



Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE JUNE 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



It's only been 11 months but last year's installation seems so long ago. We chose to hold it at Habitat during one of our regularly scheduled noon meeting times. As it was seamless and delightful, we decided to do it again. This time we were a month early since our incoming president, Rosa Santos-Lee, will not be available in June.

My theme for this year has been "Renaissance of Service" and looking back at what we accomplished, we definitely experienced a rebirth of new ideas, new fundraising efforts and, of course, new members.

Our first project was the successful trip to Erlangen, Germany, for Melanie Magana through our Young Mentors Program. She spent two weeks learning about Germany and spending quality time with the lovely ladies of SI Erlangen. Melanie was able to connect with Jennifer Renn, who was our guest in 2024 from Germany. Melanie presented a detailed report at a program meeting of her visit on her return with lots of wonderful photos. We wish her well as she continues to pursue her education at Cal Berkely.

In August, we had one of our most beloved projects – giving filled backpacks to the children of Arlington Temporary Assistance.

Our fall fundraiser was in the form of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Under the direction of Melanie McKee, Tiffanie Tate and Charlene Johnson, it was a colorful and fun October afternoon adventure.

In November we had our annual Friendsgiving which is always a tasty and meaningful time with the members and the Habitat for Humanity and ReStore employees. Everyone brings their A-game food and no one leaves hungry.

Chris Deviny and I attended the Fall Meeting in Corona and gained some valuable insight as to what other clubs are doing for fundraising, membership and the like.

In December JoAnn Moore and other members once again participated in the Alternative Craft Fair at the First Methodist Church. Every bit of fundraising gets us closer to our goals. Our Holiday party was a lively gathering at the home of Susan Wolf and the games and food were exquisite.

Probably the most significant event for our club in December was the rededication of the History Walk in front of the Riverside Superior Courthouse. Susan Exon has worked for over a decade on ensuring that the commemorative stones were once again installed so that the entire community could appreciate them. We thank Philip Falcone, Ward 1 City Councilmember, for making sure that this project was completed. The rededication happened almost 99 years to the day of the original dedication on December 7, 1976.

Our main fundraiser, Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction, was a successful February event and we thank Melanie McKee and the many committee members who made it possible. Stan Morrison always does such a lively job as auctioneer. We need to recognize JoAnn Moore and Barbara Walling for "Balloons & Bling," Edith Gingerich for the "Red, White and Booze" wine auction, JoAnn Moore for our "Basket Drawing" and Debbie Kelley for "Coffee or Cocktails with a Cowboy."

Our Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference in March was a huge success under the leadership of Rosa Santos-Lee with the guidance once again of Honorary Member Jeanne Hatcher. The 7th and 8th grade AVID girl students were delivered an inspiring day of learning about how to reach their goals and begin to live their dreams. Many committee members worked together to make this another successful event.

Our Salute to Service Awards luncheon in April was a lovely event at which we presented our Gold Key Award, Live Your Dream Education & Training Awards, Student Volunteer Award and Dream It, Be It Award. Our 1st place winner for the Live Your Dream Education & Training Award has been chosen as a finalist for the Golden West Region so we look forward to seeing her receive additional award monies.

Also in April, we were pleased to welcome Charlie Van Cleave, Golden West Region District 2 Director, who provided our members with an informative update on region activities.

In May, we celebrated the memorable installation of Rosa

Santos-Lee as our 2026-27 SI Riverside President, along with her new Board of Directors. The ceremony was led beautifully by Installing Officer Marie Wayland. We are confident that President Rosa will lead SI Riverside to an outstanding year ahead.

In June, I will be attending Spring Conference with several other members in Cathedral City and I look forward to the President's Processional as well as connecting with new and old friends.

As we finish this year, I am reflecting on what an incredible journey this has been. My goals were to strengthen our club, elevate our work and create a space where everyone felt valued. Thank you to everyone who showed up, volunteered, shared ideas or simply supported from the sidelines. Together we had meaningful progress, memorable events and genuine connection.

It is with excitement and confidence that I pass the gavel to Rosa Santos-Lee as our incoming president. Our club is in good hands and I can't wait to see what transpires under her capable leadership.

Thank you for the honor of being president once again.

Lynn Scecina DC
2025-26 President



JUNE 2026 CALENDAR



- 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**
- 23 **SIA LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE**
Virtual - 7-9 PM



JULY 2026 CALENDAR



- 30 **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**

NO MEETINGS IN JULY

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.

JUNE 15, 2026 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), observed each year on June 15th, calls global attention to the mistreatment, neglect and exploitation that far too many older adults experience. Established by the United Nations and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the day serves as a reminder that protecting the dignity, safety and rights of older people is a responsibility shared by families, communities and institutions. As populations age worldwide, the need for stronger safeguards and more compassionate support systems becomes increasingly urgent.

The 2026 theme, "Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work," challenges communities to move past recognition and toward meaningful action. This year's focus emphasizes building practical, sustainable systems that prevent abuse before it occurs through education, stronger reporting pathways, community engagement and policies that ensure older adults are treated with respect and care. It also highlights the importance of training caregivers, supporting family members and ensuring that older adults have access to resources that protect their independence and well-being.

