



# Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

## riversidelines



## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE SEPTEMBER 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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome back!

I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the summer and is ready to get back to the important work of empowering women and girls in our community. We are already off to a wonderful start.

Through our partnership with Arlington Temporary Assistance, 65 backpacks were provided to local students to help them begin the school year prepared and ready to learn.

This effort has also been accepted as a Big Goal Accelerator project, helping Soroptimist move toward its 2021–2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of 500,000 women and girls through access to education.

Our Student Volunteer Award will also count toward the Big Goal Accelerator, giving our club another opportunity to contribute to Soroptimist's collective impact.

Our Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction fundraiser, chaired by Melanie McKee, will hold its first committee meeting this month, with an event date to be shared soon. Additional fundraising ideas are also taking shape, so stay tuned for more opportunities

to support our mission throughout the year.

As we begin our 2026–27 club year, there is also important business ahead. Please take time to review the proposed 2026–27 budget before our September business meeting. Budget Chair Pam Bradford has included a budget narrative to provide additional context and help members better understand the proposed budget and its priorities.

We will vote on the budget at our September 8th business meeting, so I encourage everyone to review the information in advance and plan to attend.

I'm excited about the momentum already building and all that we can accomplish together this year as we continue "Rising in Unity" and strengthening our impact for women and girls.

Rosa Santos-Lee  
2026 SI Riverside President



## SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR



- 1 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 5 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY**

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

- 18 **INTERNATIONAL EQUAL  
PAY DAY**

- 21 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
PEACE**

- 22 **PROGRAM MEETING**  
12:00 PM, Habitat for  
Humanity, 2180 Iowa  
Avenue, Riverside

## OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 3 **SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS  
DAY**

- 6 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM

- 9- **GWR DISTRICT 1 & 2**  
10 **COMBINED FALL MEETING**

- 11 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
THE GIRL CHILD**

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

- 24 **UNITED NATIONS DAY**

- 27 **PROGRAM MEETING**  
12:00 PM, Habitat for  
Humanity, 2180 Iowa  
Avenue, Riverside

## DATES TO REMEMBER



March 13, 2027  
LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT,  
BE IT CONFERENCE  
Riverside City College

June 3-6, 2027  
GOLDEN WEST REGION  
SPRING CONFERENCE  
Cathedral City, CA

September 29 to  
October 1, 2027  
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
Prague, Czech Republic

July 26 – 29, 2028  
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF THE AMERICAS  
BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
Cancun, Mexico

## CLUB MEETING DETAILS



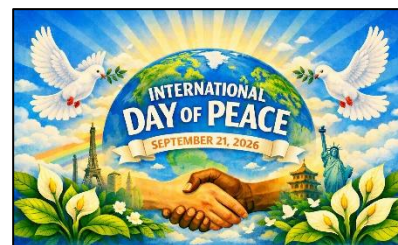
Soroptimist International of  
Riverside, a club in District 1 of  
the Golden West Region of  
Soroptimist International of the  
Americas, meets on the 2nd and  
4th Tuesdays of each month.

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.

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



The United Nations will observe  
the 2026 International Day of  
Peace on September 21st, a day  
dedicated to strengthening the  
ideals of peace across nations  
and within communities.  
Established in 1981 and  
designated in 2001 as a global  
day of non-violence and  
cease-fire, it reminds us that  
peace is more than the absence of  
conflict. It is a daily practice  
rooted in dignity, cooperation and  
compassion.

This year's theme, "Invest in  
Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere,  
Every Day," underscores the  
essential role ordinary people  
play in building a more stable and  
just world. Peace is shaped not  
only in diplomatic chambers but  
in classrooms, neighborhoods,  
workplaces and everyday  
interactions.

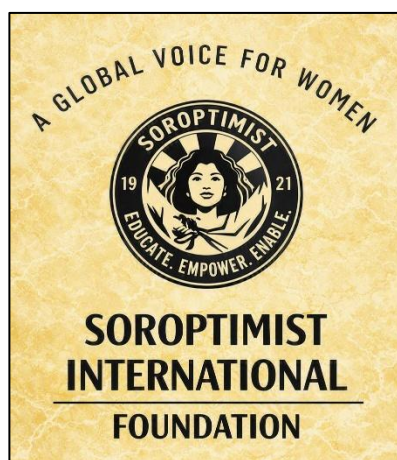
The 2026 observance honors  
these "everyday architects of  
peace," encouraging individuals  
to take small but meaningful  
steps: volunteering time,  
advocating for positive change,  
hosting intergenerational Peace



Circles, and sharing stories of hope and reconciliation.

