Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE, INC.

riversidelines



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE
NOVEMBER 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.

EMPOWERED WOMEN
EMPOWER THE WORLD

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.

SOROPTIMIST BIG GOAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The District 1 & 2 Fall Meeting, *Camp Soroptimist: Blazing Trails, Empowering Women*, was a wonderful day filled with friendship, camaraderie, laughter, and Soroptimist spirit!

Barbara Walling, Charlene Johnson, and I attended, and the theme was a great reminder of how Soroptimists blaze trails so others can pursue their dreams.

Speaking of blazing trails, it was especially rewarding to see SI Riverside leading both districts in Dream It, Be It participation, reaching 72 girls! Our club was also recognized for its Big Goal Accelerator projects, including backpacks for Arlington Temporary Assistance and our Student Volunteer Award.

I encourage you to read Barbara's conference summary and visit the Golden West Region website for more presentations from Fall Meeting.

Scan QR Code for GWR Website

You can enjoy the photos from Fall Meeting that appear later in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, SI Big Bear Valley will host the 2027 Fall Meeting, and SI Riverside will support them by coordinating registration.

We have a busy few months ahead! Our Mardi Gras Casino Night fundraiser is set for January 23rd, and there is plenty to do as we prepare for this important event.

Melanie McKee will be sharing updates and opportunities for members to get involved. Every helping hand makes a difference, and we appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute.

Our annual Friendsgiving gathering will take place November 17th at Habitat for Humanity. This year, we're happy to partner with Operation Safe House and invite them to join us. What a wonderful opportunity to share a meal, enjoy one another's company, and connect with our community. A sign-up sheet will be shared soon, and I hope many of you will be able to participate.

November brings two meaningful traditions: D'a de los Muertos, a time to honor and remember loved ones who have passed, and Thanksgiving, a time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. Both remind us of the importance of family, community, and gratitude.

I recently listened to a conversation with Dr. Jared Diamond on the Huberman Lab podcast, where he shared three simple ideas for living a meaningful life: do something you enjoy, do something you're good at, and do something that makes a difference in the world.

Source: Huberman Lab Podcast. "What Makes Great Leaders & How to Live an Extraordinary Life," featuring Dr. Jared Diamond. October 19, 2026. Timestamp: 1:47:04–1:49:34.

https://www.hubermanlab.com/episode/what-makes-great-leaders-and-how-to-live-an-extraordinary-life-jared-diamond

Scan QR code for Access

I couldn't help but think of Soroptimist. Each of us brings different interests, talents, and experiences to our club, and together we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to thank each of you for the time, energy, and heart you bring to SI Riverside. This is what *Rising in Unity* means to me.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Rosa Santos-Lee
2026-27 SI Riverside President



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

17 ***FRIENDSGIVING***
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

25 ***INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN***

NO PROGRAM MEETING IN NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 2026 CALENDAR



1 ***BOARD MEETING***
12:00 PM on ZOOM

2 ***INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY***

3 ***HOLIDAY PARTY***
5:00 PM, Tiffanie Tate's Home

5 ***INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT***

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

10 ***INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY***

NO PROGRAM MEETING IN DECEMBER

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

A GLOBAL VOICE FOR WOMEN
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
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EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENABLE.

CLUB MEETING DETAILS

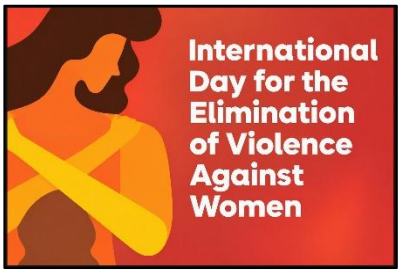


Soroptimist International of Riverside, a club in District 1 of the Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

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.

NOVEMBER 25, 2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Each year on November 25th, people around the world observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a day dedicated to raising awareness about one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

Violence against women and girls affects individuals of every age, culture, and socioeconomic background. This observance serves as a reminder that everyone deserves to live free from fear, abuse, discrimination, and violence.

The day also marks the beginning of the annual "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, which continues through December 10th, Human Rights Day. During this time, communities, organizations, and individuals work together to promote education, advocacy, and support for survivors. By encouraging open conversations and increasing public awareness, these efforts help break the silence that often surrounds abuse and create pathways to safety and healing.

Violence against women can take many forms, including physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and online abuse. While significant progress has been made in recognizing and addressing these issues, much work remains to ensure that women and girls everywhere can live with dignity, respect, and equal opportunity. Prevention begins with education, healthy relationships, and a commitment to challenging attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence.

As Soroptimists, we are uniquely positioned to support women and girls through programs that empower, educate, and uplift. By investing in education, mentoring, and advocacy, we help create stronger communities and brighter futures. On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a world where every woman and girl can thrive in safety, equality, and peace.