For organizations like Soroptimist, WEAAD is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding vulnerable members of our community. By promoting awareness, encouraging conversations and supporting programs that empower older adults, we help create a culture where every person, regardless of age, can live free from harm. Each small action contributes to a safer, more compassionate world for the elders who have shaped our

families, our communities and our future.

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.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN AND GIRLS

Summary

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a global human rights crisis rooted in gender inequality. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, economic and technology facilitated violence occurring in homes, communities, workplaces and online. 1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence and in 2021, five women or girls were killed every hour by a partner or family member.

VAWG is intensified by digital abuse, conflict and climate related displacement. Online

harassment affects women at alarming rates, with 85% witnessing abuse and 38% experiencing it personally. Women also face heightened risks during crises, making access to medical care, legal support, shelters and psychological services essential.

The global cost of VAWG exceeds **1.5 trillion dollars annually**, limiting women's education, employment, safety and long term economic independence.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

- Education & Prevention: Challenge harmful norms, engage men and boys and address the needs of marginalized groups.
- Accountability: Enforce strong laws, train law enforcement and ensure survivor-centered justice.
- Essential Services: Guarantee accessible support especially during emergencies.
- Digital Safety: Strengthen protections against online abuse and require tech platforms to act swiftly.
- Data & Research: Improve data collection to guide effective policies.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'S COMMITMENT

Soroptimist International remains dedicated to ending all forms of violence against all women and girls. SI will continue to educate, empower and enable raising awareness, supporting survivors and advocating for equality and safety worldwide.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

2026 LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE

**June 23, 2026
7-9 PM EDT
Fully interpreted
Virtual**



We're excited to invite you to the 2026 Leadership Round Table, a virtual experience designed to strengthen your leadership skills and deepen your understanding of Soroptimist's mission and future direction.

Join Soroptimists from across our organization on June 23rd as we come together virtually to share insights, explore timely leadership topics, share perspectives and gain practical insights you can take back to your club or region. Interpretation is available.

Secure your spot today for \$50. Go to the SIA website (www.soroptimist.org) to sign up. We look forward to your participation and are confident you'll leave feeling informed, inspired and empowered to lead with purpose!

LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE AGENDA

7:00 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks - Sue Riney, 2025-2026 SIA President and Michelle Burnett, SIA Executive Director/CEO

7:10 PM

Keynote: The Bridge Builders: Leading Connection Across Generations, Cultures and Change - Lisa Arendell, The Connection Coach

7:40 PM

Member and Leader Code of Conduct Process - Peggy Gentile Van Meter, 2024-2026 SIA Board of Directors

8:00 PM

The Secretary Role: The Backbone of SIA's Clubs and Regions - Catherine Dorn, 2024-2026 Northwestern Region Secretary

8:20 PM

Beyond the Books: The Treasurer's Role in Building Strong Clubs and Regions - Judi Sanderlin, 2024-2026 Sierra Pacific Region Governor

8:40 PM

Strengthening Clubs and Regions through Member Engagement - Karen Marshall, 2024-2026 Northwestern Region Public Awareness Chair

8:55 PM Closing Remarks - Sue Riney, 2025-2026 SIA President



Join in a friendly competition by encouraging members in your region to attend the Leadership Round Table.

If the Golden West Region registers 22 members for the Leadership Round Table, the region will be entered into a drawing to receive \$500.

**MAY 26, 2026
2026-27 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**



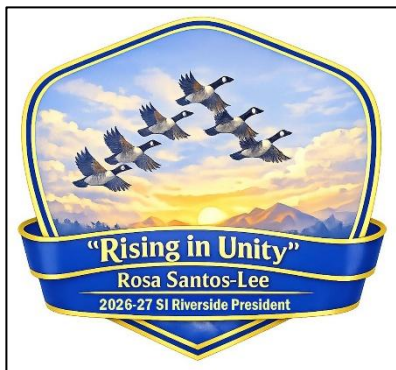
2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
— Rising in Unity —



2026-27 SI RIVERSIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tiffanie Tate ~ Vice President
Virginia Sullivan ~ Recording Secretary
Susan Exon ~ Vice President
Cisca Hernandez ~ Recording Secretary
Leslie Farris ~ Corresponding Secretary
Lynn Scecina ~ Junior Director
Edith Gingerich ~ Senior Director
Debbie Kelley ~ Assistant Treasurer
Barbara Walling ~ Junior Delegate
Rosa Santos-Lee ~ President**

**Not Pictured:
Debbie Ferraro ~ Treasurer & Melanie McKee ~ Senior Delegate**



The 2026–27 Installation of Officers was held at Habitat for Humanity on May 26, 2026, where members and guests gathered for a beautifully prepared and heartfelt celebration of leadership. The room was transformed by our Hospitality Chair, Charlene Johnson, whose decor set a warm and welcoming tone. McGrath's Catering provided an abundant appetizer buffet and the food was so delicious that guests happily returned for seconds.



Charlene Johnson opened the program by welcoming everyone and leading the flag salute.



