



SOROPTIMIST®

WELCOME TO SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
**Your Guide to
Membership, Mission,
and Impact**

Welcome to Soroptimist!

By becoming a member of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.® (SIA), you have joined a global network committed to helping women and girls overcome obstacles, pursue education and training, and achieve economic empowerment.

For more than 100 years, Soroptimists have invested their time, talents and resources in creating opportunities for women and girls.

Our years of experience have taught us that education is the key to unlocking economic empowerment for women and girls around the world. When women and

girls are educated, they have the opportunity, choice, and power to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

What you are now part of

A community of members across North America, Latin America and the Pacific Rim, united by one mission and committed to investing in the dreams of women and girls.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Our Mission

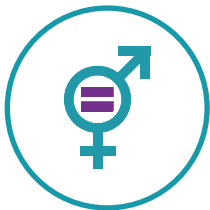
Providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, specifically those facing significant obstacles.

Our Vision

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

Our 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.

Who We Are

Soroptimist was founded in 1921 in Oakland, California, USA, at a time when women were not permitted to join many service organizations. Loosely translated, our name means “best for women.”

Today, SIA includes more than 1,000 clubs across North America, Latin America and the Pacific Rim that support global and community-based projects benefiting women and girls. Together, members advance global and community-based programs that help women and girls pursue education, achieve economic empowerment and live their dreams.



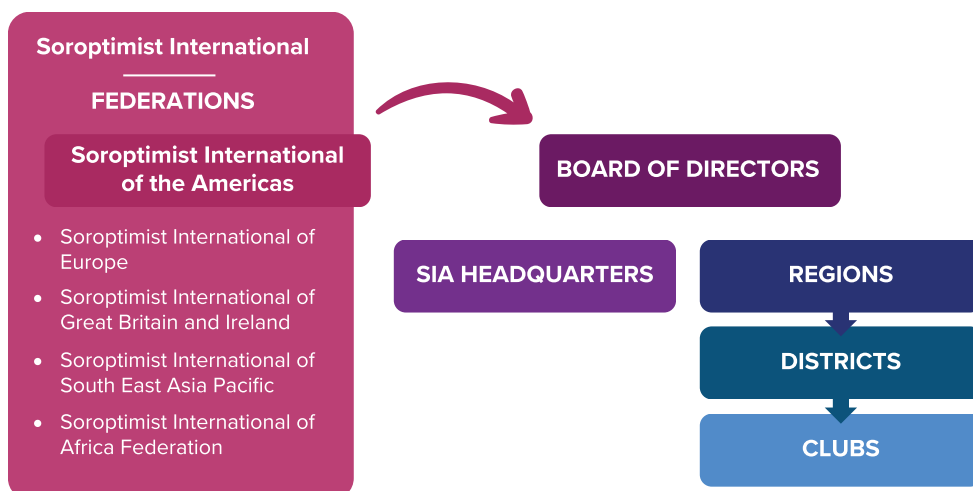
Did you know?

Our official tagline is Investing in Dreams. It expresses what Soroptimists do every day: invest time, talent and resources in the aspirations of women and girls.

How Soroptimist is Organized

Headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, Soroptimist International of the Americas is one of five federations that make up Soroptimist International (SI), which is headquartered in Cambridge, England. The other four federations are:

- **Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE)**
Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland
- **Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI)**
Headquartered in Cheshire, England
- **Soroptimist International of South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP)**
Headquartered in Sydney, Australia
- **Soroptimist International of Africa Federation (SIAF)**
Headquartered in Lagos State, Nigeria



Soroptimist International

SI is governed by a board of directors composed of member representatives from each of its five federations, including SIA. Members from all five federations also come together every four years for the SI Convention. [Learn more about SI.](#)

SIA Leadership

SIA is governed by the SIA Board of Directors, whose members are elected to represent SIA's electoral areas. The board provides strategic direction and oversight for the federation, with representation from across the countries and territories SIA serves. [Learn more about SIA's Board of Directors.](#)

Regions and Districts

Within SIA, clubs are organized geographically into regions and, in some cases, districts. Each region is led by a governor and region board, with chairs supporting areas such as programs, membership, fundraising and public awareness. Some regions are divided into smaller geographic districts led by district directors; not every region has districts.

