

# Soroptimist

## Welcome to Soroptimist!

Thank you for becoming part of our dynamic organization! We appreciate your time and dedication to the Soroptimist mission!

This booklet will introduce you to our unique programs and the numerous resources available through your membership.

## An Overview of Soroptimist

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for women **who use their collective power** to provide women and girls with the resources and opportunities **they need** to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Approximately 74,000 Soroptimists in over 120 countries and territories support community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls. Of our four international federations, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), has over 30,000 Soroptimists in 20 countries and territories who contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects benefiting women and girls. The name, Soroptimist, means “best for women,” and that’s what our organization strives to achieve.

SIA is divided into 28 regions with ours being the **Golden West Region** with over 1,000 members in over 40 clubs located in AZ, CA, NM, & TX. **SIA members belong to local clubs, which determine the volunteer projects conducted in their communities.** Ask your club leaders how to get involved with our programs so **you can start helping** women and girls right away!

Coming from a variety of cultures, ethnic groups, and ages, we represent a wide array of women who are leaders in our communities. We believe in the power of joining together to make the world a better place for disadvantaged women and girls.

*We hope you enjoy the unique opportunities to do meaningful, life-changing work in an atmosphere of fun and friendship.*

## Our Mission

Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Often, members of dues-supported organizations wonder what they “get” for their dues. Soroptimist uses annual dues to ensure our members have a fun and meaningful club experience while accomplishing our collective mission—today and into the future. Members pay \$72 for SIA dues. The return on that investment—that is the dollar amount it would cost each member for all the service and benefits SIA provides—would be approximately \$165, or a 235.7% return. Surveys tell us members value the following benefits from their membership:

**Mission:** Members experience joy and a sense of accomplishment by working with other like-minded women on global programs that socially and economically empower women and girls.

**Connection:** Members grow professionally and personally through their friendships with other club members, connections with women from different cultures and countries, and opportunities for leadership development.

**Assistance:** Members receive assistance and resources from SIA headquarters enabling them to enjoy a meaningful club experience knowing they are part of a secure organization invested in the future.

In addition to these values, following is a brief overview of the individual benefits members receive from our headquarters office when they join Soroptimist:

- Subscription to our twice-yearly printed newsletter Best for Women.
- Email alerts about updates to our monthly electronic blog, the “Soroptimist Summary.”
- Leadership development and networking opportunities.
- Opportunity to participate in and provide feedback through our social media sites.
- Access to contact information for other members, clubs and leaders via online directories.
- Chance to take part in LiveYourDream.org.
- Invitations to take advantage of special offers and discounts through our partners.

Soroptimist's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. We work to live in a world where women and girls have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

## **Soroptimist Dream Programs**

The Dream Programs of Soroptimist ensure women and girls have access to the education and training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Soroptimist is committed to investing in programs that have a sustainable, measurable change for women and girls.

### **Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women**

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards were established in 1972 to assist women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills training and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family. Each year, nearly \$1.9 million in education grants are awarded to more than 1,300 women in SIA's 20 member countries and territories. The women receiving these financial awards may use them for any costs associated with their educational efforts, including tuition, books, child care, and transportation. All the materials your club needs to participate, including an easy to use club participation toolkit, can be found in the members section of the website.

### **Soroptimist Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls**

The Soroptimist Dream It, Be It program targets girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live their dreams.

Soroptimist clubs in 20 countries and territories work in partnership with girls in small groups or a conference setting to provide them with the information and resources they want and need to be successful. The topics covered include career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success and how to move forward after setbacks or failures.

To find out more about **Who We Are** and **Our Programs** visit the SIA website at [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

**Through your interaction with Soroptimist you have the ability to be an instrument of change for disadvantaged women and girls throughout the world.**

## goldenwestregion.org

Find resources, forms, documents, information that you need:

**Meetings/Conferences:** Upcoming region and federation events and registration, event resources

**Club Resources:** Membership, Programs, Public Awareness, Fundraising

**Region Documents:** Leadership Directory, Officer Checklist, Strategic Plan, Bylaws & Procedures, Dues Invoice, Manuals

**Leadership Directory:** Protected information accessible with password “gwr1978”

<b>Golden West Region Clubs by District</b>			
<b>41 Total Clubs</b>			
<b>District 1 (10 Clubs)</b> <b>District Director</b> <b><i>Rene Myers</i></b>	<b>District 2 (10 Clubs)</b> <b>District Director</b> <b><i>Kimberly Cook</i></b>	<b>District 3 (12 Clubs)</b> <b>District Director</b> <b><i>Laurie Scott Moses</i></b>	<b>District 4 (9 Clubs)</b> <b>District Director</b> <b><i>Paula Adkins</i></b>
Baldy View Barstow Area, the Chino Hills/Inland Empire Chino Valley, Inc., the Corona Montclair/Inland Valley Rim of the World Riverside San Bernardino Victor Valley, Inc.	Beaumont-Banning Big Bear Valley, Inc. Desert Cities of the Coachella Valley Idyllwild Moreno Valley Palm Desert Palm Springs San Jacinto-Hemet Valley Twentynine Palms Yucca Valley	Arizona Peaks, the Blythe Flagstaff, Inc. Gallup Kingman Lake Havasu City Mountain Morning Parker Prescott, Inc. Wickenburg, Inc. Winslow Zane Grey Country	Desert Tucson East Valley Gold Canyon Happy Valley of the Sun Kachinas, Inc., the Las Cruces Phoenix, Inc. Saguaro Foothills, Inc. San Tans, Inc., the

# **SIA and GWR Glossary**

## **Frequently Used Terms and Acronyms**

### **Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask**

Like many organizations, Soroptimist has terms and definitions unique to our programs and members. To help you learn more about our organization, we have developed a glossary of terms you may use for reference.

**“Best for Women”** – Soroptimist International of Americas’ newsletter, which is published two times a year, keeps readers informed of the organization’s programs and club projects, while giving a global perspective on women’s issues.

**Business Meeting-** held at a regularly scheduled time, where financial and committee reports are given.

**Big Goal-** of SIA is for all 1200 clubs to invest in dreams of 1 million women and girls through access to education by 2031.

**Celebrating Success Awards-** An SIA recognition program given to clubs who demonstrate best practice in one of the Four Pillars

**Club Giving** -Club Giving is how your club can help women and girls beyond your local community. Clubs are asked to contribute at least 10% of the funds they raise locally to fund life-changing global programs like the Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women or Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls, and increase the number of women and girls who benefit from our global programs. When your club contributes to Club Giving it ensures that more women and girls close to home and across the world will have access to our programs. More women will be able to overcome challenges such as sex slavery, domestic violence, poverty and drug abuse, and live more fulfilling lives. More girls will be able to overcome obstacles, increase their self-esteem, and pursue their dreams.

**Collective Impact-** the commitment of all members of Soroptimist coming together to work for a common goal

**Convention** – Held in even-numbered years, conventions provide education, networking, and socializing opportunities. In addition to inspiring speakers and workshops, members also have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and meet Soroptimists from around the world.

**DOÑAS**- the title of respect given to past governors of the Golden West Region.

**Dream Maker Pins and Dream Jars** – A Golden West Region fundraising project to collect or donate \$100 to our Dream Programs (LYDA and DIBI), and receive a Dream Maker Pin. Collect from family, friends and co-workers in a Dream Jar (Mason Jar) personally decorated and including information to start a discussion on Soroptimist and our Dream Programs.

**Federation** – There are 4 federations within Soroptimist International (SI): SIA (Soroptimist International of the Americas); SIE (Soroptimist International of Europe); SIGBI (Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland); SISWP (Soroptimist International of the Southwest Pacific)

**Fall Meeting** - The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for active contact between clubs, for sharing of information about programs and projects, presentation of educational workshops and seminars, and strengthening of friendships and fellowship among the members.

**Founders Pennies** – Celebrating the founding of Soroptimist, Founders Pennies are a classic, time-honored tradition for clubs to support federation programs in a creative way. They are collected by clubs in a variety of ways and are usually submitted with federation dues. Founders Pennies are calculated by multiplying \$.06 per member times the number of years since Soroptimist's Founding in 1921. In the 2017-2018 club year, Founders Pennies are \$5.82.

**Four Pillars**- the four essential elements of the strategic plan of SIA: Dream Programs, Fundraising, Membership and Public Relations.

**GWR**- Golden West Region, one of 28 geographical areas within SIA, to which SIP belongs, which includes San Bernardino and Riverside Counties of California, the State of Arizona (with the exception of Yuma County), State of New Mexico, and El Paso.