Amid global volatility, the UN stresses that investing in peace is more urgent than ever, providing the foundation needed to confront challenges from inequality to climate pressures and reminding us that each person has the power to help create a safer, more inclusive future.

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



The Soroptimist International Foundation was established in March 2021 as a charitable trust to allow Soroptimist International to accurately account for its project work, leverage its charitable status and enhance its ability to apply for grants and funding. The Soroptimist International Foundation receives funding from Soroptimist donations, legacies, grants and other funding sources.

### SI FOUNDATION LATEST PROJECTS



**Lugari Youth Leadership:** The Lugari Youth Leadership Project has been empowering young women in Kenya through leadership and mentoring training for over 10 years.



**Greening Our Horizons:** Funded and supported by Soroptimist International, Club Nairobi Central has launched an ambitious pan-African initiative aimed at empowering women and girls as environmental leaders.



**Steve Sinnott Foundation – Ensuring Girls Equitable Access to Education:** The Steve Sinnott project Ensuring Girls Equitable Access to Education tackles two major barriers to girls education: period poverty and gender based violence.



**The Kori Project:** The Kori Development Project Ltd, in partnership with Soroptimist International Foundation, is building three classrooms and a toilet block at Bob Simson

Technical Secondary School in Kori Chiefdon, Sierra Leone.



**Lumiere, Mali:** Soroptimist International Foundation partnered with SI Lumiere, Bamako, in Mali, West Africa, to educate, empower and enable 100 displaced women and girls who led violence and unrest in northern Mali.



**Fundacion Moises Bertoni, Paraguay:** Soroptimist International Foundation has partnered with Fundacion Moises Bertoni (FMB), in Paraguay to support education, environmental stewardship and empowerment through sport and conservation management learning.



**Cambodia Community Dream Organization:** Soroptimist International Foundation is proud to support Cambodia Community Dream Organization (CCDO) in delivering empowering training sessions that advance the education and well being of women and girls in rural Cambodia.

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



SIA's clubs are dedicated to delivering an engaging and impactful experience centered around our mission. We understand and value our members time, and that serving those who face challenges such as poverty, violence and teen pregnancy, both locally and globally, can be a demanding task.

To help streamline and support the achievement of our organization's goals, we've created a simple club roadmap for your use. This guide is designed to help provide a fulfilling club experience while also contributing to our broader mission of empowering half a million women and girls through access to education. To strengthen our efforts and enhance our recognition, we ask clubs to focus on the following:

### IMPACT

Help us reach our 2021-2031 Big Goal by serving more women and girls through Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It and Big Goal Accelerator Projects.

### ENGAGEMENT

Grow and retain members by creating an enjoyable and inclusive member experience. Ensure club members are

attending SIA's Leadership Round Table.

### BRAND RECOGNITION

Gain greater recognition by promoting your club's impact through our Dream Programs.

### PHILANTHROPY

Grow Soroptimist's culture of philanthropy by increasing funds raised to support our Dream Programs and by celebrating member generosity.

THAT'S IT! If your club accomplishes the above, we guarantee you will be providing a superior member experience, fulfilling our mission and strengthening Soroptimist's global brand.

## 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.

## WOMEN AND GIRL REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS Summary

Soroptimist International affirms that "migrants and refugees' rights are fundamental human rights" and calls for global cooperation to protect women and girls who are disproportionately affected by displacement, violence and discrimination.

Worldwide, more than 122 million people were forcibly displaced by mid-2024, nearly half of them women and girls. Many face gender-based violence, trafficking, child marriage and barriers to education, healthcare and safe employment. Even after leaving danger, restrictive laws and cultural norms in host countries often limit their access to essential services.

