



Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.
MARCH 2026**

**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**

PRESIDENT
Lynn Scecina
(951) 317-2141

VICE PRESIDENT
Rosa Santos-Lee
(951) 445-8968

RECORDING SECRETARY
Tiffanie Tate
(805) 236-4975

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Barbara Walling
(714) 875-0873

TREASURER
Debbie Ferraro
(951) 212-2358

ASSISTANT TREASURER
Debbie Kelley
(951) 205-5340

SENIOR DIRECTOR
Melanie McKee
(760) 586-3131

JUNIOR DIRECTOR
Edith Gingerich
(951) 640-3881

SENIOR DELEGATE
Tillie Soliz
(951) 285-9682

JUNIOR DELEGATE
Chris Deviny
(951) 276-3304

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As it is every year for SI Riverside, this time of the year seems to be the busiest.

We had another successful Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction event on February 20th, and now we are looking forward to hosting our annual Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference on March 7th.

I tip my hat to all those members who worked tirelessly on the RCA event. It takes our entire team to produce a successful, fun and profitable fundraiser. Melanie McKee and her committee are to be commended.

Rosa Santos-Lee is doing a wonderful job organizing the Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference with the help of many committee members and our friend and former member, Jeanne Hatcher. Another great program has been prepared.

Women of many professions will be present at Riverside City College to enlighten dozens of middle school AVID 7th and 8th grade female students as to what possibilities might exist for their future career choices.

It is always an inspiring and uplifting event for not just the

students, but the SI Riverside members and presenters as well. This is one of our most cherished events and we look forward to it every year.

The recipients of our Live Your Dream Education and Training Awards have been chosen, along with our Gold Key Award, Dream It Be It Awards and Student Volunteer Awards. They will all be presented in April at our Salute to Service Luncheon.

So, needless to say, we are not letting any moss grow beneath our feet this season. As always, I am ever thankful for the spirit of cooperation and purpose within our club as we joyously work together for the benefit of our mission: The empowering of women and girls.

Lynn Scecina DC
2025-26 President



MARCH 2026 CALENDAR



- 1 **INTERNATIONAL ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**
- 3 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 7 **LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE**
Riverside Community College

- 8 **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**
- 10 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity, 2180
Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 21 **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN MARCH

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR



- 7 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 7 **WORLD HEALTH DAY**
- 10 **SI RIVERSIDE CHARTER DAY**
- 14 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity, 2180
Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 22 **INTERNATIONAL EARTH
DAY**
- 30 **SALUTE TO SERVICE
AWARDS LUNCHEON**
First United Methodist
Church of Riverside

NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN APRIL

DATES TO REMEMBER



June 4-7, 2026
GOLDEN WEST REGION
SPRING CONFERENCE

Palm Springs, CA
"Rendezvous at the Big Top!"

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.

MARCH 8, 2026
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY



A Global Celebration of
Strength, Progress, and
Possibility

Each year on March 8th, communities around the world come together to celebrate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to honoring the achievements of women and advancing the ongoing work toward gender equality. What began more than a century ago as a call for fair labor practices and voting rights has grown into a global movement recognizing women's leadership, resilience and contributions in every corner of society.

This year's observance invites us to reflect not only on how far we've come, but also on the work still ahead. Women and girls continue to face barriers to education, economic opportunity, safety and representation. Yet across the globe, they are also leading change innovating, advocating, creating and lifting their communities.

For Soroptimists, International Women's Day is more than a date on the calendar. It is a powerful reminder of why our mission matters. Every scholarship awarded, every Dream Program completed, every mentoring moment and every act of encouragement helps open doors for women and girls striving to build brighter futures. When we invest in education, we invest in independence, confidence and generational change.

Here in Riverside, our club proudly stands with millions of women and allies worldwide who believe in a future where every woman and girl has the opportunity to learn, to lead and to thrive. International Women's Day gives us the chance to celebrate the women who inspire us, acknowledge the challenges that persist and recommit ourselves to creating a world where equality isn't just an aspiration, it's a reality.

As we mark March 8th, may we continue to champion the voices of women and girls, amplify their dreams and work together to build a more just and inclusive world. When women rise, communities rise with them.

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.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUMMARY

This document provides a summary of Soroptimist International's (SI) position on Access to Justice. The full paper is available on the SI website.

SCOPE OF THIS PAPER

This paper examines how education underpins access to justice for all women and girls, analyzed through Soroptimist International's five strategic pillars.

CURRENT GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Access to justice is the practical ability to uphold rights and obtain fair remedies through formal or community systems. Persistent barriers including discriminatory laws, gender norms, cultural attitudes and unequal access to education continue to limit women's and girls' access to justice. Conflict, displacement and climate crises further erode legal identity and disrupt justice pathways. Justice gaps are widening, with women and girls most affected. Laws on inheritance, property, marriage and employment still restrict women's autonomy, while digitalization and informal systems introduce both new opportunities and new risks for gender equality.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'S POSITION

Soroptimist International emphasizes that quality, equitable and lifelong education is essential for strengthening access to justice for all women and girls. Education empowers them to understand their rights, challenge discrimination and lead change.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CALLS TO ACTION

Member States must dismantle intersecting barriers and discriminatory laws while investing in inclusive, equitable systems so that all women and girls can access justice, understand and claim their rights and participate equally.

