



Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE
APRIL 2026**

**LIVE YOUR
dream**
Dream It, Be It
CONFERENCE

March 7, 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
woodcrestchiro@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Rosa Santos-Lee

MARCH 7, 2026

(951) 445-8968
rsantoslee@yahoo.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tiffanie Tate
(805) 236-4975
drtate1908@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Barbara Walling
(714) 875-0873
wbmuse@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Debbie Ferraro
(951) 212-2358
debbers813@aol.com

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Debbie Kelley
(951) 205-5340
debbie52LCSW@aol.com

SENIOR DIRECTOR

Melanie McKee
(760) 586-3131
mckeeamelanie4@gmail.com

JUNIOR DIRECTOR

Edith Gingerich
(951) 640-3881
edithg@gmail.com

SENIOR DELEGATE

Tillie Soliz
(951) 285-9682
tilliesoliz20@gmail.com

JUNIOR DELEGATE

Chris Deviny
(951) 276-3304
christinedeviny@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Springtime has arrived and brings with it renewed vitality and enthusiasm for all our many programs. March was another active and inspiring month for SI Riverside members. As usual, we had “all-hands-on-deck” for yet another purposeful project.

We had a very successful Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference on March 7th at Riverside City College at which we hosted 72 middle school girls for a day of learning and goal setting. Women of varied professions gave their time and expertise to enlighten the leaders of the future.

A big thank you goes out to Rosa Santos-Lee and her committee for coordinating this, our signature event. The girls were inspired by our keynote speakers, Jengi Martinez, commercial pilot and Air Force veteran, and Michelle Paradise, former deputy DA and presently candidate for judge.

It is through programs such as this that we are reminded of our collective purpose in Soroptimist, which is the empowerment of

women and girls through education. We look forward to our Salute to Service event this month at which we will be presenting awards to deserving women and high school seniors. It is inspiring to all of us to observe what can be achieved through determination and perseverance, despite the challenges we might be facing. We congratulate all who will be receiving awards and wish them all success in the future.

Lynn Scecina DC
2025-26 President



**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**

**MAY 2026
CALENDAR**



- 5 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 12 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 15 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES**
- 26 **PROGRAM MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 28 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**

DATES TO REMEMBER



- June 4-6, 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.

**APRIL 7, 2026
WORLD HEALTH DAY**



World Health Day on April 7, 2026, shines a light on this year's theme, "Together for health. Stand with science."

The World Health Organization is using the day to highlight how scientific collaboration protects communities and strengthens global health systems.

It's also a reminder that millions of people still lack access to essential care and that improving health equity remains a shared responsibility.

This year's observance encourages communities, leaders and organizations to support evidence-based public health efforts and to invest in strong primary healthcare. By raising

awareness, sharing reliable information and championing access to care, we help build a healthier, more resilient world for everyone.

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.

FOOD SECURITY

POSITION SUMMARY

- Climate change, conflict and economic insecurity are among several drivers of food insecurity, of which the world is now facing a global hunger crisis.
- Gender inequality plays a role in food production and consumption including women and girls' limited access to land rights.
- Food insecurity impacts women and girls in different

ways to men and boys including heightened risk of exploitation and long-term health risks.

- All women and girls must be educated, empowered and enabled as leaders and decision makers in global food policies and strategies to ensure their specific needs are met.

WHERE THINGS STAND

Defined at the 1996 World Food Summit, being food secure is "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

The world is in a crippling and escalating hunger crisis. According to the 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122 million people compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these already staggering figures, the global situation worsened further in 2023, with at least 345 million people across 82 countries at risk of acute food insecurity and 50 million people on the brink of famine. The African continent remains the worst-affected region with one in five people facing hunger on the continent, more than twice the global average.

Food security is compromised or threatened by many factors, one of which is climate change. Higher global temperatures and more extreme weather events associated with climate change are reducing the reliability of food production.

Armed conflict, population growth, inadequate water supplies, overharvesting of plants, fish and wildlife and land grabbing are other factors significantly impacting food security globally. Compromised food production is also contributing to rising food costs worldwide.

Access to and control over productive resources, such as land, water, livestock and seed is a key contributor to food security.

Yet women's role in farming, particularly in the lowest income countries, continues to be overlooked. Women are denied access to financial support, land ownership and decision making which hampers their ability to raise productivity levels on their farms.

Indeed globally, only 15 per cent of landholders are women, yet women constitute approximately 43 per cent of the global agricultural labor force. Many female agricultural workers face inequalities in access to agricultural technologies like biological innovations, machinery, as well as transport, storage and market infrastructure.

The World Food Program estimates that if women farmers had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields by 20 to 30 per cent, lifting 100 million to 150 million people out of hunger.