This Position Paper urges governments to fully implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and strengthen national laws to recognize gender-based persecution, including forced marriage and violence, as grounds for refugee status. It also calls for improved reception conditions, better health and education services and consistent legal protections across countries.

Soroptimist International advocates for a coordinated, gender-responsive approach that ensures displaced women and girls receive protection, justice and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

SI commits to:



- **Educate** women and girls about their rights and available resources.
- **Empower** them through leadership opportunities and skills training.
- **Enable** their full participation in society by supporting access to healthcare, education and legal services.

This work reflects Soroptimist International's mission to "educate, empower, and enable" all women and girls including those forced to flee their homes.

## JULY 31, 2026 ARLINGTON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE BACKPACK PROGRAM



On July 31, 2026, members of Soroptimist International of Riverside delivered 65 backpacks to the children served by Arlington Temporary Assistance. Each backpack was filled with school supplies generously donated by our club members.

This year marks the final year of SI Riverside's partnership with Arlington Temporary Assistance due to its upcoming closure. We extend our sincere appreciation to Arlington Temporary Assistance for their many years of collaboration, support and

dedication in helping us serve children and families in the Arlington community.

Since 2005, this partnership has enabled SI Riverside to provide backpacks and essential school supplies to local students in need. We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked together to make a positive difference in the lives of so many children and families.

Although Arlington Temporary Assistance will be closing, SI Riverside remains committed to continuing this important community service project.

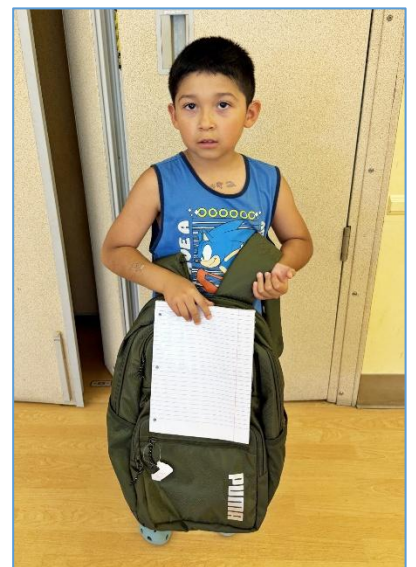
Beginning in 2027, we will continue donating backpacks through the Arlington Community Center, allowing us to stay connected with the Arlington community and continue supporting many of the same students we have reached throughout the years.

We sincerely thank Arlington Temporary Assistance for its years of partnership and service. SI Riverside looks forward to continuing our mission of supporting local children and families in the years ahead.

Melanie McKee  
ATA Backpack Committee



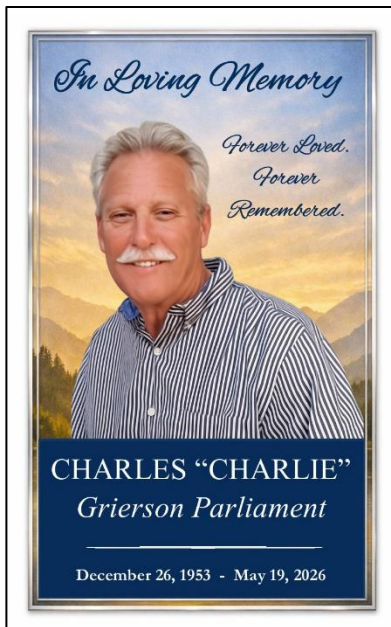








## AUGUST 1, 2026 CHARLIE PARLIAMENT CELEBRATION OF LIFE



On August 1, 2026, six members of Soroptimist International of Riverside gathered at the Riverside Elks Lodge to stand with fellow member Debbie Kelley as she celebrated the life of her partner of 34 years, Charles "Charlie" Parliament. Surrounded by family, friends and a community who loved him deeply, Charlie was remembered with heartfelt stories and gratitude for the joy and kindness he shared throughout his life. He left this world peacefully on May 19,

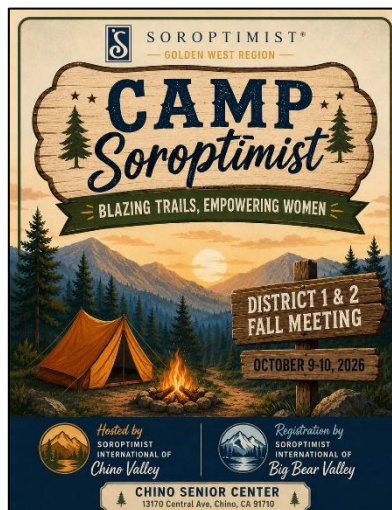
2026, but his spirit continues to shine brightly in the lives of all who knew him.