Region leaders connect clubs with one another and with SIA Headquarters, share important information and resources, and provide training and support.

Clubs

Your club is your local Soroptimist community, where most members participate in programs, projects, fundraising, fellowship, and leadership activities. Each club elects officers and may appoint committee chairs or other volunteers to coordinate its work.

Members

And then there's you! Through your club, you are connected to a region, federation and global community united in helping women and girls live their dreams. We're thrilled to have you!

Headquarters Staff

SIA headquarters staff work in partnership with the board and organizational leaders to carry out the federation's strategic direction and provide resources and support to regions, clubs and members. [Learn more about SIA's headquarters staff.](#)



How We Advance Our Mission

Soroptimist advances its mission through four interconnected areas: program and impact, membership and engagement, fundraising and philanthropy, and public awareness and recognition. Together, these areas strengthen our organization and expand our ability to help women and girls pursue education, achieve economic empowerment and live their dreams.

Program and Impact

Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women®

The *Live Your Dream Awards* provide cash grants to women who are the primary financial supporters of their families and are pursuing education or skills training. Recipients may use the award for costs such as tuition, books, childcare and transportation—expenses that can otherwise make continuing an education difficult or impossible.

Many recipients have faced significant obstacles, including poverty, violence, trafficking, teen pregnancy, racism and substance use disorder. The flexible cash award honors each woman's ability to determine what she needs to continue working toward her goals.

Impact at a Glance

\$3.6+ million

in education awards disbursed
each year

2,500+ women

receive education awards
each year

49,500+ women

have received awards since
the program began in 1972



**“You turned on a
light inside me,
opened the door
to a new realm of
being and invited
me in with
open arms.”**

**— Colleen, *Live Your Dream*
Awards Recipient**

Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls®

Dream It, Be It gives girls the information, encouragement and practical tools they need to pursue their education and career goals. Through small-group sessions or conference-style events, girls explore topics such as career opportunities, goal setting, overcoming obstacles and turning failure into success.

The program prioritizes girls who face additional barriers, including poverty, racism, foster care involvement and teen motherhood. Clubs work in partnership with girls to provide relevant information, supportive relationships and opportunities to imagine their futures.

Impact at a Glance

192,000 girls

reached since the
program began in 2015

“I learned from the *Dream It, Be It* program that every woman has the power to achieve her dreams.”

— *Dream It, Be It* participant



Our Big Goal

Achieving our ambitious goal will create sustainable, measurable change in the lives of women and girls, with benefits extending to their families and communities. Every club and member has a role to play. Women and girls reached through our Dream Programs and qualifying Big Goal Accelerator Projects count toward our collective impact.

[SIA's Strategic Plan](#) provides a roadmap for advancing our mission and achieving our 2031 Big Goal, outlining the priorities that guide our work each year.

Our goal:

Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education and training leading to economic empowerment by 2031.

Big Goal Accelerator Projects

[Big Goal Accelerator Projects](#) are club and region projects that expand access to education, training or economic empowerment for women and girls facing obstacles. Examples include scholarships, educational classes and essential items that enable women and girls to participate in education or training.

Soroptimists UpliftHER

[Soroptimists UpliftHER](#) is a quarterly member-engagement initiative focused on obstacles women and girls may face on their path to education and economic empowerment. SIA Headquarters provides background information, communications materials and suggested projects that can contribute to the Big Goal.

As a member, you can learn about each issue, share educational content, participate in a related club project, and help your club report its impact if it contributes to the Big Goal.

How Your Club Contributes

Clubs contribute to our collective impact in many ways, including:

- Participating in the *Live Your Dream Awards* or *Dream It, Be It*.
- Conducting eligible Big Goal Accelerator Projects.
- Reporting the number of women and girls reached through its work.
- Raising funds to support local and federation programs.
- Sharing impact stories that help others understand our mission.