No one should face violence simply because of their gender. Together, through awareness, compassion, and action, we can help create lasting change.

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, GIRLS AND THE IMPACT OF DRUG ABUSE SUMMARY

Drug abuse continues to pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of women and girls around the world. Soroptimist International recognizes that women are often uniquely vulnerable to substance abuse

due to factors such as poverty, lack of educational opportunities, discrimination, violence, and adverse childhood experiences.

Research shows that women can become addicted more quickly than men and often face additional challenges when seeking treatment and recovery.

The effects of drug abuse extend far beyond the individual. Families and communities are impacted, particularly children who may experience neglect, instability, or other hardships that increase their own risk of substance misuse later in life. Education plays a critical role in breaking this cycle. Access to safe, inclusive, and affordable education helps girls and women build opportunities for a healthier and more secure future.

Soroptimist International believes that reducing poverty, expanding educational opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls are essential steps in addressing the root causes of drug abuse. The organization urges governments to strengthen support services, protect women and girls from gender-based violence, and ensure that vulnerable populations have access to resources that promote health, safety, and economic independence.

Through advocacy, collaboration, and community action, Soroptimists around the world continue to work toward a future where women and girls can live free from violence, poverty, and the devastating effects of drug abuse.

Source: Soroptimist International Position Paper, "Women and Drugs."

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



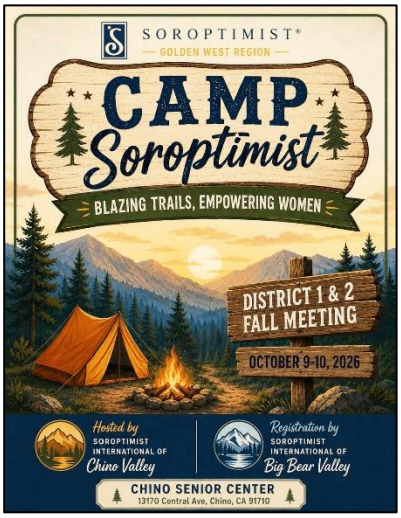
"DRIVEN BY DREAMS"

"Driven by Dreams" is a membership campaign by Soroptimist International of the Americas designed to help local clubs connect with prospective members and expand their community impact.

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

- **Purpose:** Grow membership and engage communities in Soroptimist's core mission.
- **Core Mission:** Provide women and girls access to the education and training they need for economic empowerment.
- **Key Programs:** Supports signature initiatives like the Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It, Be It career mentorship.

OCTOBER 9-10, 2026 DISTRICT 1 & 2 FALL MEETING



CAMP SOROPTIMIST

"BLAZING TRAILS, EMPOWERING WOMEN"

SI Riverside was represented at the District 1 & 2 Fall Meeting by President Rosa Santos-Lee, Barbara Walling and Charlene Johnson.

For more information on the activities at Fall Meeting, please read Barbara's Fall Meeting summary and also visit the Golden West Region website for additional presentation reports from Fall Meeting.

Golden West Region Website
Scan QR Code for Access













OCTOBER 27, 2026 PROGRAM MEETING

UNDERSTANDING OUR LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

Get the facts.
Ask Questions.
Make Informed Decisions.



Featured Speaker:
Dr. Antwanisha Williamson

Dr. Antwanisha Williamson is an educator, U.S. Navy veteran, and community advocate. She serves in leadership roles with the California Educational Research Association, NAACP California - Hawaii, and Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA).

At SI Riverside's program meeting on October 27th, Dr. Williamson brought her experience in education and civic engagement to our membership and guests for a nonpartisan discussion of ballot propositions, helping voters to understand the issues and make informed decisions.

NOVEMBER 17, 2026 FRIENDSGIVING



Our annual Friendsgiving Celebration will be held on November 17th at noon at Habitat for Humanity, and we are looking forward to gathering together for an afternoon of friendship, gratitude, and good food.

A formal invitation, food sign-up sheet, and RSVP information will be sent to members soon. As always, family and friends are warmly welcomed and encouraged to join us.

One of the traditions that makes this event so special is the opportunity to share our blessings with others. As a heartfelt thank

you to the wonderful staff at Habitat for Humanity for graciously providing us with a meeting space throughout the year, we will once again invite them to enjoy our meal with us.

This year we have also extended an invitation to the ladies participating in Operation Safehouse's Transitional Living Program, welcoming them to join us at our Friendsgiving table.

Once our guest count is finalized, we will let everyone know how many attendees we expect so we can ensure there is plenty of food, fun, and fellowship for all. As always, our generous membership graciously provides all of the delicious dishes that make these gatherings so special and enjoyable for everyone.

