Summer 2026

Soroptimist International of La Mesa

SOROPTIMIST

A global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of women & girls through programs leading to social & economic empowerment.

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President Lisa's Message

Welcome to a Bright New Club Year: We are Renewed, Reconnected, and Ready!

Energy and excitement are already buzzing as we kick off the **2026-2027 season**.

We recently gathered for our annual **Installation and Planning Meeting** to officially seat our new Board of Directors. With this dynamic team in place, plans are already moving at full speed to bring you a year packed with purpose, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

This year is all about returning to our roots. We are refining our mission to place a powerful focus back on **service projects and giving back** to our beloved local communities. Together, we are going to make a tangible difference. But that is not all—the coming year promises a renewed commitment to growing our club membership, strengthening our ties, nurturing lifelong friendships, and, above all, having an absolute blast while doing it!

While we honored and installed our leadership team this past month, we also had the absolute privilege of expanding our club family. Please join us in extending a warm, heartfelt welcome to our newest member, **Mary Thompson**! We are so thrilled to have you with us, Mary, and we cannot wait to share the journey ahead with you.

Mark your calendars for our major annual events! Our event committees are already hard at work securing venues and ironing out the details for the signature events you know and love. Be sure to save the dates for these highly anticipated highlights:

- **Thanks For Giving Brunch** – Sunday, November 15, 2026
- **Semi-Annual Bunco** – Friday, February 13, 2027
- **Annual Wine Tasting** – Sunday, June 13, 2027

Behind every great event and service project is a community that stays connected. Don't forget that you are always invited to voice your ideas, hear updates, and collaborate at our **Monthly Business Meetings**.

This year is what we make it, and with your passion and dedication, it is shaping up to be our best one yet. Let's make 2026-2027 a year of profound impact and incredible friendship!

President Lisa

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

September 3, 2026 - Business Meeting - 7:30 am-Denny;s

SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
DESERT COAST REGION

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.

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

OUR 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—especially those facing significant obstacles.

OUR CORE VALUES

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT SOROPTIMIST!

Soroptimist International (Global)
www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)
www.soroptimist.org

Desert Coast Region (DCR)
www.soroptimistdcr.org

SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams
Beehave to Take Action
47th SOROPTIMIST DESERT COAST REGION Spring Conference
SANTA ANA, CA | MAY 1 - MAY 3, 2026

Soroptimist Desert Coast Region 47th Spring Conference

SI La Mesa's Annual Planning Meeting was held August 1, 2026 at the Vision Center.

Mary Thompson was inducted as a new member and the 2026-2025 Officers were installed. Plans were made for service projects the coming year and events including: The 69th Annual Thanks for Giving Breakfast (Save the Date Attached), Wine Tasting and a Bunco Fundraiser. More information will follow as developed.

THANK YOU TO THE SI LA MESA MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO LEAD OUR CLUB IN THE 2026-2027 YEAR.

ALL MEMBERS WILL SUPPORT YOU AND FOLLOW YOUR LEADERSHIP.

New Member - Mary Thompson

2026-2027 Board Members

President Lisa McCully and Treasurer Savannah Henderson

Unable to attend Installation was Co-Corresponding Secretary Kristen Frelke

Marlene DeMers - Vice President - Programs os Service

Felis Wolven - Recording Secretary

Frances Wolven - Co-Corresponding Secretary

Directors - Linda Newell and Elena Totten

Delegates - Sara Yates and Denise Lorenz

Linda Barbod - PastPresident

WELCOME - MARY

Soroptimist International of La Mesa installed Mary Alice Thompson as a new member on August 1, 2026. Her sponsor is Linda Newell. She was an only child, born May 14 in Queens, New York. When a toddler she could not pronounce "Mary Alice" so the family nicknamed her Mimi.

Mary has four biological adult children spread throughout the world: Jim (San Diego), Elliot (Oregon), Bill (Portugal), Katie (Georgia) and two adult Bonus Children: Terri (Nevada) and (Wayne) Arizona. She also has five grandkids and four great grandchildren. She was married for 39 years to Chuck Thompson and recently widowed.

While attending New York University she earned a Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate in History. Her dream job would be to work on an archeological site, preferably in Egypt. Instead, she worked for New York Life Insurance in New York.

After moving to San Diego, she was employed by Southern Cross Newspaper and for a company developing brochures. After receiving a professional certificate at UCSD in Data Base Management, Computer Networking and Communications, she worked for SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation) for 16 years managing medical facilities for the military on bases for families and for military ships. She happily retired in 2010.

Her Favorite hobbies and activities are games: Poker - cards - puzzle games (interactive and on phone), reading, going to the gym. In her leisure time she enjoys British TV and Korean dramas. Mary laughs easily, especially to comedy, puns and family jokes. Her favorite meal is Lasagna Bolognese and Caesar Salad.

Mary has read about Soroptimist activities for years and has been especially interested in the Live Your Dream Award program. SILM is excited to have a new Member and look forward to having Mary as part of our club.

Fire Safe Seniors

Smoke detectors are a critical first line of defense against fire. Proper installation, maintenance, and testing can save lives.

The Burn Institute will install *FREE* smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for homeowners (62+).

Need a smoke alarm or know of someone who does? Let us know.

WWW.Burninstitute.org

Upcoming Events

President Lisa's Monthly Reminders:
SILM Members: Don't forget to record your In-Kind donations to our club this month!
Click this link to list all monetary or service hour contributions to our club.

SI La Mesa Members Birthdays

July 8 - Lisa McCully

August 23 - Felis Wolven

September 30 - Mary Hubbard

Soroptimist International of La Mesa
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Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Approximately 80,000 Soroptimist in 130 countries and territories support community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls. The organization is particularly concerned with providing women and girls access to education, as this is the most effective path to self-determination.

The name Soroptimist means "best for women" and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best working together to help other women to be their best.

Business Meeting - First Thursday of each Month - 7:30 am at Denny's on Fletcher Parkway.

Program Meetings will be announced one month before occurring.

Third Thursday of each Month—Committee Meeting - As needed

Notes: Only one meeting is held in the months of July and August—date to be determined by club President

Scribbles Editor: Linda Newell - Contact: scribbles@silamesa.org

Officers, Board Members and Delegates - 2026-2027

President: Lisa McCully

President-Elect/Fundraising: Linda Barbod

Vice-President/Programs of Service: Open

Recording Secretary: Felis Wolven

Treasurer: Savannah Henderson

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Kristen Frelke

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Frances Wolven

Past President: Linda Barbod

Director - One Year: Elena Totten

Director - Two Years: Linda Newell

Delegate - One Year: Sara Yates

Delegate - Two Years: Denise Lorenz

If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Linda Newell - newell92071@gmail.com

Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.Soroptimist.org

Soroptimist International: WWW.hq@soroptimist.org