[Explore Program Resources](#)

Membership and Engagement

Membership connects you with people who share a commitment to improving the lives of women and girls. It gives you opportunities to contribute to a meaningful mission, build lasting relationships, develop your skills, and become part of an international community.

What Membership Offers



Meaningful impact

Work with others to expand access to education and training for women and girls.



Friendship and connection

Build relationships within your club, region and an international network of members.



A global perspective

Learn from members representing varied countries, cultures, communities and experiences.



Personal and professional growth

Develop skills and confidence through volunteer engagement, training and leadership opportunities.



Resources and support

Access program materials, communications tools, training and assistance from SIA Headquarters.

Find Your Place in Soroptimist

There is no single right way to be a Soroptimist. Members contribute in different ways depending on their interests, skills, availability and season of life. Whether you prefer to work behind the scenes, participate in a project or take on a leadership role, you can find a way to contribute that is meaningful and manageable for you.



You might choose to:

- Attend club meetings and learn how your club operates.
- Participate in a Dream Program or another mission-focused project.
- Help with an event, fundraiser or behind-the-scenes task.
- Share your professional knowledge, creative skills or community connections.
- Welcome prospective and new members.
- Help tell your club's impact stories.
- Attend a region event, Leadership Round Table or SIA's biennial convention.
- Serve on a committee or consider a leadership role when the time is right.

Every form of participation matters. By contributing in a way that works for you, you help strengthen your club and extend Soroptimist's impact.

Connect, Learn and Grow

Soroptimist offers opportunities to connect with members, develop your leadership skills and deepen your understanding of the organization. In addition to club and region activities, members are encouraged to participate in federation events such as:

Leadership Opportunities

SIA offers a variety of opportunities to build leadership skills, grow your understanding of Soroptimist and get more involved. Explore the Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program, on-demand trainings, the #LeadtoAchieve series and New Member Training to develop your skills and connect with other members.

Biennial Convention

Held in even-numbered years, SIA's convention brings together Soroptimists from across our countries and territories. Through speakers, workshops, cross-cultural connection and member-driven decision-making, convention offers an opportunity to experience our global community in action.

Leadership Round Table

Held annually in a virtual format and open to all SIA members, Leadership Round Table offers timely, relevant leadership development. Members gain tools, perspectives and connections to help them grow as leaders within Soroptimist, their professions and their communities.



Stay Informed and Supported

SIA provides communications and resources to help you stay connected and make the most of your membership, including:

- [Best for Women®](#), SIA's monthly translated electronic newsletter
- Emails from SIA Headquarters with organizational news, updates and opportunities
- The [Soroptimist Blog](#), featuring impact stories, program information and news from across the federation
- SIA's social media channels
- Program, membership, philanthropy and communications resources
- Training and leadership-development opportunities
- Information about region meetings, conferences and federation events
- Support from SIA Headquarters

Your club and region may also provide newsletters, websites, social media groups and other ways to receive information and connect with fellow members.

What Your Membership Makes Possible

Your annual membership dues help make the benefits, resources and opportunities described above possible. They support programs, member communications, training, events, and the administrative, governance and operational needs of your local club, region and federation.

Members generally pay dues at all three levels, and amounts vary by club and region. Your club treasurer or president can explain your club's dues schedule and what is included.

Our Shared Commitment

Every member also plays a role in creating a welcoming, inclusive and safe Soroptimist experience. All members and leaders are expected to follow SIA's [Member and Leader Code of Conduct](#) and its [related processes](#).





Fundraising and Philanthropy

Membership dues support the operation of our organization, while philanthropic gifts provide additional resources to expand our programs and help more women and girls pursue their dreams.

Club Giving

[Club Giving](#) is one way clubs extend their impact beyond their local communities. Clubs are encouraged to contribute a recommended 10% of funds raised locally to support SIA's global Dream Programs.

Founders Pennies

[Founders Pennies](#) honor Soroptimist's founding in 1921 while supporting the Dream Programs. Clubs collect and contribute an annually calculated amount for each member. Because the amount changes each year, members should consult current SIA resources for the latest figure.

