



Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE JULY 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.



2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Rosa Santos-Lee
rsantoslee@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tiffanie Tate
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VICE-PRESIDENT

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JUNIOR DELEGATE

Barbara Walling
wbmuse@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is an honor to serve as President of Soroptimist International of Riverside, and I am excited to share my theme for the year: Rising in Unity.

I chose this theme because geese remind us of the power of working together toward a common purpose. They fly in formation, support one another, and take turns leading. That spirit of shared purpose, mutual support, and collective leadership is one I would like to see guide our club this year.

As I begin this year, I have three goals for our club: to continue building unity within our club, to encourage shared leadership and engagement, and to deepen our mission focus and community impact. I also hope we will take time to reflect on our events and activities, honor our history, and have thoughtful conversations about what is working, what to improve, and where we can best focus our time and energy in service to women and girls.

I also want to recognize and thank our incoming board for their willingness to serve and for the commitment they bring to our club and our mission. I truly appreciate each of them and look forward to working together in the year ahead.

We recently held our Strategic Planning meeting and spent time talking through how we can best support the work ahead. We had a good discussion about the Mad Hatter Tea Party and Rhinestones Cowgirls and Auction, and also talked about forming a fundraising committee to help support our efforts moving forward. Our next step will be to look more closely at some of the fundraising ideas shared at the meeting and bring those back to the board in August.

We also had the pleasure of installing our newest member, Marie Wayland. We are excited to welcome her into our Soroptimist family and look forward to the contributions, energy, and perspective she will bring to our club.

Wishing you a safe and happy Fourth of July. I look forward to working alongside all of you as we rise in unity and grow stronger together in service.

Rosa Santos-Lee
2026 SI Riverside President



JULY 2026 CALENDAR

JULY

22- SIA 49th BIENNIAL
25 CONVENTION
Entertainment Resort,
Incheon, South Korea

30 WORLD DAY AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

NO MEETINGS IN JULY

AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR

AUGUST

4 BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on ZOOM

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

12 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
DAY

19 WORLD HUMANITARIAN
DAY

25 PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside

26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

DATES TO REMEMBER



September 30 to
October 2, 2027

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION

Prague, Czech Republic

CLUB MEETING DETAILS

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.

JULY 30, 2026 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



Every year on July 30th, the world
observes the United Nations
World Day Against Trafficking in
Persons, a day dedicated to
raising awareness of the millions
of people, especially women and
girls, who are exploited through
forced labor, sexual exploitation,
and other forms of modern
slavery. Human trafficking is one
of the most urgent human rights
challenges of our time, affecting
every region and community.

This year's global theme
emphasizes the need for
prevention, protection, and
partnership. Survivors' voices are
central to shaping effective
responses, reminding us that
behind every statistic is a person
whose freedom and dignity have
been stolen. Education, advocacy,
and community vigilance remain
vital tools in combating this crime.

For Soroptimists, this day
reinforces our commitment to
empower women and girls to live
free from violence and
exploitation. Through awareness
campaigns, mentoring, and
support for programs that
promote safety and opportunity,
we help build pathways to
independence and hope.

As we mark July 30th, let us stand
united in the belief that every
person deserves freedom,
respect, and the chance to live
their dream.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



POSITION PAPERS

Soroptimist International's
Position Papers outline SI's
global advocacy stance on key
issues affecting women and girls.

Each paper reflects SI's
commitment to human rights,
gender equality and the UN
Sustainable Development Goals.

SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS Summary

Social protection systems — such as health coverage, income support, unemployment benefits, and family assistance — are essential to reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, and ensuring that women and girls can live with dignity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that social security is a basic human right, yet this right remains out of reach for much of the world.

WHERE THINGS STAND

The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines social protection as the set of policies that prevent and reduce poverty throughout a person's life. These systems empower women and girls by supporting access to education, employment, and essential services.

Despite global progress, major gaps remain:

- Only 47% of the world's population receives at least one social protection benefit.
- 4.1 billion people have no protection at all.
- Only 29% are covered by comprehensive systems that include benefits from childhood through old age.
- Women are disproportionately excluded — in 2022, 58% of informal workers were women, and only 45% of women with newborns received maternity benefits.
- Without inclusive and effective systems, women remain more vulnerable to poverty, economic instability,

and limited access to healthcare and education.

WHERE THINGS NEED TO GO

Expanding access to quality education, healthcare, adequate housing, and income security can lift women and girls out of poverty and support long-term independence. Governments must uphold international commitments, including the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202), to ensure that every person has access to essential services and basic income security.

Digital technology can strengthen social protection systems, but only if data collection and financial tools are designed to include all women — especially those at risk of being left behind.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'S POSITION

Soroptimist International affirms that comprehensive social protection is vital for achieving social justice, gender equality, and sustainable development. Investments in universal healthcare, safe housing, clean water, nutritious food, and quality education are essential to empowering women and girls and building resilient communities.

Soroptimist International pledges to advocate for systems that leave no woman or girl behind and support a sustainable, equitable future for all.



JUNE 9, 2026 INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER



*2025-26 President Lynn Scecina,
New Member Marie Wayland,
and 2026-27 President Rosa
Santos-Lee*

At our business meeting in June, Marie Wayland was inducted as our newest member in SI Riverside.

Marie is a retired language arts intervention teacher who spent her career supporting 4th–6th grade students, a perfect match for our mission of helping women and girls access the education they need to achieve their dreams. She has already shared her leadership talents with us, serving as President Rosa Santos-Lee's installing officer for the 2026–27 club year.

We're excited to welcome Marie into our Soroptimist organization and can't wait to put her many gifts to work on the service projects that make a real difference in the lives of women and girls.



