondary education. Missing out on education impedes the abilities of children and young people to find safe, paid work – and can make them more vulnerable targets of modern slavery. In 2023, approximately 781 million adults, 66% of whom are women, remain illiterate in terms of reading and writing capabilities, the majority from developing countries. Numeracy is also important, but comparable data at the global level is lacking.

Conflict is increasingly linked to exclusion from education. The statistics of attacks on education in conflict-affected regions underscore the severity of the issue, impacting over 9,000 students and teachers across 85 countries in 2020 and 2021, according to the United Nations. In some countries, girls are being specifically targeted with extreme levels of violence in a bid to dissuade them from attending school.

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced new challenges to

education globally, with a shift to online learning due to school closures. However, the digital divide widens gender disparities, as 52% of women globally lack internet access compared to 42% of men. In low-income countries, only 25% of women have internet access. Recognizing the significance of innovation, technology, and education in the digital age is crucial for gender equality. Bridging the gender digital divide is essential for fair representation in tech jobs, managerial roles, and academic careers. The achievement of SDG 4 is dependent on embracing opportunities and challenges presented by technology.

**OCTOBER 10-11, 2025
GWR DISTRICT 1 FALL
MEETING**



**GOLDEN WEST
REGION
DISTRICT 1 FALL
MEETING
CORONA CA**

President Lynn Scecina and I attended the 2025 District 1 Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Fall Meeting was hosted by SI Corona and entitled "Sorooptimists: Raising the Bar."

Following registration and perusing the exhibit room, the meeting was called to order by Golden West Region District 1 Director, Tori Zins, followed by a lovely inspiration by Terry Squires

(SI Corona), the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions by Tori Zins who also led a delightful game of "Welcome Bingo" to facilitate camaraderie.

GWR Governor Liz Glowka's address reminded us that this is truly a season of gratitude, togetherness and giving. It is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives, connect with one another and extend kindness to those who need it most. She continued, "Within our Soroptimist community, this spirit of giving shines brightly through the programs and projects we dedicate ourselves to year round."

Earlier in the morning, District 1 Director Tori Zins had distributed slips of paper to the attendees requesting that we write any questions any of us might have for the speakers or questions that we would like discussed aloud among the group. A lively discussion ensued with many suggestions, clarifications and answers provided.

This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Alia Rodriguez whose tenure in municipal government includes key leadership roles in the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley and Eastvale. As Chief Executive Officer of the Corona-Norco United Way, she has successfully enhanced organizational sustainability through strategic fund development, business operations oversight and workforce development. With no exaggeration, she is truly a gifted speaker and warm influencer.

Following lunch, there were informative presentations: Sydney Carroll (SI Chino Hills) - Fundraising; Therry Hansen (SI Chino Hills/Inland Empire) - Membership; Judy Vasquez (SI Moreno Valley) - Programs; Lynn

Seccina (SI Riverside) - Public Awareness; Deb Murphy for Melanie McKee (SI Riverside) - Nominating Committee and GWR Governor Elect Pat Box (SI Moreno Valley) - Future Events.

Final Announcements at the meeting were made including an invitation for bids to host the 2026 Fall Meeting by Tori Zins.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Deviny
Junior Delegate

**NOVEMBER 18, 2025
FRIENDSGIVING**

Friendsgiving



On November 18th at Habitat for Humanity you could almost hear the song "Be Our Guest" wafting through the conference room as Soroptimist members and guests gathered for our annual Friendsgiving luncheon.

Magically, the room was impeccably decorated with beautiful place settings, thanks to Charlene Johnson who worked tirelessly on the previous Saturday to create the festive setting.

Everyone brought delicious food and we enjoyed a lively meal. As is our custom, we invited the Habitat staff members to join in the feast. We were especially pleased to have a presentation from Habitat for Humanity CEO David Hahn about the projects

that Habitat has planned. Nobody left hungry, that is for sure!

