

Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley Bunny Tales Summer 2026



President Suzanne Walker Message

GREETINGS FELLOW SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS !

AS MY TERM OF PRESIDENCY FOR 2025-2026 COMES TO AN END AND I
BEGIN A NEW TERM FOR 2026-2027, I WANT TO REMIND YOU
OF OUR VERY SUCCESSFUL PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS,

WE PUT THE "FUN" IN OUR MOST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER.

" MARGARITA MIXOFF & MORE!"

WE HONORED FIVE, VERY WORTHY, VERY PERSONABLE YOUNG WOMEN
WITH A "LIVE YOUR DREAM" CASH AWARD.

WE FUNDED MONETARY AWARDS TO NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHARE OUR VISION AND ALIGN WITH THE
SOROPTIMIST MISSION.

MY PRESIDENTS THEME FOR 2025-2026 WAS:

"EMBRACE CHANGE AND LET YOURSELF GROW"

I BELIEVE ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS CAN EMBRACE WHO THEY ARE,
CAN DEFINE THEIR FUTURE AND CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE A GOOD PERSON, CREATE POSITIVE INFLUENCE,
AGREE TO DISAGREE, BE RESPECTFUL AND SUPPORTIVE OF ONE ANOTHER.
THIS TRULY DEFINES THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB,

MY THEME FOR 2026-2027 IS

"EDUCATE. ELEVATE. EMPOWER."

"*EDUCATION IS THE PATH TO THE FUTURE*"

AS SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS WE ARE "EAGER" TO INVEST IN PROGRAMS
THAT GIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESS TO THE "EDUCATION" AND
TRAINING THEY NEED TO ACHIEVE "ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT!"

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF WORKING TOGETHER.

ANOTHER YEAR OF " EXCEPTIONAL" FRIENDSHIP".

SUZANNE



Soroptimist International 49th Biennial Convention

A call to International Conference where Soroptimist Women globally are invited to inspire dreams in the heart of Incheon, South Korea, July 22-25, 2026. Enjoy four full days of exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate how Soroptimists are transforming the lives of women and girls.



SOROPTIMIST[®]
INTERNATIONAL OF
CONEJO VALLEY

The Changing of the Guard - 2026 Installation

June 16th was our 2026 Installation of Officers with Suzanne Walker continuing to Lead the club with *ENTHUSIASM*.

This year's theme is Educate, Elevate, Empower.
Jacque created beautiful signs for each of the incoming Officers pictured below.

President - Suzanne Walker

Vice President - Claire Chang

Treasurer - Dixie DiCeglie

Recording Secretary - Cheryl Klepper

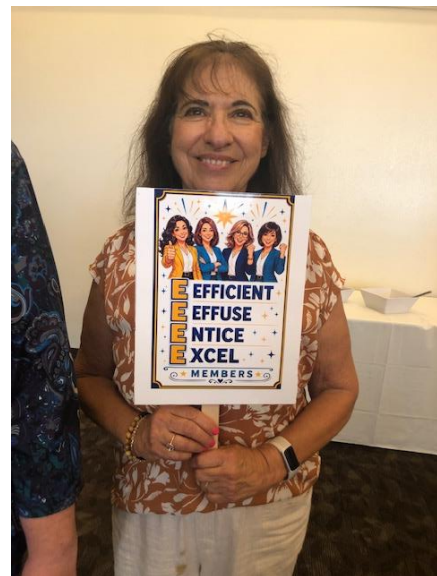
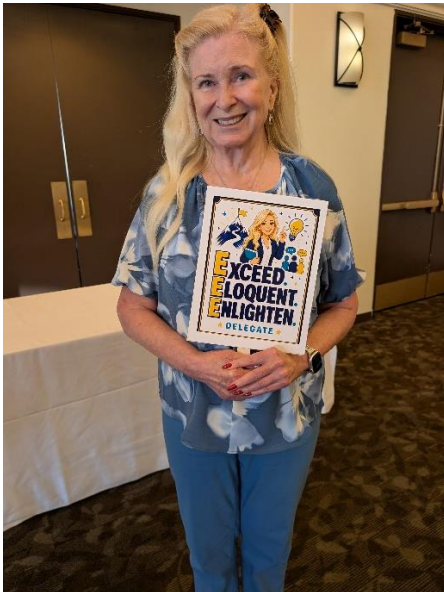
Assistant Recording Secretary - Leslie Escoto

Corresponding Secretary - Sandy McDougall

Director 2 year - Dixie DiCeglie

Director 1 year - Jacque Turner

Delegates - Nancy Nevitt and Sandy McDougall







SIOCV Service Projects



Pictured Above on May 12, 2026,
Soroptimist members President Suzanne Walker,
Nancy Nevitt, and Jacque Turner Lockwood
met with Evelyn Guillen, Human Trafficking Task Force
Program Manager - Human Trafficking
Prevention & Intervention, at the office of
Interface Children & Family Services in Camarillo.

At Evelyn's request, ten tote bags
filled with personal care items were
delivered to be distributed to
potential victims who have been rescued.

Pictured Below, On May 28, after attending the Live Your Dream Award luncheon for Soroptimist of Altadena-Pasadena, Dixie, Jacque, and Nancy took the opportunity to meet with Anna M., one of our Live Your Dream recipients, on their way home.

Camino Real Region awarded her a \$50 cash prize along with a certificate. Anna was originally scheduled to receive her award from the Camino Real Region at the Spring Conference, but she had to leave town due to a family emergency. Anna was very touched by these gifts and expressed her deep appreciation for the support from the Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley. She also presented us with a lovely tin of See's Candies as a token of her appreciation, to be shared with the members.





Above Claire and Carol represent Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley at the recent Love Run raising money for Senior Concerns Meals on Wheels



Meet our newest Member Ramona Lapp

Ramona was originally introduced to Soroptimist through member Cheryl Klepper as both are volunteers at the local animal shelters. As a retired citizen, Ramona enjoys service to the community by the shelter volunteering and also teaching Sunday

School and Vacation Bible School at the church she attends.

Ramona retired from the Post Office in 2024 after 40 years of service and currently shares a home with her 39 year old daughter, Nicole. She had learned about Soroptimist from Cheryl and believes the unique Soroptimist mission offers her an opportunity to contribute to what she considers "a wonderful program." We warmly welcome Ramona to Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley and look forward to the many contributions she will be making to our organization.



Here is a history lesson - On Soroptimist and how the Soroptimist Pledge came to be from Camino Real Region Governor Janice Kurihara

The Soroptimist Pledge was written in 1927 by Candis Nelson, a charter member of the Seattle Soroptimist Club. As Soroptimist was growing, members wanted a statement that reflected the ideals and values of the organization. Several proposed creeds were considered, and after being reviewed by clubs throughout the federation, Candis Nelson's pledge was selected as the official Soroptimist creed in 1930.

The pledge's emphasis on friendship, achievement, service, professional integrity, and fellowship reflected the mission of Soroptimist and the vision of the professional women who were building the organization during its early years.

While some of the wording may sound a bit old-fashioned to our ears today, it is important to remember that it was written nearly 100 years ago. Yet many of its core ideals- friendship, service, integrity, and achievement, and working together to improve our communities remain at the heart of Soroptimist's mission and continue to guide our work on behalf of women and girls.

As we recite the Soroptimist Pledge today, we are continuing a tradition that connects us to generations of Soroptimists who came before us while carrying those same values forward into the future.

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.



VOTE FOR "BEST IN THE WEST" MARGARITA!
Enjoy tastings of margaritas, food, music & fun!

**Thursday,
Sept 24, 2026
ADMISSION:**

**\$55 IN ADVANCE
\$65 AT THE EVENT**

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
The Gardens
Los Robles Greens**

**299 S. Moorpark Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361**



SCAN to Buy Tickets
SICONEJO.ORG

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CONEJO VALLEY



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

For questions or to become a VENDOR
Please contact Dixie at
(805) 701-8537 or
ddiceglie56@gmail.com