JUNE 4-6, 2026 GOLDEN WEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE



Melanie McKee and Tillie Soliz represented our club as official delegates at the Golden West Region Spring Conference, held June 4–6 in Palm Springs. They were joined by members Lynn Secina, Edith Gingerich, and Charlene Johnson, who also attended the multi-day event. A full delegate's report will be presented at our next business meeting.

The Golden West Region (GWR) Spring Conference is an annual leadership, business, and celebration gathering hosted by each region in Soroptimist International of the Americas, a global volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through education and training. Each year, the conference rotates locations across the region and brings together Soroptimists for three days of learning, connection, and inspiration.

This year's conference focused on:

- Leadership & Education: Members participated in workshops and heard from dynamic keynote speakers aimed at strengthening club leadership skills and

enhancing the impact of local programs.

- Awards & Recognition: The region honored its "Live Your Dream" recipients and celebrated outstanding committee members whose dedication helps advance our mission.
- Official Business: Delegates took part in business sessions, voting on budgets, bylaws updates, and the installation of incoming region board leadership.
- Networking & Fellowship: Attendees enjoyed opportunities to connect with Soroptimists from across the region through meals, social events, and fundraising activities.
- Installation of the 2026-28 Golden West Region Board of Directors: Delegates voted on the new slate of officers culminating in an installation dinner honoring the winners.

The Spring Conference continues to be an energizing reminder of the power of our collective mission and the meaningful work happening throughout the Golden West Region.



*SI Riverside Delegates
Melanie McKee and Tillie Soliz*



*Edith Gingerich, Melanie McKee,
Lynn Secina, Tillie Soliz*



Tillie Soliz and Lynn Secina



*Tillie Soliz, 2026-28 Governor
Pat Box, Melanie McKee, 2000-
02 Governor Gladys Weems*





*1984-86, 1996-97 and 2004-05
SIR Past President Doris Churry,
Becky Goebel, SI Palm Desert,
and Melanie McKee*



*Past Golden West Region
Governors*

2026-28 GOLDEN WEST REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Pat Box, SI Moreno Valley
2026-28 GWR Governor
“WE RISE BY LIFTING
OTHERS UP”**



2026-28 GOLDEN WEST REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GOVERNOR

Pat Box
SI Moreno Valley

GOVERNOR-ELECT

Charlie Van Cleve
SI Big Bear Valley

SECRETARY

Laura Pauli
SI Desert Tucson

TREASURER

Therry Hansen
SI Chino Hills/Inland Empire

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

Barbara Brandt
SI Corona

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR

Samantha Dewing
SI Palm Springs

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

Sharon Bay
SI Kingman

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

Shelley Cutts
SI Phoenix

VISIT WITH PAST PRESIDENT KARIN ROBERTS

President Lynn Scecina stopped in Palm Desert on her way home from Spring Conference and visited 2002-03 SI Riverside Past President Karin Roberts and her husband David.



*2002-03 SIR President Karin
Roberts, Karin's Husband David
and 2025-26 SIR President
Lynn Scecina*

Karin and David are officially beginning a grand adventure. They left for New York City, boarded the Queen Mary II, and are now sailing toward England.

From there, they'll continue on to Vienna for a three-month stay with Karin's mother. They already have several river cruises planned while they're in Europe, and they'll return to the U.S. in October.

Their homecoming route is just as fun. They are renting a car in Chicago and driving Route 66 all the way back to California.

Quite an exciting (and clever) way to escape the Palm Desert heat!

JUNE 16, 2026 PRESENTATION OF REGION LYDETA AWARD

SI Riverside's first-place Live Your Dream Education & Training Award recipient, Marilyn Leiva, was selected to advance to the Golden West Region level for consideration of additional award funds.

Because Marilyn was unable to attend Spring Conference, LYDETA Chair Edith Gingerich accepted the regional award of

\$2,150 on her behalf. Edith later presented Marilyn with her certificate and award monies on Friday, June 19th.



Edith Gingerich presents Marilyn Leiva with a certificate and her award of \$2,150 from the Golden West Region

SI Riverside is deeply honored to have a regional level LYDETA winner and extends heartfelt congratulations to Marilyn as she continues her educational journey, striving to strengthen her future and live her dreams.

ARLINGTON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE BACKPACK PROGRAM



Our committee would like to share an update on our backpack donation efforts for Arlington Temporary Assistance. At this

time, we are still in need of additional supplies to ensure we can meet the needs of the families we serve. Any support in gathering school supplies would be sincerely appreciated.

Please note that the distribution process for the backpacks is still being finalized. We are currently working through the logistics and scheduling details, and we will provide further information as soon as plans are confirmed.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping our community prepare for the upcoming school year. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Melanie McKee
ATA Backpack Committee

SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Member Responsibilities

All members are responsible for:

- Attendance at scheduled meetings of the club.
- Membership on committees and participation in club activities.
- Attendance at region conferences and federation and international conventions.
- Participation in fundraising events to benefit club projects.
- Prompt payment of dues to the club.

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Tillie Soliz – 3rd
Pam Bradford – 19th

JULY MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Susan Exon
7-01-2018

Leslie Farris
7-01-2024

Marie Wayland
7-01-2026

HOW TO CONTACT US



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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.



RIVERSIDELINES



EDITOR
Pam Bradford

DEADLINE
Submit articles and photos
by the 25th of each
month to Pam at:
pambradford@pamsemail.net

**JULY IS DISABILITY
PRIDE MONTH**



July marks the anniversary of
the Americans with
Disabilities Act (ADA) that was
signed into law on July 26,
1990. Disability Pride Month
is an additional opportunity
to honor the history,
achievements, experiences
and struggles of the disability
community.

