



The Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism 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 efforts to promote,
uphold and defend these ideals for a larger
fellowship

....in home
....in society
....in business
....for country and for God.



S O R O P T I M I S T[®]

Investing in Dreams

Bidwell Rancho-Chico

**New Members
Orientation Guide**



White Papers: As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance to women in need. They can be found on the SIA website.

Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence: An ongoing effort to raise awareness about a little addressed domestic violence issue: domestic violence as a workplace concern. The federation provides information and materials for clubs to use to participate in the program.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Welcome to Soroptimist International of Bidwell Rancho-Chico!

We are pleased that you have chosen to become a member of our club.

Joining a new club is very exciting, but at times can be overwhelming. This Orientation Guide has been developed to help you become acquainted with our club and answer many of your initial questions.

Our mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. You are an important part of this process because your service directly influences our club's reputation.

Soroptimist membership celebrates the unique power of women. It's a gift that women give to themselves; the chance to help others in an atmosphere of support, friendship and fun.

We are glad you have joined us, and we hope you will find your service to be both challenging and rewarding. We wish you many years of enjoyable service through Soroptimist.

History

When a new member joins our local club, she also becomes a part of Soroptimist International (SI), *“a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy, and action with over 95,000 members in 120 countries.”* It all started with the founding of the first club in 1921 in Oakland, California. The Founder President was Violet Richardson Ward. In the first constitution, the purpose of the organization was:

“To foster the spirit of service as the basis of all worthy enterprises and to increase the efficiency by its members in the pursuit of their occupations by broadening their interest in the social, business, and civic affairs of the community through an association of women representing different occupations.”



The idea that executive, business, and professional women could join together to provide service spread quickly around the world. In 1924, the first clubs in Europe were chartered, while new clubs in North America formed rapidly. By 1928, there were enough clubs to form two Federations - American and European. By 1978, 55 countries had clubs throughout the world.

Soroptimist International now consists of four Federations: **Americas (SIA)**, **Europe (SIE)**, **Great Britain (SIGBI)**, and **South West Pacific (SISWP)**. Today, after 80 years, Soroptimist International is the largest women’s service organization in the world.

Soroptimist Development Retreat (SDR):

An annual retreat held each summer in the Sierra Nevada Region. All members are welcome to come and join in the camaraderie, sharing and training regarding how to maintain healthy clubs. Incoming officers are strongly encouraged to attend, as there are position specific workshops to help them in the coming year. (Formally Club Orientation Training Retreat - C.O.T.R).

Soroptimisters: A locally coined word for those neat husbands or “best friends” who support us a whole bunch.

Soroptimist STOP Trafficking: The goal of the Soroptimists STOP Trafficking project is to raise awareness in the general population about trafficking and sexual slavery. SIA has printed information cards that can be used by clubs in this effort.

Strategic Goals/Outcomes: SNR Strategic Goals are listed in the Board Standing Rules as:

1. Program

Soroptimist SNR programs and initiatives will enable women and girls to achievesocial and economic empowerment.

2. Membership

Soroptimist SNR will be a thriving organization of Clubs and Members committed to the mission.

3. Public Awareness

Our clubs will be known for its efforts to help women and girls achieve social andeconomic empowerment.

4. Fundraising

Sufficient funds will be available to support our local project, SIA programs and SI projects.

5. Mission Support

Our Soroptimist club will achieve the mission by providing support and a sound infrastructure, and fulfilling our obligations to the region, federation and SI.

Strategic Plan: SIA document that states its vision, mission and purpose, core values and strategic outcomes, available on the SIA website.

Sunshine: A committee in some clubs responsible for remembrances of birthdays, anniversaries or in times of sickness or death. (Varies by club).

Venture Club: A community service club for young working women sponsored by a Soroptimist club.

Protocol: As with an organization, there are many traditions. Please go to: www.Soroptimist.org/members/membership/protocol.html for a starting list from SIA.

Public Awareness Chair: One of four Region Chairs that works with federation and clubs on programs to raise the awareness of the organization.

Quadrennial Project: An SI International project adopted every four years.