EDUCATION

Access to education justice means universal access to safe, quality lifelong learning.

FEBRUARY 20, 2026 RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS & AUCTION FUNDRAISER



On February 20, 2026, Soroptimist International of Riverside hosted our third annual Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction fundraiser at the Riverside Elks Lodge and the afternoon was filled with energy, generosity and community spirit.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all committee members whose dedication, planning and teamwork brought this fundraiser to life. Your efforts were felt in every detail of the day.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Stan Morrison, our talented auctioneer, whose enthusiasm and skill made every item feel exciting and kept the room fully engaged. Guests also enjoyed a delicious barbecue luncheon buffet prepared by McGrath's Catering which was a highlight of the afternoon.

We are grateful to everyone who donated items for the Basket Drawing and Balloons & Bling Grab Bags, both chaired with care and creativity by JoAnn Moore, as well as those who contributed wine for the Red, White & Booze drawing chaired by Edith Gingerich.

Our appreciation also goes to Debbie Kelley for her imaginative

and always popular Coffee and Cocktails with a Cowboy experience, which continues to be the hottest ticket in town.

We also thank President Lynn Scecina for overseeing the Jewelry with a Purpose table and ensuring it sparkled with beautiful selections.

Plus, I want to personally thank everyone who assisted in securing live auction items.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors and donors. Your generosity directly supports our mission to provide women and girls in the Riverside community with the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. The success of this fundraiser strengthens our many service projects and allows us to continue making a meaningful impact.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, attended, donated or supported this event. Together, we created a memorable afternoon and helped advance a mission that changes lives.

Melanie McKee
RCA Chair



Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction Chair Melanie McKee with City of Riverside Police Chief Larry Gonzalez and his guests. Chief Gonzalez donated a personal "Lunch for Two" for our Live Auction.



Auctioneer Stan Morrison delivered an outstanding performance, bringing energy, professionalism and heart to our fundraiser.



SI Brea-La Habra President Ali Mendiola, SIR Corresponding Secretary Barbara Walling, SIR President Lynn Scecina and SI Brea-La Habra First Vice President Terri Daxson. We are truly grateful to SI Brea-La Habra's for their generous support for our fundraiser.



Our Registration Team: Barbara Walling, Debbie Ferraro and Tillie Soliz



Virginia Godoy (left) donated one of her beautiful mixed media paintings to our Live Auction. It was purchased by SI Riverside Treasurer Debbie Ferraro (right).



"Red, White & Booze" with Edith Gingerich



"Jewels with a Purpose" with Lynn Scecina



"Balloons & Bling" with Barbara Walling, Committee Chair JoAnn Moore and Rosa Santos-Lee



"Coffee or Cocktails with a Cowboy" with Debbie Kelley



Our Ticket Sales Team: Virginia Sullivan and Cisca Hernandez









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



MARCH 7, 2026 RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD
PLAN TO ATTEND! THERE ARE
JOBS FOR EVERYONE!

Rosa Santos -Lee
LYD Conference Chair

SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION & TRAINING



SOROPTIMIST CORE VALUES

Soroptimist International of the
America's 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.

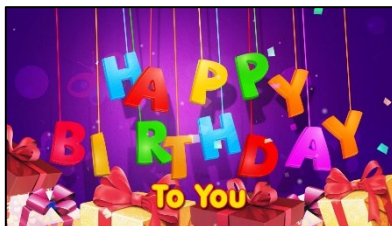
EDUCATION

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Leslie Farris – 16th
Rosa Santos-Lee – 20th
Edith Gingerich – 24th

MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



Carolyn Kegarice
3-1-1986

CONTACT US

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

CLUB NUMBER
114315

MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 1631
Riverside CA 92502

EMAIL ADDRESS:
siriverside@soroptimist.net

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimisttriverside.org

FACEBOOK

Soroptimist Riverside CA

INSTAGRAM

soroptimisttriverside

LINKED IN

www.linkedin.com/company/sor
optimist-international-of-riverside

GOLDEN WEST REGION

WEBPAGE

www.goldenwestregion.org

FACEBOOK

Soroptimist International Golden
West Region

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

1709 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6103

MAIL:

P. O. Box 95000 - 2553
Philadelphia, PA 19195-0001

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimist.org

FACEBOOK

Soroptimist International of the
Americas

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

8A Romsey Terrace
Cambridge, CB1 3NH
United Kingdom

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimistinternational.org

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

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Wherever women gather together failure is impossible"

SUSAN B. ANTHONY
 WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"If women want any rights more than they's got, why don't they just take them, and not be talking about it."

SOJOURNER TRUTH
 AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Women are the real architects of society."

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE
 AMERICAN ABOLITIONIST AND AUTHOR

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong it is until it's in hot water."

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
 FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

HARRIET TUBMAN
 AMERICAN ABOLITIONIST

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man's work for less than a man's pay."

CLARA BARTON
 NURSE/AMERICAN RED CROSS FOUNDER

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try."

ROSA PARKS
 AMERICAN ACTIVIST

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy; a wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim."

MAYA ANGELOU
 AMERICAN POET

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH