



Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley
Bunny Tales Fall 2025



Message from President Suzanne Walker

Greetings Soroptimist Members!

Fall is a time of change. A change in the weather and all things around us.

Soroptimist is committed to investing in programs that have a measurable change for women and girls.

We believe all women and girls can embrace who they are, can define their future and can change the world.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A time to recognize the harsh reality many women face and help make a change.

According to the World Health Organization nearly one in three women will experience intimate partner violence during their lifetime.

As a Soroptimist Club we are aware of the urgent need for education and empowerment for women facing these challenges and challenges of homelessness.

In September we worked together at our very successful fundraiser, Margarita MixOff, to raise funds to transform the lives of women and girls and create real change.

We awarded monetary grants, at our Service Awards Program, to twelve non-profit charitable organizations whose programs align with the Soroptimist mission.

We realize the need is not tomorrow or "someday"....The need is "NOW". Every dollar we put to work is a chance for someone to break a cycle of poverty, to build a new career, to escape violence or to inspire the next generation.

By using our funds now, we are multiplying them. The success stories we help create, will ripple outward into families and communities.

We are continuing the Soroptimist mission to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

Suzanne Walker
President

**23rd Annual
Margarita MixOff
& More!**



SOROPTIMIST™
Investing in Dreams

Sept 25, 2025

Vote for "Best In The West" Margarita!
Enjoy tastings of margaritas, food, music & fun!

ADMISSION:

\$55 ADVANCE PURCHASE

\$65 AT DOOR



**THURSDAY,
SEPT 25, 2025**

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
THE GARDENS
LOS ROBLES GREENS
299 S. MOORPARK ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91361

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CONEJO VALLEY



SOROPTIMIST™

Investing in Dreams



Buy Tickets at
SICONEJO.ORG

2025 Margarita Mix Off was a great success thanks to Chair Dixie DeCeglie and Co Chair Jacque Turner. With 250 guests and 20 vendor participants, the event was fun and all had a good time.

"Best in the West Margarita" Winners Tied for First Place, Patrons and Crawford Social. 2nd Place Habanero and 3rd Place Alamo pictured below

PATRÓN
Mexican Bar & Grill
WESTLAKE VILLAGE



Crawford's
SOCIAL



HABANERO
MEXICAN GRILL

BIENVENIDOS!
THE ALAMO
EST. 1976
Mexican Grill & Cantina

"Best in the West Winners" for Appetizers are First Place Fogo De Chao, 2nd Place Wild Fork and 3rd Place Patrons - All of our vendors had fabulous food. A great compliment from Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley to all our vendors and guests.



PATRÓN
Mexican Bar & Grill

FOGO DE CHÃO



Wild Fork®

See pictures below from the event. There were smiles on the guests and lots of great compliments to the club. The event was truly one of the best on the books!





Service Chair, Leslie Escoto, continues to demonstrate our commitment to supporting local organizations with projects. Also, the Annual Service Banquet.



Service project for August provided 10 back packs for Many Mansion children, filled with note books, crayons, pencils, markers, and more. Pictured left to right, Service Chair Leslie Escoto for SIOCV, Dixie DiCeglie Treasurer for SIOCV, Suzanne Walker president of SIOCV, Nancy Nevitt member SIOCV, Many Mansions Executive Director Doug Menges, Many Mansions Chief Administrative Officer Claire Moniz, Community Engagement Coordinator Angie Milner and SIOCV member Jacque Turner.



2025 Service Awards Presentation & Dinner was held on October 21, 2025 at Los Robles Greens where many organizations were given service funds to help our local charities.

Pictured below is a group photo after the banquet. Lots of photos below of recipients are below as well. It was a special evening for Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley.





Below left is Stacy DeWitt from James Storehouse and on the right is Angela Milne representing Many Mansions with Leslie Escoto, SIOCV Service Chair



MANDO
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
GROUP



Below on the left are representatives from one of the new recipients, MANDO Youth Development with Alexandra Rangel, Eva Castro and guest Jasmine. On the right is Dr. Caroline Prijatel-Sutton representing Coalition for Family Harmony.