Quadrennium: A period of four years, or two bienniums.

Region: Our region is the Sierra Nevada Region, which is one of 28 Regions in 18 countries that are all a part of Soroptimist International of the Americas.

Region Board: The Sierra Nevada Region's Board of Directors is composed of the Governor, Governor-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the seven District Directors. All serve terms of two years (a biennium).

Region Conference: An annual conference held in the spring of each year, presided over by the Region Governor.

Region Project: A service project designated at region level requesting the support and participation of all members. There is not always a Region Project.

Robert's Rules of Order: The protocol used by the organization to run meetings and conduct business.

"S" Club: A community service club for high school students that functions as and is sponsored by a Soroptimist Club.

Service Funds: A separate bank account or fund maintained for monies generated by fundraisers specifically designated for service projects. It is suggested that money earned one year becomes the Service Funds the following year. (Varies by club).

Sigma Society: A community service club for college or university students that functions as and is sponsored by a Soroptimist Club.

SNR: Sierra Nevada Region is the region that our clubs belong to. (See SNR Bylaws for territorial limits).

S.O.L.T.: Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training or S.O.L.T.; clubs should have a technical committee providing Soroptimist orientation and leadership training to club members.

Our club is part of the Federation called ***Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)***. This Federation is divided into regions, which are divided into districts, which are divided into clubs. Our club is **Soroptimist International of Bidwell Rancho-Chico** and is located in **District I of the Sierra Nevada Region**.



The Districts, Regions, Federations sponsor many projects and programs. More information on these programs is available at www.soroptimist.org. Local clubs have the option of choosing district, regional, national and/or international projects in which they will participate. Our club selects those that fit our particular interests and service goals.

From the founding of the first Soroptimist club in 1921 through to the present day, where over 3000 clubs are flourishing throughout the world, Soroptimists have continued to strive to achieve '*the best for women*' in every sphere of their lives.

A Little About Our Club

Soroptimist International of Bidwell Rancho-Chico (SI/Bidwell Rancho) is one of two Soroptimist clubs active in Chico. We are a charter club of Soroptimist International, a worldwide volunteer organization for professional women. We were granted a charter by Soroptimist International on June 29, 1987.

SI/Bidwell Rancho is a sisterhood of local women invested in the mission of making our community and the world a better place for women and girls. Through participation in the programs and service projects of Soroptimist International, SI/Bidwell Rancho offers its members an opportunity to contribute their talents and volunteer time to community service.

We are a small club, but are doing enormous work that enriches the lives of other women. Our ***Microbrew Festival*** has been, up to date our only fundraiser. The proceeds from this festival enables us to fund numerous community service projects throughout the year. Our ***Community Awards*** programs are another way that we exhibit our core values of improving the lives of women and girls and give back to our community.

Our members find they are personally enriching their lives while working to provide resources to help women and girls achieve their potential and improve their lives.

Together our members become a local and a global voice for women and girls at home and around the world and we have fun together doing it.



Nominating Committee: A club committee charged with presenting a slate of candidates for the coming year's board of directors/officers. In most clubs, the committee is comprised of three members - one elected by the membership, one elected by the board, and one appointed by the club President. There is also a Region Nominating Committee to find candidates at the Region level. It consists of elected representatives from each District and a Chair appointed by the Governor.

Objectives (Soroptimist, as listed in Region Standing Rules):

- Increase economic opportunity for women and girls.
- Improve educational and training resources for women and girls.
- Increase positive outlets for girls and young women.
- Improve women and girls' health care and access to services.
- Decrease violence and human rights abuses against women and girls.
- Improve conditions for working women.
- Increase the number of women in workplace leadership positions.

President: Clubs have Presidents, SIA has a President, SI has a President; Regions have Governors and Districts have Directors.

President's Appeal: In honor of United Nations Human Rights Day, December 10, the current Soroptimist International president invites all Soroptimists to join her in making a personal sacrifice and donating the money to an international fund to help those living in extreme poverty. Each year, the current SIA president announces her project.

