



Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE MAY 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
woodcrestchiro@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Rosa Santos-Lee
rsantoslee@yahoo.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tiffanie Tate
drtate1908@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Barbara Walling
wbmuse@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Debbie Ferraro
debbers813@aol.com

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Debbie Kelley
debbie52LCSW@aol.com

SENIOR DIRECTOR

Melanie McKee
melaniemckee3034
@icloud.com

JUNIOR DIRECTOR

Edith Gingerich
edithg@gmail.com

SENIOR DELEGATE

Tillie Soliz
tilliesoliz20@gmail.com

JUNIOR DELEGATE

Chris Deviny
christinedeviny@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Honoring Women. Uplifting Girls. Strengthening Our Community.

April blossomed into a month of inspiration and celebration for Soroptimist International of Riverside as we gathered for our cherished Salute to Service event on April 30th. This beautiful luncheon brought our members, partners and supporters together to honor extraordinary women and girls whose courage, dedication and determination embody the very heart of our mission.

We proudly recognized five Live Your Dream Education & Training Award winners, each of whom is forging a brighter future through education and perseverance. Their stories remind us why our work matters and why investing in women transforms families and communities.

A highlight of the event was presenting the Gold Key Award to Riverside Council Woman Clarissa Cervantes. Her leadership, advocacy and

unwavering commitment to uplifting women and girls make her a shining example of service in action.

We were thrilled to honor Grace Diaz with the Student Volunteer Award. Her dedication to community service and her generous spirit reflect the promise of the next generation of women leaders.

Our Dream It, Be It Award was presented to Anahi Consecro, whose growth, resilience and engagement in the program inspire everyone around her. She represents the hope and possibility we strive to nurture in every girl we serve.

Every honoree, from our determined Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipients to our inspiring youth awardees, is deeply deserving of recognition. Their journeys remind us why we gather, why we serve and why we continue to champion the dreams of women and girls.

Soroptimist International of Riverside extends heartfelt congratulations to each award recipient. We celebrate their achievements today and cheer them on as they continue building bright, bold futures. We look forward to seeing where their dreams take them next.

Lynn Scecina DC
2025-26 President



MAY 2026 CALENDAR

MAY

- 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 2026-27 INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside
- 28 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
ACTION FOR WOMEN'S
HEALTH



JUNE 2026 CALENDAR

JUNE

- 2 COMBINED BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on ZOOM
For Outgoing and Incoming
Boards
- 4- GWR SPRING CONFERENCE
6 Cathedral City
"Rendezvous at the Big Top"
- 5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 7 WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

9 BUSINESS MEETING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity,
2180 Iowa Avenue,
Riverside

12 WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

15 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

19 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



DATES TO REMEMBER



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.

MAY 15, 2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES



International Day of Families,
established by the United Nations
in 1993, is observed each year on
May 15th to highlight the essential
role families play in social and
economic development. The
observance grew out of UN efforts
in the 1980s to raise global
awareness of family related
issues and encourage policies
that strengthen and support
households.

The 2026 theme is "Families,
Inequalities and Child
Wellbeing." This theme focuses
on how widening gaps in income,
education, healthcare and digital
access are shaping children's
futures and placing added strain
on families.

This year's UN program
emphasizes investing in
integrated, family oriented
policies such as child benefits,
parental leave, affordable
childcare and early childhood
education to reduce disparities
and improve outcomes for
children.

Events at UN Headquarters will bring together experts, policymakers and community organizations to share research, highlight successful family support strategies and launch a new paper on inequality and child well being. The program is open to the public and will be livestreamed on UN WebTV.

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.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Position Summary

Women and girls experience higher poverty rates due to unpaid care work, limited access to digital tools and barriers to paid employment. Education remains a key pathway to economic empowerment.

Where Things Stand

Global Poverty:

- 388 million women and girls lived in poverty in 2022, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central/Southern Asia.