Lynn Seccina
SI Riverside President



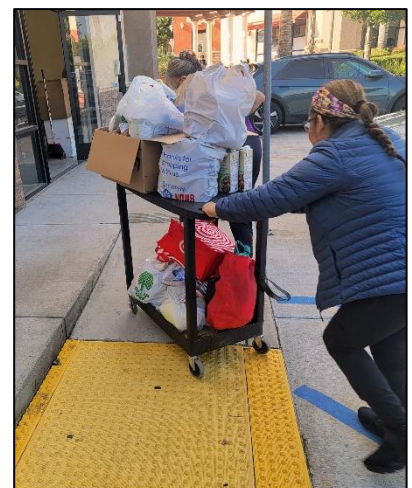
**NOVEMBER 18, 2025
FOOD DRIVE FOR
ARLINGTON TEMPORARY
ASSISTANCE**

On November 18th, SI Riverside club held a food drive collecting non-perishable food to be donated to the families who are served by Arlington Temporary Assistance.

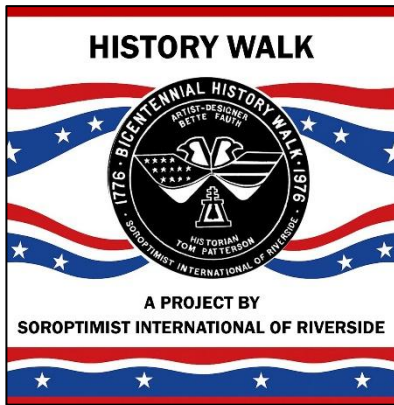
Past President Edith Gingerich delivered the food to Arlington Temporary Assistance which was graciously accepted by Arlington ATA Director Ofelia Aguirra.



*Past President Edith Gingerich
and Arlington Temporary
Assistance Director Ofelia
Aguirra*



**DECEMBER 9, 2025
HISTORY WALK
REDEDICATION**



HISTORY WALK DEDICATION

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
11:30 AM**

You are cordially invited to join us for the dedication of the History Walk which has been installed in the sidewalk in front of the Riverside County Courthouse. The ceremony will take place at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, December 9th.

Following the dedication ceremony, the SI Riverside Business Meeting will take place at Habitat for Humanity at 1:00 PM with lunch being provided for members.

For further information on the development and legacy of the History Walk, please visit the SI Riverside website:

soroptimistriverside.org

Susan Exon
History Walk Chair

**FEBRUARY 20, 2026
RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS
& AUCTION FUNDRAISER**



On February 20, 2026, SI Riverside will host our annual Rhinstones, Cowgirls & Auction fundraiser.

The event will be held at the Elks Lodge in Riverside with registration commencing at 11:30 AM, followed by lunch at 12:00 PM.

More details will be provided in the near future

In the meantime, please mark **FEBRUARY 20, 2026**, on your calendars so you won't miss this Rootin' Tootin' Good Time.

Melanie McKee
RCA Chair

**MARCH 7, 2025
LIVE YOUR DREAM:
DREAM IT, BE IT
CONFERENCE**



The Live Your Dream Conference planning committee (Ellen Clizbe, Chris Deviny, Jeanne Holmes, Charlene Johnson, Melanie McKee, Michelle Paradise, Lynn Secina and Barbara Walling) has been meeting regularly to prepare for our signature female

empowerment event. The conference is scheduled for March 7, 2026, at Riverside City College and preparations are well underway.

We are pleased to share that our keynote speakers and most panelists have been confirmed. Applications will be distributed to 7th and 8th grade AVID girls in the Alvord, Jurupa, and Riverside school districts, as well as students at the California Military Institute.

We are also continuing to expand our outreach to foster youth, strengthening our commitment to supporting young women who face unique challenges.

As we move forward, committee members will be reaching out to SI Riverside members for assistance and support. Your participation is essential in helping us create an encouraging, inspiring and transformative experience for our young women.