Friendsgiving is one of our favorite annual traditions because it allows us to gather not only as club members, but as friends. It is a time to reflect on our many blessings, enjoy each other's company, and extend the spirit of gratitude to those whose kindness and support touch our lives. We look forward to sharing this special day with all of you.

DECEMBER 3, 2026 HOLIDAY PARTY





Mark your calendars! The SI Riverside Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 3rd, at the beautiful home of Tiffanie Tate. The cost is $40 per person.

A formal invitation with complete event details will be sent in November. For now, be sure to reserve December 3rd on your calendar so you won't miss what is sure to be the most festive and fun gathering of the year!

JANUARY 23, 2027 MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER





Mark your calendars! Our Mardi Gras Casino Night will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2027 at the Elks Lodge in Riverside.

More exciting details will be coming later this month when our invitation and registration materials are finalized and ticket purchasing is available through Ticket Stripe.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This year we have five sponsorship levels, and the success of our event depends on the participation of our entire membership. We encourage everyone to reach out to family members, friends, coworkers, and local businesses to help secure sponsorships to support our fundraising efforts.

Every sponsorship brings us one step closer to reaching our profit goals and expanding the impact of our important service projects.

Sponsorship flyers have already been distributed to all members and will be sent again in the next few weeks.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **ROYAL FLUSH - $5,000**

  Recognition in the Event Program, on the SI Riverside Website, and on our Facebook Page, plus 8 complimentary event tickets

- **STRAIGHT FLUSH - $2,500**

  Recognition in the Event Program, on the SI Riverside Website, and on our Facebook Page, plus 4 complimentary event tickets

- **FOUR OF A KIND - $1,000**

  Recognition in the Event Program, on the SI Riverside Website, and on our

Facebook Page, plus 2 complimentary event tickets

- **FULL HOUSE - $500**

  Recognition in the Event Program, on the SI Riverside Website, and on our Facebook Page, plus 1 complimentary event ticket

- **FLUSH - $250**

  Recognition in the Event Program, on the SI Riverside Website, and on our Facebook Page

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our Mardi Gras Casino Night is more than just a fun evening. The funds we raise directly support our next fiscal year service projects and programs that will make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

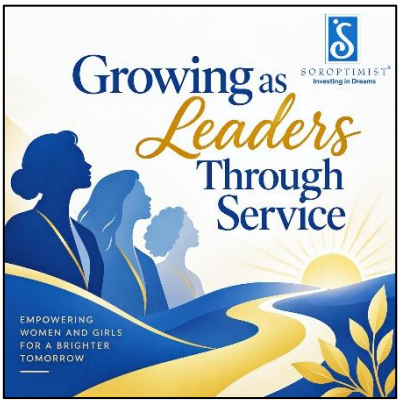
Every member can play an important role in making this event a success. One conversation, one sponsorship, and one connection can make a tremendous impact.

Let's work together to make Mardi Gras Casino Night 2027 our most successful event yet!

WE CAN DO IT!



SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING



One of the greatest benefits of belonging to Soroptimist is the opportunity to develop leadership skills while making a meaningful difference in the lives of women and girls.

Leadership is not reserved for those holding an office or chairing a committee. Every member has the ability to lead through her actions, ideas, and willingness to serve.

Whether you are mentoring a new member, helping organize a fundraiser, volunteering at an event, or sharing your expertise on a club project, you are strengthening skills that can inspire others and help our organization thrive.

Leadership development begins with stepping outside our comfort zones. Volunteer to take on a new responsibility, speak up during club discussions, or join a committee that interests you.

These experiences build confidence, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork. As Soroptimists, we are united by a mission to improve the lives of women and girls. The stronger our leadership skills become, the more effectively we can carry that mission forward and create lasting change in our communities.

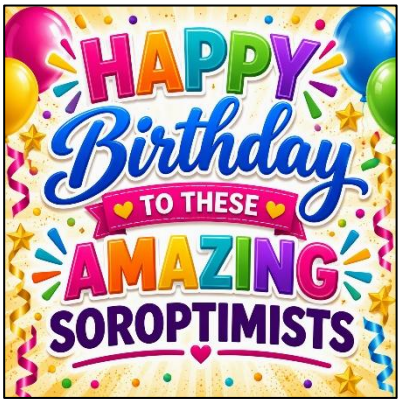
Every successful leader started by taking one small step. By embracing opportunities to learn, serve, and grow within our club, we not only enrich our own lives but also strengthen the future of Soroptimist.

Together, we can continue building a legacy of empowered women helping other women achieve their dreams.

Leadership is not about a title or position. It is about choosing to make a positive difference wherever you have the opportunity to serve.



NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Susan Wolf – 2nd
Melanie McKee – 24th

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Barbara Walling
11-01-2001

Tillie Soliz
11-09-2010

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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

NOVEMBER IS ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

