



S O R O P T I M I S T

Best for Women

Important Stuff You Need To Know About Soroptimist And We're Glad You Asked

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 effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.



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This and That

If I wish to visit another Soroptimist club while traveling ?

Your club President has a club roster, listing all clubs, along with the President's name. Always present your membership card when visiting another club. You may also call direct 1-800-942-4629 for a current listing of clubs in any community.

How do I introduce myself?

Give your name, your classification, your position with your club.

Is it ok invite a guest?

Of course it is okay to invite a guest to any regular club meeting.

How often do I receive a Soroptimist magazine?

Six times annually.

What if I lose my Soroptimist pin?

You may order a new one by speaking to your club Treasurer.

May I indicate on my business card that I am a Soroptimist?

Absolutely ! What a wonderful way to promote Soroptimist.

Where do I wear my name badge?

On your right side, opposite your Soroptimist pin.



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Welcome to Soroptimist

The Eastern Canada Region is proud to have you as a member and we look forward to serving with you for many years to come.

This booklet has been put together with you, the member, in mind.

It is designed to answer some of the most basic questions.

We wish you many years of enjoyable service through **Soroptimism**.

WHAT ?

What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is an association of professional and executive women participating in community and worldwide service.

What does Soroptimist mean?

Best for women.

What is expected of me as a member of Soroptimist?

To be a devoted member, attend meetings, pay dues and participate in community activities. To give of yourself and your talents and to have fun doing it.

What are my financial obligations?

Federation, Regional and Club dues are collected on an annual basis. Convention raffles and projects within your club may require additional contributions.

What does Soroptimist do in the community?

Soroptimist provides many different services in the community, varying within the individual club. Many give to specific projects on an annual basis, such as scholarships, aid to women's shelters etc. Some clubs provide hands on assistance in different projects.

What is a Violent Richardson Award?

The Violent Richardson Award recognizes and honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts such as fighting crime, poverty and violence.

WHEN ?

When was Soroptimist organized ?

October 3, 1921, the first and now largest classified service organization for business and professional women.

When do Committees do their work?

All through the year. Committees meet once per month at times that are convenient for members of the committee.

When is it appropriate time to ask questions?

Anytime ! The more questions you ask about Soroptimist the more you will know and the better Soroptimist you will become. Clubs use Roberts Rules of Order at business meetings and it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with them.

When should I wear my pin?

Anytime. You should always wear your pin at meetings and all Soroptimist functions, but you may wear your pin at any time if you choose to do so. It's a great way to promote Soroptimist.

WHY ?

Why do we have Committees?

Committees are the life blood of your Club. It is through Committees that the activities of the Soroptimist organization are planned and accomplished.

Why should I agree to serve on the Board?

Because you, as a business or professional person, are a natural leader, and you, as a Soroptimist, are in a position to serve to your highest potential as a Board member. Your knowledge of Soroptimist will increase accordingly.

Why do we need a quorum to vote?

Decision made within the Club which require a vote, should have the majority of the Club represented, therefore a quorum is necessary.

WHERE ?

Where was Soroptimist started?

Oakland, California

Where should the membership pin be worn?

On the left, over your heart with nothing above it.

Where are the four Federations?

Soroptimist International of
The Americas
The Southwest Pacific
Europe
Great Britain and Ireland

Website of SIA: www.soroptimist.org

Eastern Canada Region: www.ecsoroptimist.org

International: www.soroptimistinternational.org

What is a Women's Opportunity Award?

The 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 status. Women's Opportunity Awards are designed to give women heads of households, who provide the primary source of financial support for their families, the opportunity to achieve their career goals. These awards are for women who are attending, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program, or an undergraduate degree program.

Women's Opportunity Awards are cash awards that recipients may use for any expenses related to their educational pursuits. These include tuition and books, housing, child care and transportation. These awards are not scholarship. The program begins at the community level, where award amounts vary. Local winners then become eligible to receive regional level awards. Every year, 29 geographic regions throughout North, Central and South America, and Asia each grant one \$5,000 first place award, and two \$3,000 awards. These 29 first place winners become eligible to receive one of three \$10,000 finalist awards.

What is the name of our Region?

Eastern Canada

What are service funds?

Funds that are raised within the community at community events etc. These are used for community service projects.

What are Club funds?

Funds that are raised within the Club by dues and raffles and are specifically for operating expenses.

What is a classification?

A member's classification is determined by the principal that the business establishment of the member provides to the public.

WHO ?

HOW ?

Who was the first Soroptimist President?

Violet Richardson Ward

Who are all these members in our club?

Business and professional women in your community who are dedicated to community service, as you are, and want to make the world a better place.

Who can be a Soroptimist?

A woman should be working in a profession or business or in an occupation of comparable status or responsibilities to those of a person who is working in a profession or business.

Or be a recently retired from or temporarily or permanently out of work from a profession or business or in an occupation of comparable status or responsibilities to those of a person working in a profession or business.

Or be embarking on a career in a profession or business or in an occupation of comparable status or responsibilities to those of a person working in a profession or business.

Who benefits from Soroptimist?

Communities worldwide. Your individual club has its own identifying projects which you participate in for the betterment identifying projects which you participate in for the betterment of your own community, and clubs worldwide are doing the same. Keep in mind that as a Soroptimist your community service and devotion to your Club touches lives worldwide.

How am I a part of this International organization?

Soroptimist International is made up of four Federations, Soroptimist International of the Americas is one of those Federations. Within Soroptimist International of the Americas are Regions, we are in the **Eastern Canada Region**.

How are Officers elected?

Your Club procedures outline the nominating procedure for your Club. If you are interested in running for an office in your club, by all means make your wishes known immediately to your Club President and / or nominating committee.

How often are conventions held?

International conventions – every 4 years
Federation conventions – every 2 years

How often are Regional conferences held?

The Eastern Canada conference is held the first weekend in May each year.

How do I get involved in community activities?

Find out what type of community activities your club participates in and volunteer to help in those areas. Make suggestions to your Club and encourage more community activity.

How much time will I need to devote?

This has to be determined on an individual basis. Only you know how much time you can devote – do as much as you can but don't burn yourself out.

How many meetings should I attend?

To be effective in your Club, you should strive to attend all meetings. It keeps you up to date and informed. If you must miss a meeting, call a friend to find out what happened.