**Laurel Legacy** – The Laurel Legacy is Soroptimist International of the Americas’ way of recognizing and honoring the generosity of those whose future gifts preserve the strength of the organization and help women and girls to live their dreams. Arranging a future gift to Soroptimist International of the Americas is an excellent way to guarantee that Soroptimist programs will continue to help women who benefit from our programs.

**Laurel Society** – Laurel Society – The Laurel Society is SIA’s prestigious recognition program for donors who contribute gifts totaling \$1,000 or more. Since 1994, over 6,000 Laurel Society members have contributed nearly \$10 million dollars to help empower women and girls to live their dreams. Donors can choose to designate their gift to the Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It, or Unrestricted Program Support, which provides funding for all SIA programs. It is because of the generosity of our Laurel Society members that Soroptimist is able to ensure funding for our global programs that work to make the world a better place for women and girls.

**Leadership Training Retreat LTR**– The purpose of this retreat is to provide an opportunity for active contact between clubs, development of future leaders, motivation, inspiration, Soroptimist education, personal development and leadership development exercises.

**Life Member-** a member who, prior to July 2001, retired from their profession and had been a continuous Soroptimist for 15 years.

**LYDA-** Live Your Dream Award: Education and Training for Women- Part of the Dreams Programs that provides assistance to women who are the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

**LiveYourDream.org** – is a free online community empowering online and offline action, helping women and girls to live their dreams. It’s a fun and fresh way to present what we do as Soroptimists by offering an introduction to Soroptimist in an inspirational and engaging way, and serves as messaging platform—a foundation—for describing and communicating our programs. Through this community, SIA opens up opportunities for non-Soroptimists to engage with us and help deliver our mission. Members are encouraged to sign-up and invite everyone they know to sign-up as well to extend the mission of Soroptimist into the future by employing new and exciting avenues for engagement for anyone interested in helping women to live their dreams!

**President's Appeal- (Soroptimist International President's December 10<sup>th</sup> Appeal)** an annual project selected by the In honor of United Nations Human Rights Day, which is also Soroptimist International Day, the Soroptimist International president invites all Soroptimists to join her in making a personal sacrifice and donate money to be used to benefit Soroptimist International projects in education and leadership.

**Regular Member-** a member who is working in a profession or business

**Saturday of Service** – An international project started within the Golden West Region for all clubs to serve the first Saturday of March in some capacity and to attract attention to our organization and programs.

**Shaping the Future** – SIA's internal strategy for moving the organization forward by focusing on identifying barriers to organizational success, providing greater clarity to Soroptimists; ensuring our core programs are measurable, sustainable and in alignment with our direction and values; generating an evidence base that effectively tells about the impact we make achieving the social transformation of women and girls, so they have the education and training they need to live their dream, leading to greater recognition for SIA, and resulting in greater resources for the federation; and positively affecting the social and economic empowerment of women and girls through access to education.

**SIA-** Soroptimist International of the Americas, whose members belong to one of over 1,200 clubs in 21 countries and territories.

**SOLT-** Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training- provides educational information about Soroptimist, the organization and its mission

**Soroptimist International** – Headquartered in Cambridge, England, SI is a coalition of four federations, which includes Soroptimist International of the Americas. The other three federations that belong to Soroptimist International are: Soroptimist International of Europe (**www.soroptimisteurope.org**), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland; Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (**www.sigbi.org**), headquartered in Cheshire, England; Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific (**www.siswp.org**), headquartered in Sydney, Australia.



**Soroptimist International President's December 10<sup>th</sup> Appeal** – In honor of United Nations Human Rights Day, the Soroptimist International president invites all Soroptimists to join her in making a personal sacrifice and donate money to be used to benefit Soroptimist International projects in education and leadership.

**Soroptimist International of the Americas Strategic Plan** – A document that states Soroptimist's vision, mission, core values and strategic outcomes.

**Soroptimist Summary** – A monthly blog available to members to keep them informed about current Soroptimist news, new programs/projects/resources, approaching deadlines, featured sales items and much more. Be sure to keep your current

**Spring Conference** – SIA requires that the GWR hold an annual conference for the purpose of conducting the business of the GWR, promoting Soroptimist projects and programs, network and share best practices and provide opportunities for leadership and personal development of members as well as receive recognition of club achievements.

# EDUCATE EMPOWER ENABLE



SOROPTIMIST

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Best for Women