Below left is Anthony Linquata representing Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank and on the right is Corey Branchflower and guest representing Shelter Resources Center which has now merged with Heart to Heart.



Other organizations that received Service funds are: Rain Communities, Conejo Free Clinic, Casa Pacifica, Rescue Mission Alliance of Ventura County for Lighthouse project, CIFORD Kenya (our International organization SIOCV supports) and Soroptimist International of the Americas



What have the members been up to?



Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley held our annual Planning Retreat on August 9th hosted by president Suzanne Walker. Subjects at the retreat included Soroptimist International programs such as Big Goal Accelerator, Live Your Dream Awards, and the newest called Soroptimists UpliftHER. Also discussed are service projects to review and ideas for new year, fundraising and budget for the year.



Above: Debbie and Don Cutler share some fun with grandson Quinn on his 4th birthday!
Happy Birthday Quinn.

Below is Leslie's granddaughter Phoebe Jean celebrating her 2nd birthday with her favorite, a Trash Truck. Waste Management actually delivered a truck to the Calmes home for her and mom Carly to sit in. They even gave a her a vest to keep!



Below left is Greg Lockwood with past member Cindy Brand as they were visiting her in North Carolina. On the right is Jacque and Greg enjoying nature at Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary in South Carolina. Below is also a pictorial journey with Jacque and Greg on vacation in Arizona.



Below Leslie visits Arizona on vacation, experiencing a "Micro Burst" which causes flash flooding with a heavy downfall for about 15 minutes. Leslie and Ernie ducked into the "Rusty Spur" bar in old town Scottsdale for a quick brew to escape the storm.



Our Founding Member's husband, Don Shewmon, is currently working through health issues post a recent stroke. He is showing positive signs of improvement however has a long way to go. We are praying for his recovery journey to be quick and pray for Marcy Shewmon to have strength as Don progresses.



Marsala & Mushroom Pork roast

Ingredients:

Pork tenderloin (trim off the silver-white membrane)

Chopped portabella mushrooms 8oz PKG

1/2 cup panko crumbs

1/4 cup softened butter

1 cup sweet Marsala wine

Directions:

Grease glass baking dish

Lay trimmed pork tenderloin in pan

Season with salt, pepper, paprika, garlic seasoning.

In bowl combined finely chopped mushrooms with panko and butter to form kinda crumbly mixture

Put mixture on top of pork, kinda pat down to cover top of roast

Pour wine all around roast, bake 350 degrees for about 30-40 min, uncovered, depending on thickness of roast.

When done, take roast out, let rest 5 minutes

Meanwhile, take any juice leftover from pan

and add little cornstarch and water to thicken and make sauce.

Enjoy, great to serve with mash potatoes and sweet carrots.

Debbie



Upcoming Events and Meetings

November 4th - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

November 18th - Program Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

December 2nd - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

December 16th - SIOCV Holiday Party

January 6th - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

January 20th - Program Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

February 3rd - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

February 17th - Live Your Dream Awards Program, Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

March 3rd - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

March 17th - Program Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm



WOMEN AT THEIR BEST, WORKING TO HELP OTHER WOMEN TO BE THEIR BEST

Soroptimist was formed in 1921 in Oakland, California, at a time when women were not permitted to join service organizations. Our name, loosely translated from the Latin, means best for women. Today, we have over 25,000 members and supporters in countries across North America, Latin America and the Pacific Rim. We are one of five federations that make up [Soroptimist International](#), which has clubs in more than 120 countries throughout the world.

<p>Our Vision</p> <p>Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.</p>	<p>Our Mission</p> <p>Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, especially those facing significant obstacles.</p>
---	---

Our Core Values

<p>Gender Equality</p> <p>Women and girls live free from discrimination</p>	<p>Empowerment</p> <p>Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education</p>	<p>Diversity & Fellowship</p> <p>Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.</p>
--	---	--	---

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.**