COVID-19 Impact:

- Women dominate essential but low-paid sectors (health, education, retail, food supply, agriculture) and often lack social protections, pushing many deeper into poverty.

Unpaid Care Work:

- Caregiving is still treated as "women's work," limiting economic participation.
- 606 million women are excluded from the labor market due to unpaid care responsibilities.
- This leads to reduced lifetime earnings and pension access.
- Policies like paid parental leave for both parents are needed.

Gender Digital Divide:

- Women have less access to internet, smartphones and digital financial tools. 327 million fewer women than men had smartphones pre-pandemic.
- In ICT jobs and leadership, women remain underrepresented.
- Equal digital access can expand income, employment and learning opportunities.

Leadership & Workplace Equality:

- In leadership at all levels, women remain underrepresented.
- Workplaces must be safe and free from violence, in line with ILO Convention 190.

Economic Impact:

- Empowering all women strengthens local, national and global economies.

Where Things Need to Go

Equal Pay & Fair Work:

- Equal pay for work of equal value must be enforced to close the gender pay gap.

Care Work Reform:

- Governments must recognize and redistribute unpaid care work and invest in childcare and eldercare.

Digital Access & STEAM:

- Affordable electricity, internet access, digital literacy and STEAM programs are essential to closing the digital gender divide.

Fundamental Action

Governments should:

- Ratify and implement ILO Conventions 100, 111, 156, 183 and 190.
- Uphold CEDAW and align national laws.
- Ensure gender equal representation in economic decision making.
- Enforce equal pay and livable wages.
- Remove barriers to women's access to land, credit, capital, property and inheritance.
- Use gender responsive budgeting to distribute resources fairly.
- Recognize care as a societal responsibility and invest accordingly.

Additional Action:

- Expand digital access and STEAM education for women and girls.
- Support initiatives that promote women's economic opportunities and leadership.
- Advocate for women's equal representation in economic decision-making.
- Measure and recognize unpaid domestic and care work.
- Provide equal access to education, vocational training and emerging technology fields.
- Ensure social protections such as maternity and sick leave.

**PROPOSED 2026-27
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At our business meeting on April 14th, Nominating Committee Chair Edith Gingerich presented the proposed Slate of Officers for SI Riverside's 2026-27 Board of Directors. We will vote on the 2026-27 Slate of Officers at our business meeting on May 12th.



Rosa Santos-Lee, President



Tiffanie Tate, Vice President



Susan Exon, Vice President



**Virginia Sullivan,
Recording Secretary**



**Cisca Hernandez,
Recording Secretary**



**Leslie Farris,
Corresponding Secretary**



Debbie Ferraro, Treasurer



Debbie Kelley, Asst. Treasurer



**Edith Gingerich, Senior
Director**



Lynn Scecina, Junior Director



**Melanie McKee,
Senior Delegate**



**Barbara Walling,
Junior Delegate**



**APRIL 30, 2026
SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON**



Anahi Conseco ~ Dream It, Be It Award

Brittney Jones ~ Live Your Dream Education & Training Award ~ 4th Place

Dominga Aracely Zacarias ~ Live Your Dream Education & Training Award ~ 2nd Place

Julisa Merwin ~ Live Your Dream Education & Training Award ~ 3rd Place

Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes ~ Gold Key Award

Grace Diaz ~ Student Volunteer Award

Davisha Lang ~ Live Your Dream Education & Training Award ~ 5th Place

Marilyn Leiva ~ Live Your Dream Education & Training Award ~ 1st Place



MEMBERS OF SI RIVERSIDE AT THE SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS

FRONT ROW: Ellen Clizbe, Barbara Walling, Melanie McKee, Debbie Ferraro
BACK ROW: Rosa Santos-Lee, Tiffanie Tate, Charlene Johnson, Edith Gingerich,
Cisca Hernandez, Virginia Sullivan, Lynn Scecina, Debbie Kelley, Pam Bradford