*Linda Robertson, Lynn Scecina, Debbie Kelley, Charlene Johnson, Barbara Walling, Susan Wolf and Leslie Farris.*

SI Riverside member Pam Bradford, who was unable to attend the celebration, contributed in a deeply meaningful way by designing Charlie's memorial program. Her thoughtful layout and warm, inviting design helped honor Charlie's life and provided a heartfelt keepsake for everyone who gathered to remember him.

## OCTOBER 9-10, 2026 GOLDEN WEST REGION DISTRICT 1 & 2 COMBINED FALL MEETING



## Golden West Region Districts 1 & 2 Combined Fall Meeting

The Golden West Region District 1 & 2 Combined Fall Meeting will take place at the Chino Senior Center in Chino, California, on October 9-10, 2026. This year's meeting is proudly hosted by Soroptimist International of Chino Valley.

### **THEME:** "Camp Soroptimist – Blazing Trails, Empowering Women."

Members are invited to imagine themselves gathered around a campfire sharing stories, celebrating accomplishments, and inspiring one another for the journey ahead. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far we've traveled, recognize the impact of our collective efforts, and dream boldly about the trails still waiting to be explored.

A copy of the "Call to Fall Meeting" and a registration form has been sent to all members. Please take a moment to review the Call, as it contains important details about the weekend's schedule, meals and costs.

### **REGISTRATION:**

I will be submitting one combined registration for SI Riverside, so please let me know by Monday, September 14th if you plan to attend. The Region must receive our club's registration by September 16th, so your timely response is appreciated.

If you plan to attend, please complete the registration worksheet that you received with the Call and email it back to me. You may also simply email me your selections.



Costs (as listed in the Call):

- Mandatory Registration: \$25 per person
- Lunch: \$17 per person
- Friday Night Dinner: \$35 per person (*optional*)
- Saturday Lunch: \$35 per person (*optional*)

SI Riverside covers costs for our President and two Delegates. All other members should plan to cover their own expenses.

If you notify me after September 14th, you will need to register yourself directly with the Region.

Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Treasurer Debbie Ferraro

## SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING



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,  
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

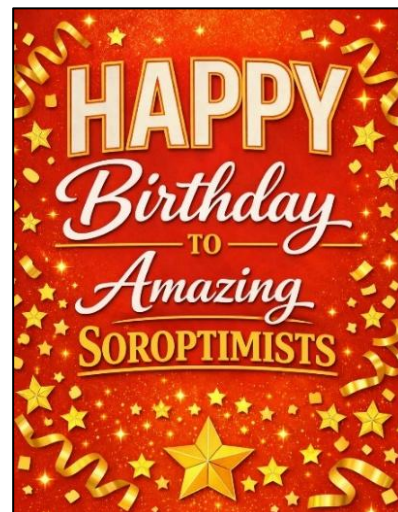
In 1947, Dorothy Miller Dunlap, a member of the Huntington Beach, CA club, set the pledge to music. This musical arrangement was later adopted as the official musical version at the 1950 convention in Seattle, WA, the city where the pledge was first written. The music has since become a central part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

## SEPTEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**Lynn Scecina – 21st**

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



**Sophia Mendoza  
9-1-2021**

**Tiffanie Tate  
9-19-2023**

**Dream** *Big*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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114315

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[www.soroptimistriverside.org](http://www.soroptimistriverside.org)

FACEBOOK  
Soroptimist Riverside CA

INSTAGRAM  
soroptimistriverside

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FACEBOOK  
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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](mailto:pambradford@pamsemail.net)

## SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



9,680 children under  
age 15 are expected to be  
diagnosed with cancer  
in the U.S. in 2026.



@warriorstrongwellness