Stargazer Monthly Giving

As a [Stargazer](#), your monthly gift supports educational opportunities that help women and girls pursue their dreams, support their families and build stronger futures—month after month and year after year.

Laurel Society

The [Laurel Society](#) recognizes donors whose cumulative gifts toward our global Dream Programs total \$1,000 or more. Gifts may support the *Live Your Dream Awards*, *Dream It, Be It* or the area of greatest need and may be made as one-time or monthly contributions.

Laurel Legacy

[Laurel Legacy](#) recognizes people who include Soroptimist in their estate plans or arrange another future gift. These gifts help sustain the organization and its programs for generations to come.

Giving is always a personal choice: Members support our mission in many ways—through their time, talents, connections, and financial generosity. Every contribution matters.



Public Awareness and Recognition

Each time you talk about Soroptimist, wear the logo, share a post or represent your club in the community, you help shape how others see our organization. A clear, consistent identity makes Soroptimist easier to recognize, understand and remember.

Simple Ways You Can Increase Awareness

- Get comfortable explaining our mission in your own voice.
- Share why you joined and what the mission means to you.
- Follow your club, region and SIA on social media.
- React to, comment on and share Soroptimist content—adding a personal note when appropriate.
- Wear a Soroptimist pin, shirt or other branded item.
- Personally invite someone to an event or club activity.
- Help capture and share your club's impact stories.

Build a Strong, Recognizable Brand

Our brand is more than a logo—it is the mission we advance, the programs we deliver and the experiences we create. Every time we carry out our mission and provide high-quality programs, we strengthen what Soroptimist stands for and build trust in our organization.

By presenting Soroptimist consistently through our actions, messaging, and visual identity, we help more people recognize our organization, understand our impact, and become inspired to support or join us.

Help strengthen our brand by using official logos, messaging and approved customizable materials. Find these resources and more on the [Recognition & Branding](#) page.

How to Describe Soroptimist

Our official description: Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, specifically those facing significant obstacles.

A conversational version: Soroptimist brings people together to help women and girls overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams through education and training.



[Official logos
& more](#)

Sharing Impact Stories

Stories bring Soroptimist's impact to life. A strong story shows the need, what Soroptimists did and the difference it made. By sharing stories about our programs, clubs and members, we help others understand our mission and inspire them to support or join us.

Have a story to share? Use our [story submission forms](#) to tell us about it.

LiveYourDream.org

[LiveYourDream.org](#)® is Soroptimist's online volunteer community, offering people another way to support our mission, strengthen awareness of our brand and generate resources to improve the lives of women and girls. Although the name is similar, LiveYourDream.org is separate from the *Live Your Dream Awards*.



Connect With Us

Explore Our Website and Blog

Visit [Soroptimist.org](https://soroptimist.org) to learn more about our programs, impact and organization. Be sure to explore the [For Clubs and Members area](#), where you'll find resources, directories and information about upcoming meetings, conventions and other opportunities.

Visit the [Soroptimist Blog](#) for the latest organizational news, impact stories and spotlights featuring members, clubs, donors and program participants.

Shop for a Cause

Show your Soroptimist pride while supporting our mission! Every purchase from the [Soroptimist Store](#) helps support our life-changing programs for women and girls. Explore a variety of pins, jewelry, apparel, office accessories, and printed materials—and find new ways to represent Soroptimist wherever you go.

Follow SIA on Social Media

Follow SIA on social media to stay informed, connect with other members and see how Soroptimists are making a difference across our federation. Use the links below to join the conversation:



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Bluesky](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[YouTube](#)

Contact SIA Headquarters

SIA's dedicated headquarters staff provide resources and assistance to support members in their volunteer work.

Regular business hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (ET)

Mail:

PO Box 95000–2553
Philadelphia, PA 19195-0001, USA

Phone: (+1) 215-893-9000

Email:

- General inquiries: siahq@soroptimist.org
- Development and giving: development@soroptimist.org
- Membership: membership@soroptimist.org
- Programs: program@soroptimist.org

However you choose to participate as a member, we are glad you are here and look forward to seeing how you will contribute to our mission, connect with fellow members and help women and girls live their dreams!