Feel free to reach out if have questions or want to help:

Rosa Santos-Lee
LYD Conference Chair
rsantoslee@yahoo.com
(951) 445-8968

**SOROPTIMIST
EDUCATION & TRAINING**



*The Elevator
Speech*

The idea of an “elevator speech” is to have a short (30 seconds or less), prepared presentation that grabs attention and says a lot in a few words. An elevator speech comes in handy when you attend an event, a conference, a convention, or some other type of meeting with networking opportunities. By telling your core message, you will be marketing yourself and Soroptimist in a way that will make people want to know more about you and our amazing organization.

What are you going to be saying in this brief oration? Convey excitement about Soroptimist in order to spark the interest of potential members. Highlight your projects - what is unique about your club? Talk about the fun events you hold. When delivering your elevator speech—believe it, deliver it with energy and enthusiasm, smile and leave them wanting more! See some samples below:

Soroptimist

“Soroptimist is an organization of women who use their collective power to provide other women and girls with the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Our unique focus on women and girls provides the opportunity to make a better world for ourselves, our daughters and the generations of women to come. Collectively, Soroptimist has helped more than 30,000 women reach their goals and live their dreams through our Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women, by providing access to education and skills-training. Our club’s “Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference” acquainting 7th and 8th grade girls to various career options is just one of the ways we are directly affecting the lives of the women in our local community.”

LiveYourDream.org

“LiveYourDream.org is an online volunteer network providing programs to help women and girls. You choose your cause and course of action based on how much time you have. We give you the tools online to take action offline in your own community. It’s free and there is no commitment required. You can do what you want, when you want; whether it’s hosting your own awareness campaign or working one-on-one with a woman in need, you choose your own adventure! This initiative is sponsored by Soroptimist, an international women’s organization that works to improve the lives of women and girls all over the world.”

Continually perfecting and updating your elevator speech ensures that you are always able to put your best foot forward. Be sure to keep it fresh and make changes as necessary based on your specific audience!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Chris Deviny – 2nd
JoAnn Moore – 12th
Ellen Clizbe – 17th

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



Linda Robertson
12-8-2009

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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.



Soroptimist International of Riverside

BEST
for Women

RIVERSIDELINES



EDITOR
Pam Bradford

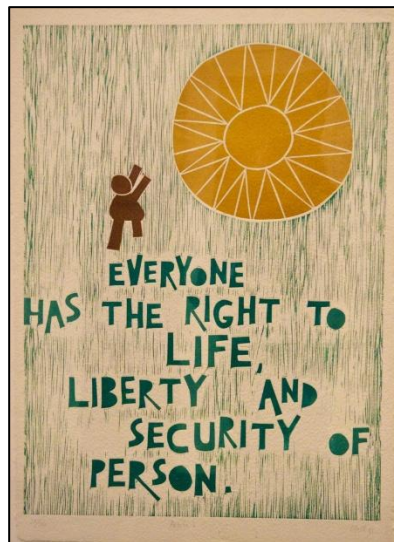
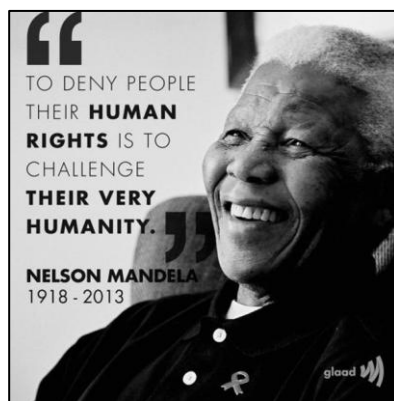
DEADLINE
Submit articles and photos by the 25th of each month to Pam at:

pambradford@pamsemail.net

DECEMBER IS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Article 1 of the United Nations: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948)



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
is a reminder of how undemocratic systems of government and abuse of authority can lead to injustice, oppression and violence.