Program Council: Volunteers from each region who work as program consultants to SIA's program department. Program Council members represent the federation at meetings, provide recommendations on federation programs and advocate for the SIA mission among local members. This person is one of our region's four Renaissance Chairs.

Program Focus Report: SI requests that clubs fill out these forms in order to track the success in achieving the core purpose of Soroptimist International. As a non Governmental Organization (NGO) member of the United Nations, these forms also help to demonstrate what our organization is doing on a worldwide basis. These focus reports can be filled in online at:

<http://reports.soroptimistinternational.org>;

User name: SIA

Password: Philadelphia

Program Quick Reference Guide: A quick listing of all the current programs of SIA; available in the members section of the website under Programs.

Programme: The International spelling for "program". Whenever you see this spelling, it generally refers to an SI Service Project.

Headquarters: Soroptimist International of the Americas headquarters address: 1709 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6103

Soroptimist International headquarters address: 87 Glasson Rd., Cambridge CB1 2HG, United Kingdom.

Honorary Recognition: Soroptimist clubs do not have honorary members. However, every club is free to grant honorary recognition to any person who has given distinguished service to the community or contributed notably to the status of women.

Induction: A ceremony to induct new members into the club. It usually includes the presentation of their member's pin. This ceremony is not required by SIA, but most clubs use it to help make new members feel special.

Installation of Officers: A ceremony at the beginning of the club year that officially installs the new officers of the club. The main purpose of an officer installation is to impress the new officers with their responsibilities and their importance of their work.

International Convention: A convention of all four federations held every four years, with site rotating between the federations.

International Project: A service project designated at the International level, requesting the support and participation of all Soroptimist members; aka: Quadrennial Project.

Laurel Legacy: A recognition program honoring members and others who provide for Soroptimist in their estate planning.

Laurel Society: A recognition program for members and others who contribute \$1000 or more to Soroptimist. Members get a special pin to designate this honor. There are different levels of participation depending upon the amount of contributions.

Life Member: Those members that achieved life member status by July 2001 and who requested to retain that status. This requires 25 years as an active member or 15 years as a retired member. Life members pay reduced dues. SIA no longer grants Life membership.

Live Your Dream Campaign: A grass-roots public relations campaign launched in 2006, aimed at spreading the mission of Soroptimist. Contests are held and promotional items given out to increase awareness.

Model Program Kits: To minimize research and development time needed to establish and maintain club projects, Soroptimist has developed a series of model program kits addressing issues facing today's women and girls. Model program kits are designed to provide guidance in planning and implementing projects by offering club members project ideas with proven methods and resources for achieving success. Available on SIA Website in the Member area under Programs.

Mission:

The Mission of Soroptimist of the Americas is:

To provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve empowerment.



Meaning of Soroptimist

Our name **Soroptimist** was coined from the Latin word “*soro*”, meaning “*sister*” and “*optima*” meaning “*best*”, loosely translated as meaning **Best For Women**. Soroptimists are women at their best working to help other women to be their best. We believe in dreams and the collective power of working together to achieve them.

Non-Profit Organization

SI/Bidwell Rancho is a charter of Soroptimist International (SI), a 501c non-profit organization. SI is the only non-governmental organization in the United Nations who totally self fund their service projects through individuals....That’s us!

Membership Fees

Initial annual dues are \$150 for incoming new members. This includes the membership pin, name badge, and other orientation material supplied by the club.

Annual membership dues are \$125 a year and must be paid by June 1st for the coming year.

If dues are not received by July 1st, a \$10.00 reinstatement fee will be charged. Paying your club dues allows our club to remain in good standing both with the Region and with the Federation.

Best for Women Magazine

When you become a member, you will receive the official publication of the SIA organization, *Best for Women* magazine. The magazine is mailed to members on a quarterly basis and features stories about women's issues and Soroptimist programs; updates on Soroptimist efforts; and recognition of Soroptimist club and member accomplishments.

Pledge

You can find the Soroptimist pledge on the back of this guide and it should be committed to memory, as we close most of our meetings with it. The pledge was written in 1927 by a charter member of the Seattle Washington club and was adopted in 1930 as the official "pledge". Only clubs in SIA say it and it is the only place that the word "Soroptimism" is acceptable.



Mentor

All new members have a mentor, usually the member who nominated you for membership or a member that has been appointed to you for your first year. She will be responsible for helping you become a part of the club by teaching you how things are done, being available to answer questions, and introducing you to others.

Attendance

To be effective in your club, members are encouraged to attend meetings regularly and participate in as many committees and functions as their time and interests allow. Due to the size of the project, it is essential that each member participates in the club's annual fundraiser, the **Microbrew Festival** in June.

Federation Project: A service project designated at Federation level, requesting the support and participation of all members.

Fellowship: Fellowships and grants-in-aid awarded annually by the Sierra Nevada Region to outstanding women doctorate students. One dollar of annual Region dues is designated for funding of this award.

Fiscal Year: The accounting year of any organization. SNR and our club have a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

Founder's Day: Celebrated October 3rd of each year in commemoration of the founding of the first club - Soroptimist International of Oakland, founded October 3, 1921 in Alameda County, California.

Founders Pennies: A portion of annual federation dues (\$.06 per member per year since the founding of the organization in 1921) goes to "Founders Pennies". The money helps to fund Federation Service Programs.

Friendship Grant: A program through Soroptimist International in which clubs can offer to house and entertain Soroptimists from other parts of the world.

Friendship Link: A "sister" club usually in another federation, with whom we exchange letters, gifts, programs, etc.

General Fund: Administrative bank account or fund used for operating expenses and generated by a portion of membership dues, interclub fundraisers, raffles, and other assessments. (Varies by club).

Governor: The Governor, as the chief officer of the Region, serves as the liaison between federation and the region, supervises and presides at conferences and board meetings and administers the affairs of the region.

Governor Elect: Aids the Governor of the Region as needed and attends events at the request of the Governor. Governor Elect is elected and then becomes the Region Governor when the next biennium begins.

Growth & Development: Growth and Development is always a focus of clubs and the region. One dollar of the club annual fees/dues goes to a region fund. Disbursements of funds are made as money is needed to help struggling clubs or in recruiting efforts to establish new clubs. Clubs should also have their own Growth and Development Committees to ensure club growth.

Handbook: The Region Handbook contains the SNR Bylaws, SNR Fiscal Standing Rules and the SNR Board Standing Rules.

Delegate Fund: A separate fund used for sending club delegates to meetings, conference and conventions. (Varies by club).

Disaster Recovery Fund for Women and Girls: This SIA fund helps support relief work that benefits women and girls in areas affected by natural disasters or acts of war. The Disaster Recovery Fund is supported entirely by voluntary donations from Soroptimist clubs and members. SIA grants monies directly to victims or to clubs on behalf of victims.

District: Clubs in Sierra Nevada Region are divided geographically into 7 districts. Each district has a director that is the clubs' liaison to the Region Board.

District Director: Each district has an elected director that acts as a liaison between the Region and the clubs. She is elected every two years and serves the same biennium term as the Governor and the rest of the Board of Directors in the Region.

District Meeting: An annual meeting held in September/October within each district. An additional meeting is held in January to March in most Districts.

Electoral Area: There are 13 electoral areas in the Federation. The Federation Board of Directors consists of one director from each electoral area. Sierra Nevada Region is in Electoral Area 10, along with Founder Region and Sierra Pacific Region. (See Federation Bylaws for more information).

Embarking Member: A membership classification recognized by Federation as a member who is embarking on a career. An embarking member does not count as a Regular member or Active member and does not count towards the minimum number of members required to be a club in good standing.

Emblem: The official emblem of Soroptimist International is the circular disc on which the figure of a woman holds the banner "Soroptimist" in uplifted arms; spreading sun-rays from the background; from the banner on one side fall acorns and leaves of oak, and on the other - leaves of laurel; the word "International" completes the outer circle. This is different from the SIA "S" Logo.

Endowment Fund, Sierra Nevada Region: A fund that supports region-wide programs and club projects to advance the Mission Statement of the Region. Clubs can apply for grants for projects and awards are made based on availability of funds, viability of the project and the demonstration of financial need. The fund is perpetuated by donations from members and clubs.

Evelyn Holland Award: Certificates awarded annually at Region conference to the clubs within the Region having the most outstanding programs in SOLT.



Members Pin and Name Tag



Upon installation, you will receive your Soroptimist member pin and club name tag. The pin should be worn on the left side over the heart with no other adornment. The member's name tag shall be worn on the right side.

You are encouraged to wear your Soroptimist pin and name tag at all meetings and functions. Club sashes are also available for purchase. Many members also wear their pins regularly as a part of their business dress. It's a great way to promote Soroptimist.

Soroptimist Introduction

When asked to introduce yourself in the Soroptimist manner, you are encouraged to use the standard form for identifying members and their businesses: *State your name and your position or the name of your business.*



Happy Bucks

At each meeting, members are asked to donate at least \$1.00 during the passing of the Happy Buck basket and share something they are happy about. This is a great way for other members to get to know you. This fund is used to sponsor holiday parties, our year-end BBQ, and any other event the members agree upon.

Meetings

The club meets from September through June. We hold two meetings a month:

Business Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of the month

Program Meeting - 4th Tuesday of the month

Our meetings are held in the evening starting promptly at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served 30 minutes prior to the meeting so members can enjoy time for fellowship.

The cost of each meeting is \$20 and all members will be considered attending, unless you notify the Financial Coordinator prior to Monday at noon, the day before the meeting. If you do not notify the Financial Coordinator that you will not be in attendance, you will be responsible for the \$20 cost of the meeting & meal reserved for you.



Speakers

The second club meeting of the month we usually has a program speaker. The President Elect is responsible for arranging speakers that fit our particular interests and service goals.

Other Meeting Opportunities

Soroptimists also have the opportunity to attend the district, regional, federation and international meetings. Our District holds their annual meeting in the Fall in which any club in the district can volunteer to host. Our Regional conference is held in April in Reno, Nevada.

Federation: The clubs of Sierra Nevada Region are members of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), one of the four federations of Soroptimist International. The other federations are: Soroptimist International of Europe; Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland; Soroptimist International of South West Pacific.

Charter Member: An original member of a club when it was first chartered.

Classification: The classification code is the four-digit numerical code assigned to each person upon becoming a member. It represents the primary principal and recognized activity of the firm, company or institution that employs the member, or the profession of the member.

Club Grants for Women and Girls: An SIA program that provides between \$1000 and \$100,000 in grant monies for outstanding Soroptimist club projects that positively impact the lives of women and girls. Soroptimist clubs apply for the grants that enable them to start or continue innovative, outstanding projects in their local communities. Grant requests are usually due around the middle of March each year. Since the program began in 1997, more than \$1.4 million has been disbursed to 228 Soroptimist club projects, benefiting more than 100,000 women and their families.

Clubs in Good Standing: Clubs that have at least 12 regular members and have paid all club fees and dues to Region and Federation.

Code of Ethics: My business principles exact: full recognition of rights of others, acknowledgement of the responsibilities of citizenship and the duty of discharging the obligations entailed, the use of my position at all times to the end that a higher level of human ideal and achievements may be attained.

Conference: The annual meeting of the Region. Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) is held the end of April.

Convention: The bi-annual meeting of the Federation, usually held in the month of July during even numbered years in different cities within the Federation.

Core Values: Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to: the belief that all women deserve to lead full and productive lives, women working together to help other women, international diversity and fellowship

“Dark”: A period of time wherein regular meetings are not held, usually in the summer months. (Varies by club).

Delegate: A member elected or appointed within clubs, whose responsibility is to attend District, Region, and Federation meetings. They have the right to speak and vote on behalf of their club.

Glossary:

Archivist: (aka: Historian) A Region appointed position to keep track of the history of the Region and its associated files and records. Clubs may also have an Archivist or may choose to title the position “Historian”.

Biennium: A two year period. Our Club and Region board members hold office for a biennium.

Blanche Edgar Award: A Sierra Nevada Region recognition award presented each year at the Region conference to the club performing the most outstanding work in extension, including membership growth.