Our 2026 Salute to Service Awards luncheon brought together stories of courage, perseverance and community spirit. Each highlighted honoree has either faced significant challenges and pursued education to build a better future or dedicated countless hours to strengthening our Riverside community. Every year, this event reminds us why our mission matters. These amazing women pursuing education to improve their lives and the women and

girls giving their time in volunteer service embody the heart of Soroptimist. Their journeys inspire us and their achievements reflect the power of opportunity, support and hope. The following awards were presented to very deserving women and girls: Live Your Dream Education & Training Award, Student Volunteer Award, Dream It, Be It Award and the Gold Key Award

LIVE YOUR DREAM EDUCATION & TRAINING AWARD



The Live Your Dream Education & Training Award is Soroptimist's major service project. The monetary award was established by Soroptimist International of the Americas in 1972 to assist women entering or re-entering the workforce in obtaining the education and skills training they need to improve their employment status.

These awards are designed to give women heads of household, who provide the primary source of financial support for their families, the opportunity to achieve their career goals, an opportunity they have not previously had because of economic or social barriers or personal circumstances. These awards are for women who are attending or have been accepted to a vocation/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

SI Riverside was honored to present our 2026 Live Your Dream Education & Training Awards to:

Marilyn Leiva ~ 1st Place
 Dominga Aracely Zacarias ~
 2nd Place
 Julisa Merwin ~ 3rd Place
 Brittney Jones ~ 4th Place
 Davisha Lang ~ 5th Place



First Place Honoree ~ Marilyn Leiva with LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich

Marilyn Leiva, our first place Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipient, was honored for her quiet resilience, steadfast courage and unwavering commitment to building a safer, stronger future through education.



Second Place Honoree ~ Dominga Aracely Zacarias with LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich

Dominga Aracely Zacarias, our second place Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipient, embodies extraordinary resilience and purpose as she pursues her education while courageously supporting her young daughter through medical treatment.



Third Place Honoree ~ Julisa Merwin with LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich

Julisa Merwin, our third place Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipient, exemplifies extraordinary perseverance as she pursues her nursing education while overcoming profound challenges and building a brighter future for herself and her son.



Fourth Place Honoree ~ Brittney Jones with LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich

Brittney Jones, our fourth place Live Your Dream Education and

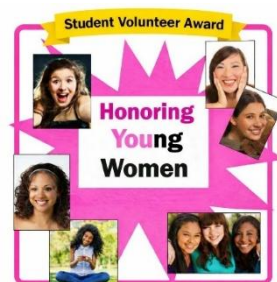
Training Award recipient, exemplifies remarkable resilience as she pursues her nursing goals while rebuilding her life with strength, hope and unwavering determination.



Fifth Place Honoree ~ Davisha Lang with LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich

Davisha Lang, our fifth place Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipient, embodies powerful resilience as she pursues her education and rebuilds a stable, hopeful future for herself and her children.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD



The Student Volunteer Award was established in 2014. It is a monetary award presented to high school senior girls who are making a difference through volunteer service. Each year the club honors girls who donate their time and energy to causes that make the community and world a better place, such as working to end discrimination and poverty,

assisting women and children who are victims of domestic violence or mentoring young girls. SI Riverside was honored to present the 2026 Student Volunteer Award to Grace Diaz.



Grace Diaz with Student Volunteer Award Chair Ellen Clizbe

Grace Diaz, our Student Volunteer Award recipient, stands out for her exceptional leadership, compassion and more than 500 hours of dedicated service in Sports Medicine, where she has become a calm, capable and inspiring presence on and off the field.

DREAM IT, BE IT AWARD



The Dream It, Be It Award is given to a high school senior who attended our Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference in her AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) middle school education years. SI Riverside was honored to present

our 2026 Dream It, Be It Award to Anahi Consecro.



Anahi Consecro with Dream It, Be It Award Chair Lynn Seccina

Anahi Cansecro, our Dream It, Be It Award recipient, inspires young women in STEM through her leadership, confidence and commitment to lifting others as she pursues her own path in science and medicine.