2025–26 President Lynn Scecina served as mistress of ceremonies and invited attendees to enjoy lunch. Afterward, she recognized her outgoing Board of Directors, presenting each member with a small plant in appreciation for their dedication and service throughout the year.



2025-26 Board of Directors

Lynn Scecina, President
 Tillie Soliz, Senior Delegate
 Chris Deviny, Junior Delegate
 Edith Gingerich, Junior Director
 Barbara Walling, Corresponding Secretary
 Tiffanie Tate, Recording Secretary
 Debbie Kelley, Assistant Treasurer
 Rosa Santos-Lee, Vice President

Not Pictured:
 Debbie Ferraro, Treasurer
 Melanie McKee, Senior Director

Past President Edith Gingerich honored outgoing President Lynn with a commemorative plaque.



Edith then presented Lynn with a special thank you gift from club members of a beautifully hand-woven bag, a true work of art reflecting the texture, color and vibrancy of Lynn's leadership.



This year's Installing Officer was Marie Wayland, our new member who will be inducted on June 9th and long time friend of incoming president Rosa Santos-Lee. Marie delivered a thoughtful installation message explaining why Rosa selected the theme "Rising in Unity" and chose flying geese as her emblem.



Marie explained that geese symbolize leadership through shared responsibility, communication and teamwork. Their flight patterns offer powerful lessons:

- **Shared Leadership:** Geese rotate leadership in flight, reminding us that strong leaders empower others and share the load.
- **Support and Uplift:** Each bird creates lift for the one behind it, allowing the flock to travel up to 70% farther together than alone.
- **Communication:** Their honking encourages the lead goose to maintain pace. a metaphor for positive reinforcement and constructive feedback.
- **Protecting the Vulnerable:** When one goose falls behind due to illness or injury, two others stay with it until it recovers, demonstrating loyalty and compassion.

As Marie installed each member of the 2026–27 Board of Directors, she presented them with a small gift to mark the occasion.



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Barbara Walling, Junior Delegate (Melanie McKee, Senior Delegate, was not present.)



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Lynn Seccina, Junior Director and Edith Gingerich, Senior Director



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Debbie Kelley, Assistant Treasurer. (Debbie Ferraro, Treasurer was not present)



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Virginia Sullivan, Recording Secretary, Leslie Farris, Corresponding Secretary and Cisca Hernandez, Recording Secretary.



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Tiffanie Tate, Vice President and Susan Exon, Vice President.



Installing Officer Marie Wayland with Rosa Santos-Lee, President.

Incoming President Rosa then shared her vision for the coming year, expanding on the leadership principles represented by the geese and how they reflect her hopes for SI Riverside of unity, shared strength and lifting one another higher.

There is no doubt that President Rosa will guide SI Riverside with purpose, collaboration and heart in the year ahead.

OTHER INSTALLATION PHOTOS





JUNE 9, 2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING



SI Riverside will hold our annual Strategic Planning session during the June 9th business meeting. 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 either in person or on Zoom 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

HISTORY OF THE SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE

The Soroptimist Pledge is one of the most recognized symbols of the Soroptimist movement, embodying its core values and

mission. It was written in 1927 by Candis Nelson, a charter member of the Seattle, WA Soroptimist Club. Nelson's original text expressed the ideals Soroptimists stand for: The Sincerity of Friendship, The Joy of Achievement, The Dignity of Service, The Integrity of Profession, and The Love of Country.

ADOPTION AND EARLY YEARS

When Soroptimist International was still in its formative stages, the search for an official creed began six months before the 1930 convention. Delegates deferred voting so each club could review proposed creeds and make an informed decision. After this period, the federation adopted Nelson's pledge as its official creed, recognizing it as a living statement rather than a mere decorative text.

MUSICAL SETTING

In 1947, Dorothy Miller Dunlap, a member of the Huntington Beach, CA club, set the pledge to music. This musical arrangement was later adopted as the official musical version at the 1950 convention in Seattle, WA, the city where the pledge was first written. The music has since become a central part of Soroptimist ceremonies and recited during meetings and events worldwide.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The pledge serves as a commitment to uphold Soroptimist ideals in personal, professional and community life. It is recited at Soroptimist

meetings as a reminder of the organization's mission to promote service, friendship and empowerment for women and girls.

In summary, the Soroptimist Pledge's history reflects the movement's growth from a small local club in 1921 to a global network of women, with its origins in 1927 and its enduring role as a unifying symbol of Soroptimist values.

JUNE MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS



Barbara Walling – 28th

JUNE MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Debbie Ferraro
6-24-2013**

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

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

**"Teach safety like it's
your legacy, because
it is."**



**"Safety is something that
happens between your
ears, not something you
hold in your hands."**

Jeff Cooper

**"If you wouldn't let
your kid do it, don't
do it yourself."**



**WHEN YOU
GAMBLE
WITH SAFETY,
YOU BET
YOUR LIFE.**

**CREATIVE
safety supply**

www.madaboutsupplies.com

**SEEK SAFETY,
AIM SAFETY,
FOLLOW SAFETY,
ENSURE SAFETY,
TEACH SAFETY,
YIELD SAFETY.**

**"Luck runs out. Safety
doesn't."**

