



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 INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

# Soroptimist Glossary

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 Digital Newsletter

SIA's fully translated electronic newsletter, which keeps readers updated on Soroptimist initiatives and activities.

### Big Goal

SIA's 2021-2031 Big Goal is to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. We will do this through our Dream Programs and Big Goal Accelerator Projects.

### Big Goal Accelerator Projects

These are club projects that are not the Dream Programs but that do increase access to education for women and girls facing obstacles to their success. These are often scholarships, classes, or providing specific items required to access education or economic empowerment.

### Club Giving

Club Giving is the way your club can help women and girls beyond your local community. Clubs are asked to contribute at least 10 percent of the funds they raise locally to fund our life-changing global Dream Programs to increase the number of women and girls who benefit. 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. Visit the [Donate/Fundraise](#) section of our website for more information about Club Giving and to see the benefits your clubs will receive with your contribution this year.

### Convention

Held in even-numbered years, SIA conventions provide education, networking, cross-cultural 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.

### Dream Big Campaign

The Dream Big Campaign raised funds towards reaching our 2021-2031 goal of investing in the dreams of a half million women and girls through access to education. Launched publicly in September 2021 at our 100th

Anniversary celebration, the campaign ended in August 2023. Funds raised through the campaign are currently being put to work in three program areas: delivery, expansion and sustainability.

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

*Dream It, Be It* is SIA's program that empowers girls to break cycles of racism, poverty, violence, and abuse by giving them the self-confidence and knowledge they need to achieve success. Through small group workshops or a conference setting, Soroptimists mentor girls on setting and achieving their goals, moving forward after setbacks or failures, and discovering career opportunities.

### Founders Pennies

Celebrating the founding of Soroptimist, Founders Pennies are a classic, time-honored tradition for clubs to support SIA's Dream Programs in a creative way. They are collected by clubs in a variety of ways and are usually submitted with SIA dues. Founders Pennies are calculated by multiplying \$.06 per member times the number of years since Soroptimist's Founding in 1921. In the 2024-2025 club year, Founders Pennies are \$6.24 per member.

### Laurel Legacy

The Laurel Legacy is SIA's way of recognizing and honoring the generosity of those whose future gifts preserve the strength of our organization and help women and girls to live their dreams. Arranging a future gift to Soroptimist is an excellent way to guarantee that our programs will continue to help women and girls.

### Laurel Society

The Laurel Society is SIA's prestigious recognition program for donors who contribute charitable gifts totaling \$1,000 or more. Since 1994, over 10,000 Laurel Society members have given over \$20 million dollars toward the economic empowerment of women and girls through our Dream Programs. Donors can choose to designate their gift to the *Live Your Dream Awards*, *Dream It, Be It*, or Unrestricted Support, which provides funding where it's needed most. These gifts can be given as one-time gifts or as part of a Stargazer Monthly Donation. Laurel Society members' generosity provides ongoing financial support beyond their membership dues, ensuring the organization's global programs have the funding needed to serve women and girls around the world.

### Leadership Round Table

Held annually in a virtual setting, the Leadership Round Table (LRT) it is open to all SIA members. This training is held so Soroptimists can access critical leadership development content. Whether you want to become a better overall leader or feed your interest in becoming a future Soroptimist leader, LRT is an opportunity to learn and be part of the ever-changing and growing Soroptimist organization.

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

Soroptimist clubs have supported women's empowerment through access to education since 1972 with this cornerstone program. The award-winning, life changing *Live Your Dream Awards* assist women who provide 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

Not to be confused with the *Live Your Dream Awards*, [LiveYourDream.org](https://www.liveyourdream.org)<sup>®</sup> is Soroptimist's online volunteer community. Soroptimist developed this activist network to provide an alternative way to deliver our mission; strengthen and grow our brand; and increase financial resources to improve the lives of women and girls. [LiveYourDream.org](https://www.liveyourdream.org) provides advocacy and action opportunities to spread awareness about causes such as access to education, empowering girls, and ending violence against women.

### Soroptimist Blog

View SIA's blog for headquarters news; spotlights on clubs, members, donors and award recipients; advocacy actions and more.

### Soroptimist International

Headquartered in Cambridge, England, [Soroptimist International](https://www.soroptimistinternational.org) is a coalition of five federations, which includes Soroptimist International of the Americas. The other four federations that belong to SI are: Soroptimist International of Europe ([www.soroptimisteurope.org](https://www.soroptimisteurope.org)), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland; Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland ([www.sigbi.org](https://www.sigbi.org)), headquartered in Cheshire, England; Soroptimist International of the South East Asia Pacific ([www.siseap.org](https://www.siseap.org)), headquartered in Sydney, Australia and Soroptimist International African Federation ([www.siafrica.org/UK/home](https://www.siafrica.org/UK/home)), headquartered in Lagos State, Nigeria.

### Soroptimist International Foundation

Formerly known as the SI President's Appeal, the SI Foundation was established to raise awareness of projects and promote fundraising through continued Soroptimist member giving, legacy gifts, grants and other sources. The SI Foundation is led by the current SI President.

### Soroptimist International of the Americas Strategic Plan

A document that states Soroptimist's vision, mission, core values, and strategic outcomes.

### Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program

The Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program, an accompaniment to the Leadership Round Table, is a certificate program that gives members an opportunity to further and enrich their leadership skills in an engaging and interactive way. The Fellows program is a multi-year commitment where participants must submit a brief application before becoming a Fellow. Participants experience heightened training in an exclusive setting followed by a completion ceremony after the 2-year commitment is complete.