



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LONG BEACH ANNOUNCE *WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE* 2008 AWARD WINNERS

Six individuals and one organization have been designated as winners of the 2008 Women Who Make a Difference Awards given annually by Soroptimist International of Long Beach. These honorees are local women who have distinguished themselves through their personal and professional achievements. "This year we are honoring a group of remarkable women who have stunning accomplishments and who are magnificent role models for our young people," said President Judy Hess.

The *Making a Difference for Women Award* will be presented to local activist and attorney Stephanie Loftin. The *Women of Distinction* awards will be presented to attorney Kate Marr of Long Beach Legal Aid for her work in the area of Human Rights and the Status of Women; Marie LaFortune, retired director of Patient Services for Long Beach Memorial Women's Hospital will received the award for Health; Monica Stel, Executive Director of Harbour Area Halfway Houses in the area of Economic and Social Development; Christie Wilkins, Executive Director of Dramatic Results for Education and Mary Blackburn, Director of Ed Dorado Nature Center for her work in the Environment.

The award for the *Business or Organization Advancing the Status of Women* honors an organization that significantly impacts women's lives, and will be recognizing Training Women in Non-Traditional Careers (WINTER.) The award will be accepted by founder Lynn Shaw.

Soroptimists will also honor Danielle Weiss, a Wilson High School senior with the *Violet Richardson Award* for volunteerism.

The awards will be presented at the annual Women Who Make a Difference awards luncheon on Saturday April 5th at 11:30 a.m. at the Long Beach Marriott Hotel located at the Long Beach airport.

Soroptimist International of Long Beach is a worldwide organization of women working in management and professions who utilize service projects to advance the status of women and girls in Long Beach and around the world. Founded in 1924, SI Long Beach is one of the oldest service organizations in the city, and with nearly 100 members, is one of the largest groups in the state.

For more information on the luncheon or the award winners, visit the Soroptimist International of Long Beach website at www.si-longbeach.org.

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