



Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE OCTOBER 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.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we welcome fall, the change of season gives us a chance to reflect, reset and look ahead. It is also a good time to return to the heart of why we come together as Soroptimists: to improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and opportunity.

October also gives us an opportunity to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated through October 15th, and to honor the histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Dolores Huerta reminds us, *"The great social justice changes in our country have happened when people came together, organized and took direct action."* Her words are a good reminder of what can happen when people work together toward a shared purpose.

A few things ahead for SI Riverside:

- Thank you to Tiffany Tate for connecting us with Kevin Peete Sr. of the Kevin Peete II Heart Foundation for our September program meeting. Be sure to read more about his story and the foundation's work in this month's newsletter.

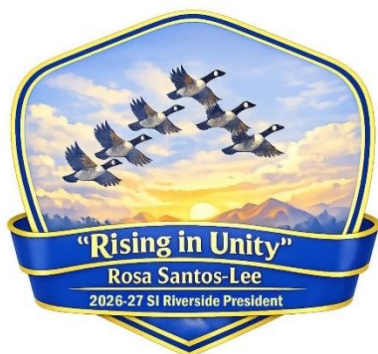
- Help us spread the word about our Live Your Dream Education & Training Award! Applications are now open for women working to improve their lives through education or vocational training. Please share the information through social media, church, other clubs and organizations or with friends and community groups. You never know who may know a woman who could benefit from this opportunity. The application deadline is November 15th. Reach out to Edith with any questions.
- To download the Live Your Dream Education & Training Award flyer, please visit the SI Riverside website: soroptimistriverside.org. The LYDETA webpage includes a direct link to the SIA application portal as well.
- Our Casino Night Fundraiser is set for January 23, 2027, with a Mardi Gras theme!



- Our fundraising planning meeting led by Melanie McKee, will be held October 1st at 12:00 PM via Zoom. All members are welcome to join us as we begin planning the activities and details for the evening.
- Business Meeting: October 13th at 12:00 PM at Habitat for Humanity and via Zoom.

Rising in Unity!

Rosa Santos-Lee
2026-27 SI Riverside President



OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR



- 3 **SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDER'S
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

NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR



- 3 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 9 **WORLD FREEDOM DAY**
- 10 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity,
2180 Iowa Avenue,
Riverside

- 25 **INTRNATIONAL DAY FOR
THE ELIMINATION OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN**

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED



**NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN NOVEMBER**

DATES TO REMEMBER



January 23, 2027
**MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT
FUNDRAISER**
Elks Lodge, Riverside

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.

OCTOBER 11, 2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD



Each year on October 11th, the world recognizes the International Day of the Girl Child, a day dedicated to uplifting the voices of girls and advocating for their rights, safety and opportunities. Established by the United Nations in 2012, this observance shines a light on the unique challenges girls face globally from limited access to education and healthcare to gender-based violence, discrimination and cultural barriers that restrict their futures.

But it is also a day of celebration. Girls everywhere are leading movements, excelling in school, innovating in science and technology, creating art, caring for their communities and imagining bold futures for themselves. Their potential is limitless when they are supported, encouraged and given the chance to thrive.

For Soroptimist International of Riverside, the International Day of the Girl Child speaks directly to the heart of our mission. Our Dream Programs, scholarships, mentoring and community partnerships all work toward one powerful goal: ensuring that girls grow into women who have the education, confidence and opportunity to shape their own lives. When we invest in girls, we invest in stronger families, healthier communities and a more equitable world.

This October, we honor the courage, creativity and resilience of girls everywhere. We also recommit ourselves to the work still ahead removing barriers, amplifying their voices and standing beside them as they pursue their dreams. Every girl deserves to learn, to lead and to be celebrated not just today, but every day.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



Once a quarter, SIA will focus on an obstacle that women and girls face on their path to formal education and economic empowerment, sharing information about the obstacle, along with suggested projects that count towards the Big Goal. Clubs can participate in the quarterly project focus by sharing SIA posts and posting their own projects with the hashtag #SoroptimistUplifeHER.

For the first quarter (October-December), the focus will be on projects that increase access to education for women or girls who have experienced INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.

Intimate partner violence is devastatingly common for women and girls around the globe.

- Nearly 1 in 3 women will experience it during their lifetime according to the World Health Organization.
- Financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases where abusers control or sabotage their partner's financial resources.
- When women and girls are educated, they have the skills to command decent wages

and the resources to escape unsafe relationships sooner.

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.

CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE AND UNIONS Summary

Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions (CEFMU) occur when a girl under 18, or any person without full, informed consent, is married or placed in an informal union. As the position paper states, *"children under the age of 18 are unable to give their full consent to marriage."* These practices violate human rights and severely limit a girl's education, health, safety and future opportunities.

CEFMU is driven by gender inequality, poverty, lack of schooling and harmful social norms. Globally, **650 million women and girls** were married before age 18, with the highest rates in West and Central Africa. Early marriage leads to increased risks of early pregnancy, maternal and infant mortality, school dropout and lifelong trauma. Informal unions, common where marriage laws are weak, leave girls without legal protection and exposed to exploitation.

International agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CEDAW and Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 call for ending child marriage by 2030. Stronger laws, community education and survivor-centered support are essential to making progress.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'S COMMITMENT

Soroptimist International stands firmly against CEFMU and works to:

- **EDUCATE** communities, including men and boys, about the dangers and long-term impacts of CEFMU.
- **EMPOWER** girls through education, vocational training and knowledge of their rights.
- **ENABLE** survivors and grassroots voices to shape solutions that protect girls and prevent exploitation.

Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions is vital to ensuring every girl can learn, lead and thrive.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 PROGRAM MEETING



At our September 22, 2026 program meeting, Soroptimist International of Riverside had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Kevin Peete Sr., founder of the Kevin Peete II Heart Foundation.

His presentation was both deeply moving and profoundly informative, offering our members a powerful look into the foundation's mission of supporting pediatric heart transplant patients, advancing education and championing lifesaving research.

The foundation was created in honor of his son, Kevin "KJ" Peete II, whose remarkable courage and unwavering faith continue to inspire its work. KJ's life was tragically cut short due to complications from an aortic tear and an anoxic brain injury, yet his legacy lives on through a mission rooted in compassion, hope and service to families facing congenital heart disease.



Mr. Peete shared how the foundation strives to ensure that no family walks this difficult journey alone. Through education, advocacy, community partnerships and practical support, the Kevin Peete II Heart Foundation helps families navigate overwhelming medical challenges while keeping their focus on healing, strength and connection.

Every program offered is designed to ease burdens during one of the most vulnerable seasons a family can face, reminding them that they are seen, supported and never forgotten.

His message resonated deeply with our members, reminding us of the extraordinary impact one family's story can have on countless others. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn about KJ's legacy and the foundation's ongoing work to make a difference one family at a time.

For more information about the foundation and its programs, please visit kp2heart.org.

SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING



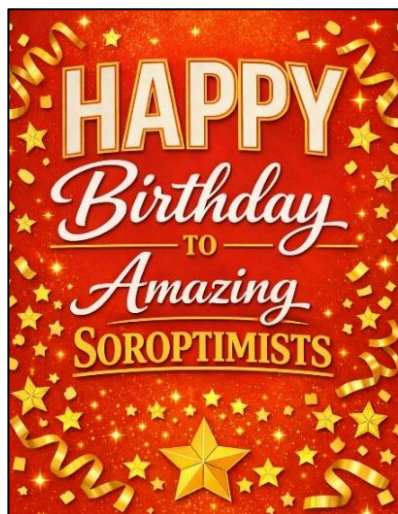
Soroptimist International celebrates **FOUNDER'S DAY** every year on October 3rd, honoring the moment the movement began in 1921.

On that day, a group of professional women in Oakland, California led by President Violet Richardson Ward officially formed the first Soroptimist club at a time when women were excluded from service organizations. Their goal was simple and bold: to unite women in service and improve the lives of women and girls.

Founder's Day reminds us of the courage and vision of those early members who insisted that women deserved a place in leadership, community service and decision-making. Their commitment to education, equality and opportunity laid the foundation for what has become a global organization with clubs in more than 120 countries.

Today, Soroptimists continue that legacy by providing access to education, empowering women and girls and advocating for human rights. Founder's Day is Soroptimist's annual moment to reflect on where we began, celebrate how far we've come and recommit ourselves to the mission that started it all.

OCTOBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



No Birthdays in October

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



**Edith Gingerich
10-16-2015**

**Melanie McKee
10-24-2018**

**Cisca Hernandez
10-14-2025**

**Virginia Sullivan
10-28-2025**

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



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Pam Bradford

DEADLINE
Submit articles and photos
by the 25th of each
month to Pam at:

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OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



**TOGETHER,
WE ARE
TOUGHER
THAN
CANCER**

**OVERCOME
THROUGH
COURAGE
& STRENGTH**

Let's find a cure for breast cancer.

Breast cancer
changes you, and
the change can be
beautiful.

— Jane Cook

*Let your
faith
be bigger
than your
fear.*