On the other hand, gendered patterns of food consumption negatively affect girls' and women's nutrition, despite their physiological need for more nutrient rich food, especially in pregnancy.

Not only are women and girls at higher risk of malnutrition, but malnutrition poses specific threats

to adolescent girls and women who are pregnant and breastfeeding, as it increases their risk of miscarriage and maternal mortality, as well as the risks of stillbirth, newborn deaths, low birth weight and stunting for their children leading to an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. According to Plan International, maternal undernutrition contributes to an estimated 2.4 million neonatal deaths every year.

In addition, food insecurity increases women and girls' vulnerability, putting them at ever greater risks of experiencing gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation during their efforts to secure food and earn an income.

Education becomes less of a priority for many families who are forced to focus on their basic survival. Early and child marriage is closely linked to the impacts of food insecurity and is proven to have detrimental outcomes on girls' long-term health, well being and potential as economic contributors later in life, as many never return to school to complete their education.

FUNDAMENTAL ACTIONS

Soroptimist International recognizes that the right to food is inextricably interconnected with other basic human rights and the achievement of gender equality.

Soroptimist International therefore urges governments to examine and implement strategies to overcome obstacles to fulfil the right to food for all, including women and girls.

Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, the private sector (including businesses) and other institutions and individuals who

interact with women and girls must act immediately to address and improve food security and tackle the global hunger crisis.

Soroptimist International calls upon:

- Governments, the private sector and NGOs should provide effective and sustainable solutions to food insecurity and strategies to remove impediments and violations of the human right to food. The challenges, concerns and interests of the women and children should be addressed to inform food security policy.
- Governments and all stakeholders must empower all women and girls to be leaders, experts, and agents of change in food production, distribution and consumption by enabling them as decision makers at the local, national, and international levels.
- Governments, the private sector (including businesses) and NGOs to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls, by granting their right to inherit and own land in rural and urban areas.
- Governments should adopt a legal and institutional framework to assist those within its jurisdiction to ensure their food security, including water rights, land rights, transportation systems and food storage and distribution systems.
- Governments should enact laws and policies that protect the human rights of the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, older persons and persons living with disabilities, which

in turn address issues of food inequality and discrimination, to promote inclusive food access for all citizens.

- Governments should fulfill their legally binding commitments agreed upon in the 2015 Paris Agreement to prevent global temperatures from rising and compromising a vast range of human rights, including the rights to food, safe water and land.
- The role of all women, including indigenous knowledge in food systems, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation must be fully supported at all levels.

GOLDEN WEST REGION 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



48th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE JUNE 4-6, 2026

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Golf Resort
67967 Vista Chino
Cathedral City CA 92234**

Hostess Clubs: SI Moreno Valley and SI San Jacinto-Hemet Valley



Governor Liz Glowka

Welcome to the 48th Annual Spring Conference – Rendezvous at the Big Top: Celebrate and Educate! I am delighted to have you join us for what promises to be an inspiring, energizing, and memorable gathering.

We begin Thursday evening with a celebration to remember off-site at a beautiful local Mexican restaurant, where we will honor and recognize our dedicated board members, committee members and region presidents for their outstanding leadership and service. It will be a festive and meaningful evening filled with gratitude, fellowship and excitement as we officially kick off our time together.

Friday morning, we will open our conference and attend to important region business, including the much-anticipated Nominations Committee report and candidate speeches. If you are considering stepping into a leadership role and missed the nomination deadline, you may still run from the floor. Instructions and qualifications are included in the Call to Conference and I encourage you to thoughtfully consider how you might serve our region in the coming biennium.

In keeping with our mission and our commitment to empowering women and girls, the Golden West Region, in support of the UpliftHER program, respectfully asks each of you to bring and donate period poverty items for distribution to the Young Women Empowerment Club at Coachella Valley High School. Approximately 90% to 92% of the girls served are classified as socioeconomically disadvantaged, often referred to as high poverty. Your donations will help ensure that girls have access to essential hygiene products when school is not in session.

Friday evening will begin with our Region Fundraiser and will then segue into the much-awaited Live Your Dream Awards Banquet and Presentation. This banquet represents the pinnacle of our collective efforts throughout the year, celebrating achievement, honoring perseverance and witnessing the lifechanging impact of our work. It is truly an evening not to be missed.

I look forward to seeing each of you, sharing in these meaningful moments and witnessing how your glow continues to grow. Thank you for your dedication, your leadership and your unwavering commitment to our mission.

Warm regards,
Liz Glowka,
2024-2026 GWR Governor

NOTE TO SI RIVERSIDE MEMBERS:

Please contact Treasurer Debbie Ferraro if you plan to attend Spring Conference.