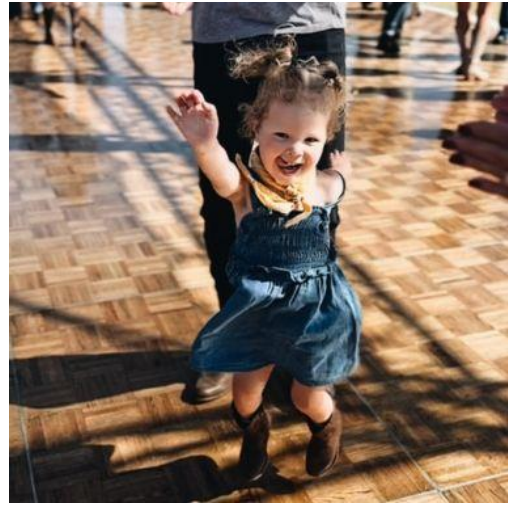
The club is in high prep mode for the upcoming Margarita MixOff & More!, our signature fundraiser. Committee chair, Dixie DiCeglie and Co-chair Jacque Turner have already received several participants confirming their attendance.



What has the club been up to!

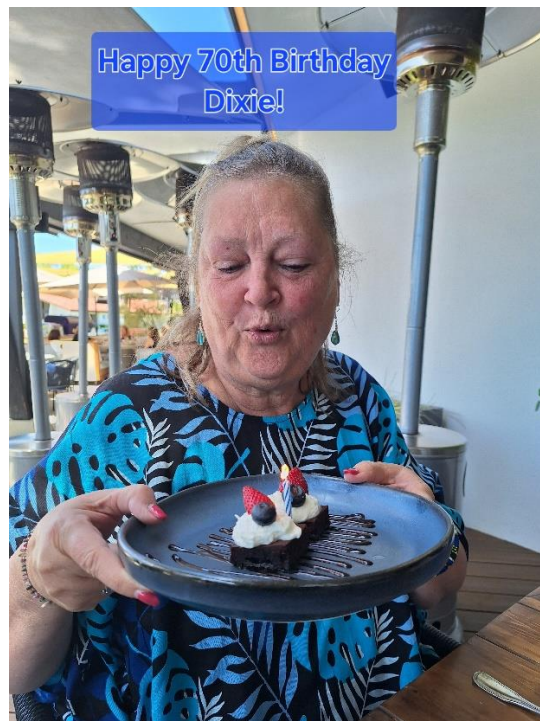


Pictured above are the members at the annual Planning Retreat on June 28th where plans were made for the 2026 -2027 year. President Walker opens her home and provides a fabulous lunch.



Pictured above is Phoebe Jean, the grand daughter of Leslie and Ernie Escoto enjoying a day of country music at the recent Oak Heart Music Festival.

Pictured below is Treasurer Dixie DiCeglie enjoying dessert celebrating a special birthday.



Claire shares photos of a great vacation to Cusco, Salkantay Trek and Machu Picchu where Claire hiked a total of over 55 - 60 miles and reached 15,100 ft of elevation at Salkantay Pass





Below are members Sandy McDougall and Leslie Escoto enjoying time together. Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley is a great place to make friends.



Below member Jacque and her "Soroptimister" Greg attend a wedding on the O'Leary side of the family



Above member Carol (far right) enjoys a trip to Italy in May, with her sister and two cousins. Picture above is from the Spanish Steps in Rome.



In the spirit of the upcoming Margarita MixOff - I thought sharing a recipe for a GREAT Margarita would be a refreshing drink for the summer.

JALAPENO POMEGRANATE COCKTAIL -SINGLE SERVING

2 Oz of Tequila (I prefer Silver such as Milagro)

3 Oz of Trader Joes Jalapeno Lime Drink

1 Oz unsweetened Pomegranate Juice (pure)

Place in cocktail mixing container with Ice and shake and poor into glass - salt on the rim is optional

Place slice of lime for garnish



July 7 - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

July 21 - MMO Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

August 4 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

August 18 No Meeting

September 1, Business Meeting at Community Conscience 6:00 pm

September 15, Finalize MMO at Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

October 6, Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

October 20, Program Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

Nov 3, Business Meeting Los Robles Greens 6:00 pm

Nov 17 Celebrate 45th Anniversary of SI Conejo Valley Los Robles
Greens 6:00 pm



Soroptimist Vision & Mission

VISION

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

MISSION

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

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.

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.