



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LARAMIE**

**BEST FOR WOMEN**

<http://www.soroptimistoflaramie.org/>



***President's Letter  
for April***

This newsletter is late coming to you because your president (ME) didn't get her letter to our newsletter editor. She has been ready to send the letter since the middle of the month.

I just want to thank you all for all your hard work on the conference. It was a tremendous success. We can all breathe a sigh of relief now. I have lots to tell you about the conference but will wait until the next newsletter.

Congratulations to your new officers: Carmen Roth, president, Denise Marquiss, vice president, Lissa Maki, treasurer, Liz Parks, recording secretary, Fay Glissmann,

corresponding secretary, Linda Lebeda and Kathy Phillips, board members.

For now thank you again for all you do for Soroptimist. Get ready for our Dare to Dream-Dare to be Yourself Girl's fair in May and our wonderful fundraiser, Laramie Laughs for a Cause. I know that we will promote these wonderful activities with all our hearts.

Remember:  
Soroptimists Have Big Hearts!

Happy Spring,  
Susan



**SI PROGRAM  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**\*Each month our newsletter will highlight**

***WHAT'S NEW!***

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**at least one area in our Programs of Service. The more we all know about Soroptimist, the easier it will be to tell everyone we meet what great things we do and what a great organization we are!**



***Soroptimist  
White Papers***

An organization dedicated to assisting women and girls, Soroptimist aims to create true social and economic equality for women and girls. As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance



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to women in need. For more information, contact Lori Blair, Soroptimist's senior director of program services, at [lori@soroptimist.org](mailto:lori@soroptimist.org).

### **White Paper: The New Face of Slavery**

Learn about the trafficking of women and girls worldwide, and find out what can be done to end this widespread problem.

### **White Paper: Women and Cardiovascular Disease**

Learn about the number one killer of women and how they can protect themselves from this deadly disease.

### **White Paper: Women and Poverty**

Explore poverty as a gender issue and find out what can be done to end the growing problem that affects women the world over.

### **White Paper: Reaching Out to Women When Disaster Strikes**

Learn about the special challenges facing women during natural disasters and acts of war, and what can be done to assist this vulnerable population.

### **White Paper: Domestic Violence as a Workplace Concern**

Examine the ways that domestic violence can affect the workplace, and what businesses can do to keep their employees safe.

### **White Paper: Breast Cancer and Low-Income Women**

Learn how women throughout the world are affected by breast cancer by varying degrees.

### *Why Women and Girls?*

Soroptimist means "best for women" and that's what we strive to be—an organization of women at their best helping other women to be their best. As a volunteer organization of business and professional women

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we feel uniquely qualified to help women and girls live their dreams.

It's true that both men and women live in poverty, face discrimination and must overcome obstacles. But throughout history—in every country in the world—women and girls face additional obstacles and discrimination solely because of their gender.

### **Why do women and girls need our help? Consider the following:**

- One in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in their lifetime.
- According to a recent report, of the 600,000-800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually,



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- 80 percent are female.
- Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours but earn only 10 percent of the world's income, and own less than 1 percent of the world's property.
- Of a total 550 million working poor, 330 million (60 percent) are women.
- The United Nations estimates that globally women's unpaid care is worth up to \$11 trillion annually.
- Two-thirds of the 880 million illiterate adults are women.
- Of the more than 110 million children not in school, approximately

- 60 percent are girls.
- By age 18, girls have received an average of 4.4 years less education than boys.
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls have HIV rates up to five times higher than adolescent boys.
- Pregnancies and childbirth-related health problems take the lives of nearly 146,000 teenage girls each year.
- An estimated 450 million adult women in developing countries are stunted, a direct result of malnutrition in early life.
- Two million girls and women are

subjected to female genital mutilation every year, and thousands suffer needlessly from obstetric fistula.



*Act Now!*

**International AIDS Candlelight Memorial: May 18, 2008**

Every day, 2,000 children are born with HIV and 10,000 people die from HIV/AIDS and related infections. Gender inequalities and biological factors make women and girls especially vulnerable to HIV and to the impact of AIDS. Women are now more than 50 percent of those living with the virus and women constitute 61 percent of people living with HIV in sub-



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Saharan Africa. Young women are several times as likely as young men to contract the disease through heterosexual contact. Issues such as gender norms, violence, and lack of education and economic security contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls.

On Sunday, May 18, the annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Since 1983, the event has honored those lost to or affected by the AIDS pandemic, as well as to educate, serve, and mobilize communities to action. The memorial takes place the third Sunday in May and is led by more than 1,000 volunteers who host memorials in their communities in more than 100 countries. To become a coordinator and receive a free packet with posters and a manual, register at [CandlelightMemorial.org](http://CandlelightMemorial.org).

For more information on women and AIDS, please visit [The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS](#) and the [Global Health Council](#). Also read “[The Feminization of AIDS](#),” in the *Best for Women* article archives.



### **SIA CONVENTION— Taipei, Taiwan 40th Biennial Convention—July 16- 19th 2008**

#### **REGISTER NOW**

All registrations before May 9th will receive 20% off registration fee. Check the Taipei Convention page of SIA's website for the latest convention news. You will be able to book pre and postconvention

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tours as well as book your hotel accommodations. Read about guest speakers, and sign up for workshops.

A trip to Taiwan promises to be an exciting time in your life!

### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

#### **May 1, 2008**

Board Meeting –  
Altitudes –Noon

#### **May 8, 2008**

Business Meeting  
Wingers – Noon

#### **May 14, 2008**

Green Belt Clean Up  
5:15 pm

#### **May 17, 2008**

Dare to Dream Girl's  
Fair

#### **May 22, 2008**

Program Meeting –  
Installation of New  
Officers

#### **June 7, 2008**

Laramie Laughs for a  
Cause



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**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY TO  
YOU –  
CELEBRATE  
BEING YOU!!!**

Mary Lee Egnaczak –  
May 5<sup>th</sup>;  
Maureen Lutterman  
May 24;  
Denise Marquiss  
May 26;  
Jeanine Niemoller  
May 28



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
YOU!!**

**QUOTE:**

Non violence leads to the highest ethics which is the goal of all evolution....until we stop harming all other living beings we are still savages--Thomas A. Edison

**SIA Headquarters**

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[www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

**Rocky Mountain Region**

**Web Site:**

[www.soroptimistrockymtn.org](http://www.soroptimistrockymtn.org)  
To access the Member Only Section, your username is: reg and the password is: rmr26 (all lowercase)

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**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.**

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.