Board of Directors: There is a board of directors at each level of the organization. The composition of each club’s Board is dictated in their club Bylaws or Standing Rules and Procedures. The Region board is dictated by the Region Bylaws and currently consists of the Region Governor, Governor-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and seven District Directors.

Bylaws: The governing document that spells out the rules which the organization operates by. Federation (SIA) Region (SNR) and Clubs have bylaws. International (SI) has a constitution.

Call: The official notice and registration for a District meeting, Region conference, Federation convention, or International convention. By laws require that the District Meeting and Region Conference calls be out at least 45 days prior to the events. The call should contain the proposed agenda, location, schedule of events and if appropriate, proposed bylaw and resolution changes and candidates for offices being elected.

Celebrating Success Awards: A Federation program that recognizes successful club projects that improve the lives of women and girls or promotes Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls. Awards are given in the following four areas: Program, Public Awareness, Membership, and Fundraising. Federation applications are due in January. Awards are also given at the Region level and given out at Region conference. Region applications are due July 1. (See Region Standing Rules for more information).

Celebration of Life: A ceremony held each year at Region conference to honor the lives of Soroptimists that have passed since the last conference.

Chapter: A name for clubs in other organizations. We have “clubs”. There are approximately 59 clubs in the Sierra Nevada Region and more than 1400 clubs in Soroptimist of the Americas Federation.

Charter: The document declaring a club is an official club of Soroptimist International. It is issued by the Federation. The formation of a new club requires a minimum of 18 members and is sponsored by another club in good standing.

Federation (SIA) conventions are held every 2 years while International conventions are held every 4 years.

These meetings are not mandatory, however; you are always encouraged to attend. They are a great way to exchange ideas, learn more about the organization, and make lifelong friends outside of our club. The degree of your involvement is your choice.



Special Events

Our **Holiday Party** is held on an evening in December. It is a festive social hosted at a member’s home. It includes dinner, good company and a lively white elephant gift exchange.

In June, we have a **summer BBQ** where we bring our spouse or significant other to celebrate the end of our year before taking a summer break. It is a relaxed fun party that is generally held early evening at a member’s home. It is usually scheduled after the Microbrew Festival and is pot luck.

Means of Communication

Most of our communication is sent by email and can also be found on our club website. Meeting agendas and prior meeting minutes will be emailed to you prior to each meeting. Before coming to the meeting, please be sure to review the information, print it, and bring it with you as paper copies are not provided. When you arrive at a club meeting, there is a payment envelope that is passed around. Please insert your meeting payment and sign the front of the envelope.



Membership Recruitment

You are always encouraged to invite friends or acquaintances who might be interested in joining our club to our club meetings. The club will pay for one meal for a prospective or new member, but you will be responsible for contacting the Financial Coordinator prior to the meeting to reserve her meal. Prospective Member Forms are available on our website.

Members are those in a business or profession or occupation of similar status. There are three classifications of membership: *regular*, *retired/unemployed*, and *embarking*. A fourth category, life membership, is still held by some people, but is not longer available.



How To Get Involved

One of the biggest challenges that new members face is feeling involved in the club. Your mentor and the Membership Committee are responsible for helping you become an involved and active member. If you were not present at the initial meetings at the beginning of the year when members sign up for committees, please contact the President and discuss your interests and ask to be assigned to a committee.

Since our club meets twice a month, it is not always easy to get to know our members. We encourage you to attend our service projects, committee meetings, special events, District and Region meetings so that you can have a better opportunity to get acquainted with this great group of women.

Soroptimist International of the America's (SIA) website has a wide range of resources and information regarding Soroptimists and the international projects that your dues help support.

www.soroptimist.org

User name: Your member
number
Password: Your member
number

Soroptimist International's (SI) website connects you to the global works of Soroptimist at an international level.

www.soroptimistinternational.org

User name:
member
Password:
Cambridge

Club Email address: sibidwellrancho@soroptimist.net

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/TikTok

SI/Bidwell Rancho has a facebook page *Soroptimist of Bidwell Rancho*. Be sure to “LIKE” us on facebook and share us with your friends to help us get the word out about helping women and girls achieve their dreams Also find us on Instagram, Twitter and TikTok

Follow Us 
 **& Like Us**

Each year, we recognize the chosen honorees of each award at our annual **Awards Recognition Banquet** held in March. The purpose is to celebrate the wonderful work women and girls are doing in our communities and present our honorees with certificates of recognition, along with their award checks. This is a special evening where honorees are brought together to tell their stories and are recognized for “Living their Dreams”.