GOLD KEY AWARD



The Gold Key Award was established in 1972 and is SI Riverside's most prestigious recognition. It is presented to an outstanding woman from the Riverside area who has given fifteen or more years of volunteer service to our community. SI Riverside was honored to present our 2026 Gold Key Award to Riverside Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes.



Clarissa Cervantes with Gold Key Award Chair Melanie McKee



Rachel Gonzaga presented a resolution to Clarissa Cervantes

Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes, our 2026 Gold Key Award honoree, is recognized for her longstanding dedication to public service, community empowerment and her historic leadership in uplifting the residents of Riverside.



OTHER SALUTE TO SERVICE LUNCHEON PHOTOS





May 26, 2026 2026-27 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



You are cordially invited to join us for the **2026-27 Installation of Officers** on Tuesday, May 26th, at 12:00 PM. This year's celebration will be held at **Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside.**



The cost to attend is \$25 per person, payable to Treasurer Debbie Ferraro by check, credit card or Zelle. Please RSVP to Pam Bradford by May 19th at pambradford@pamsemail.net if you plan to attend.

A delicious luncheon buffet will be provided that includes bountiful appetizers and multiple bite sized desserts.

As we gather, we will express our appreciation to the outgoing 2025-26 Board of Directors for their dedicated service and warmly welcome our incoming 2026-27 Board who will serve under the leadership of President Rosa Santos-Lee.

This special event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our club's accomplishments and look ahead to an inspiring new year.

JUNE 9, 2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING



SI Riverside will hold our annual Strategic Planning session during the June 9th business meeting and this gathering sets the foundation for everything we hope to accomplish in the coming club year. Together we'll look ahead to our service projects, programs, fundraising goals and budget priorities ensuring our plans reflect both our mission and the collective vision of our members.

Your voice truly matters in this process. Every idea, perspective and suggestion helps shape a

stronger, more impactful year for the women and girls we serve. Please make every effort to attend as your participation is essential to thoughtful, inclusive planning.

We look forward to seeing you on June 9th as we chart the path for a purposeful and inspiring 2026–2027 club year.

SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Soroptimists UpliftHER is an exciting new member engagement initiative from the program department. Once a quarter, SIA will focus on an obstacle that women and girls face on their path to formal education and economic empowerment.

SIA headquarters will share information about the obstacle, as well as suggested projects related to that obstacle that count towards our Big Goal. Clubs can participate in the quarterly project focus by sharing SIA posts and posting their own projects with the hashtag #SoroptimistsUpliftHER.

Focus Areas and Projects

May: Period Poverty

Host a drive and get hands-on while you create period kits to

donate to local agencies serving foster girls, shelters or low-income schools. Don't forget to report it to SIA.

Ways to Get Involved

This is a completely voluntary initiative but we do hope members and clubs will be excited to participate.

- Share SIA's posts about each monthly focus on social media.
- Post about your club's own project using the hashtag #SoroptimistsUpliftHER.
- Participate in one of the suggested quarterly projects and report it to SIA as appropriate!

MAY MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS



Virginia Sullivan – 1st
Linda Robertson – 2nd
Cisca Hernandez – 3rd
Debbie Kelley – 4th
Michelle Paradise – 29th

MAY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**No Anniversaries
in May**

HOW TO 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

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

**MAY IS MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS
MONTH**

“

Happiness is when
what you **think**,
what you **say**, and
what you **do**
are **in harmony**.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Prevention

“

I now see how
owning our story and
loving ourselves through
that process **is the
bravest thing** that we
will ever do.

—Brené Brown

Prevention

“

Once you **replace
negative thoughts**
with positive ones,
you'll start having
positive results.

—Willie Nelson

Prevention

“

Keep your face
**towards the
sunshine** and
shadows will
fall behind you.

—Walt Whitman

Prevention

“

It is interesting
**how often we can't
see** all the ways
in which **we are
being strong**.

—Lena Dunham

Prevention