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



**MARCH 7, 2026
RIVERSIDE CITY
COLLEGE**

**INSPIRING FUTURES AT
OUR DREAM IT, BE IT
CONFERENCE**

Our Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference was held on March 7th at Riverside City College, welcoming over 70 girls in grades 7 and 8 from Alvord, Jurupa and Riverside school districts. This year, we were especially excited to welcome a new partner school, California Military Institute. The day was filled with inspiration, connection and opportunities for our scholars to begin envisioning their futures.

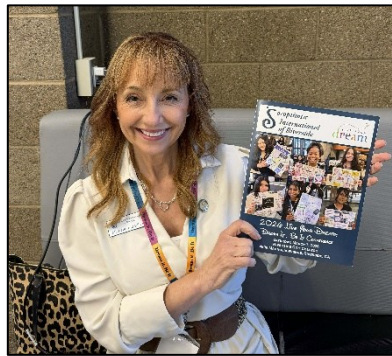
Participants had the opportunity to hear from empowering keynote speakers and panelists representing a wide range of careers, including medicine, law enforcement, aviation, law, fire service, forensic science, technology, veterinary medicine, television production, the arts and local city government. Each

speaker shared her personal journey, highlighting challenges, successes and the determination it took to achieve her goals, inspiring our scholars to see new possibilities for themselves.

In the afternoon, students engaged in a hands-on goal setting activity, creating vision collages led by SI Riverside member and keynote speaker Michelle Paradise. Several girls shared their collages and words of inspiration, offering powerful glimpses into their dreams and the steps they are ready to take to achieve them.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and teamwork of the Live Your Dream Conference committee and Soroptimist members who worked behind the scenes. Their time, care and commitment truly exemplify Soroptimist's mission of empowering women and girls through education. The future is full of possibilities for the young women who attended and perhaps one day one of them will return as a speaker, inspiring the next generation.

Rosa Santos -Lee
LYD Conference Chair









**JUNE 4-6, 2026
SALUTE TO SERVICE
AWARDS LUNCHEON**



Join us as we honor eight extraordinary women and girls at our annual Salute to Service Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 30, 2026, at First Methodist Church, 4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside.

\$65 Per Person

Check-In: 11:30 AM
Lunch Served at 12:00 PM

After lunch, we will present the following awards:

**LIVE YOUR DREAM
EDUCATION & TRAINING
AWARD**



**STUDENT VOLUNTEER
AWARD**



DREAM IT, BE IT AWARD



GOLD KEY AWARD



This is a powerful opportunity to celebrate the impact of our Soroptimist mission, helping women and girls through access to education, and to hear firsthand how these deserving recipients are changing their lives and communities. All club members are encouraged to attend to show support and help honor our winners.

Tickets must be purchased by April 20, 2026.

Please feel free to share the Salute to Service Awards Luncheon invitation and registration form with family, friends and business associates so we can fill the room in support of our winners. The awards luncheon is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our mission and the impact Soroptimist has in our community.

You may return your registration form and payment via mail to our post office box, turn in at our April 14th business meeting or simply scan the QR code on the invitation to purchase your ticket through Ticket Stripe.

Let's make this celebration unforgettable!

SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION & TRAINING



SI Riverside
Chartered
4-10-48

Over 200 Riverside Soroptimist members and guests, including representatives of various community organizations, were present for the Charter Ceremony and Banquet at the Mission Inn on April 10, 1948, where the new Soroptimist Club of Riverside received its charter.

The Riverside club was sponsored by the Pomona Soroptimist Club and Lois Reeves McCarty, President of the Pomona club, acted as toastmistress for the program.

E.V. Dales, President of the Riverside City Council, gave the official welcome to the new service club for women.

Mary Ellen Pangle was installed as president of the club by Alido Dyson, Chairman of Education for Statesmanship of the American Federation of Soroptimist Clubs.

Presentation of the charter was by Dr. Ruth S. Thomas, Director of the Southwestern Region. Dr. Pearl Shrode Rittenhouse, member of the Extension Committee of the region, was assisted by Gladys Donlavey of Pomona, in presenting the President's pin.

Red tulips and white flowers sent by the Zonta Club of Riverside decorated the piano. Greetings and gifts were received from many organizations.



Marguerite Lorbeer, left, and Lois Reeves McCarty, right, Pomona Soroptimists, look on as Dr. Ruth S. Thomas, Director of the Southwestern Region of the American Federation of Soroptimist Clubs, presents the Riverside club president, Mary Ellen Pangle, with the new club's charter.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



No April Birthdays

APRIL MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Lynn Scecina
4-26-2011**

**JoAnn Moore
4-1-2015**

**Susan Wolf
4-3-2018**

**Charlene Johnson
4-3-2018**

CONTACT US

CONTACT US

**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF
RIVERSIDE, INC.**

CLUB NUMBER
114315

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