Websites

SI/Bidwell Rancho’s website serves as a major resource for members. The website includes: calendar, minutes, budget and finance, By-Laws, Standing Rules, Club and Region rosters, forms, photos, and other useful information.

www.sibidwellrancho.org

Member Login

Password: **P1edge**

Sierra Nevada Region website includes information on our district and region. Members will find helpful information here and can sign up for the District E-Blast.

www.soroptimistsnr.org

SNR Roster Access

Password: **1921**

Officers/Board of Directors



The Board of Directors consists of six elected officers - President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Coordinator, and Director. The Immediate Past President serves as ex-officio and advisor to the new President.

The Board of Directors meets once a month on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Check with the President for meeting locations.

If you have an idea or proposal you should contact the President and she will put you on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Usually ideas or projects are brought to the Board and the Board decides if it sounds like something that fits into our Soroptimist goals. If the Board decides it is a good project/idea, they will bring it to the general membership, discuss it, and vote on it.

Officer Nominations

Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination. You can complete a nomination form for yourself or any other member, (as long as you get that member’s permission to nominate them). Nomination forms can be found on our website and should be submitted to the Nominating Committee in March-April (odd years). Elections are held at the business meeting in May.

The Installation Dinner is held in June. The new officers officially assume their duties on the first day of July 1 and serve for a twoyear term.

Committees

Committees are of vital importance to the club. It is through committees that the activities of our organization are planned and accomplished.

Committees meet outside of club meetings. Some meet just once, while others meet periodically throughout the year. They are an excellent way to get to know members and to be involved in club activities. Involvement is required in at least one committee of the *Microbrew Festival* and you are encouraged to participate in more.



The committees of the club are categorized as: Program, Awards, Membership, Public Awareness, and Fundraising, and Administration.

The committees of our club in these categories are:

Program: Santa Project, Fairview High School, Holiday Community Service Project, Adopt-A-Class, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Special Events, Friendship Link, “S” Club, and Dream It-Be It.

Membership: Club Membership

Awards: Live Your Dream Award and Fairview High School Scholarships

Public Awareness: Club Publicity, Website and Facebook

Fundraising: Microbrew Festival, Others

Administration: By-Laws/Standing Rules, Focus/Grants, Finance, Nomination, and Sunshine

Community Awards & Banquet

Our club supports these Soroptimist-sponsored award programs: *Live Your Dream Award*, *Dream it, Be it* and *Fairview High School Scholarships*.



Live Your Dream Education and Training Award: The Live Your Dream Award, (formally Women’s Opportunity Award), Soroptimist’s major service project, was established by Soroptimist International of the Americas in 1972 to assist women entering or re-entering the workforce in obtaining the education and skills training they need to improve their employment prospects. Live Your Dream Awards are designed to give women heads of household, who provide the primary source of financial support for their families, the opportunity to achieve their career goals—an opportunity they have not previously had, whether because of economic or social barriers, or personal circumstances.

Fairview High School Scholarships:

Each year, our club selects graduating students from Fairview High School to be honored as a recipient of a scholarship to help them in continuing their education. Our committee works with Fairview High School and their selection committee to find an honoree(s) for this award.

Dream it, Be it!

Soroptimist’s global program for girls – Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls – targets girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and resources to live their dreams. Career support includes help and assistance to pursue an occupation that will offer opportunities for long-term success. Although we don’t think all girls will know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, the skills they learn in Dream It, Be It will help them regardless of the career they choose to pursue or when they choose to pursue it.

Program Goal: Through education and access to role models, girls will be empowered to pursue their career goals and reach their full potential.