

Founder Region New Member Induction

2026-2028 Biennium Theme: “Empowering Through Education”

Inducting Officer

“Good evening, fellow Soroptimists and friends. Tonight we gather to welcome a new member into our club — and into a movement that has been changing lives since 1921.”

“In October of that year, in Oakland, California, a small group of professional businesswomen met with a simple but bold idea: that women working together, at their very best, could accomplish great things in service to their communities. They called themselves Soroptimists — a coined Latin term meaning the best for women. Violet Richardson Ward became the first president of that very first club, and she carried with her a motto that has guided our organization ever since.”

“It’s what you do that counts.”

“She believed that Soroptimist should never be just meetings and good intentions — it should be action. That belief is why, more than a century later, we still gather not simply to talk about doing good, but to actually do it.”

Will (New Member Name), and (his/her sponsor) please come forward.

Inducting Officer:

“(New Member Name), most of us who wear this pin came to Soroptimist for the same reason you did: a wish to serve. We came to give our time to causes larger than ourselves, to raise funds, to mentor a young woman, to speak up for those who could not speak for themselves.

But most of us will tell you that something unexpected happened along the way. We came to do service — and we found friendship. We came to give our time — and we received far more than we gave: people who understood us, who celebrated with us, who showed up when it mattered. This is the quiet secret of Soroptimist, passed down for over a hundred years: ***the service is the reason we come, but the friendship is the reason we stay.***

Our current biennium is guided by the theme Empowering Through Education, and we ask you to join us in that work — believing that lifting one woman through education lifts her family, her community, and generations to follow.

Will you uphold the ideals of Soroptimist International? Will you give of your time and talent in service to this club and this community? Will you open your heart to the friendships that are waiting for you here, just as those before you have found theirs?"

New Member:

"I will."

Inducting Officer:

"Then, by the authority vested in me as a (*your position in the club or region*), I welcome you as our newest Soroptimist. May you find here what generations of members have found before you: purpose in service, and — often to their surprise — some of the deepest friendships of their lives."

"A friend brought you into Soroptimist because, out of her regard for you, she wanted to share this gift of service, friendship, and mentorship. I now ask (Sponsor)_____ to present you with your pin. "

"Wear this pin over your heart as a symbol of your place among us, and among Soroptimists around the world who trace their beginnings to that first meeting in Oakland in 1921. You now belong to a fellowship a century in the making, and we are honored to welcome you into it."