

The Hot Spot

Membership Newsletter for Local P.E.O. Chapters

July 2021

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT – Establishing Small Groups

Has your chapter ever established small groups with the main idea of keeping all sisters engaged, regardless of whether they are highly active members, nonparticipating or inactive? Many have enjoyed mahjong, museum tours, lunch, breakfast out or going to an outdoor concert. Mix up the kind of events and the day or time to include working and collegiate members. Use your imagination! Do some members of your chapter enjoy bridge, hiking, book clubs, or crafts? Maybe the small groups could create a program based on the event they planned and present a program once a quarter to the chapter. These groups encourage a closer bond to each sister. By changing up the group every few months, stronger friendships and closer ties are created. Most of all have fun with your sisters and remember there is no place like P.E.O.!

Inactive Prevention

Recognizing the Signs

Have you been missing Sally, Beth, or Holly at your meetings for a while? Have you or another chapter member reached out to them to find out why they have not been attending? Do you or another chapter member personally know why this sister is not attending? Maybe she is overwhelmed by all her obligations of work or family. She may be suffering from some financial setbacks and is embarrassed to let you know. These are just examples of some of the reasons that communication with this sister is so important.

As soon as a sister has missed a meeting and you do not know why, assign a sister to give her a call and check if everything is okay. Let her know that you all have been thinking of her and missed her at the meeting. Listen, really listen to her response, and let her know that you care and are sympathetic to her situation.

Before it gets to this point, however, let's take a minute and talk about some tips for re-engaging those sisters before they start missing too many meetings. Here are a few great ideas:

*Write nonparticipating members'

names on sticky notes and place on the exit door or as a list in the chat feature if the meeting is virtual. At the end of the meeting, ask each member to pick a name and make a call to that sister.

*Create small groups of sisters and encourage them to have lunch, send cards, and celebrate each other. This will help create a loving concern for each sister.

*Send a P.E.O. newsletter after each meeting to all members of the chapter, either by snail mail or email. Include photos if possible.

*Take some flowers to shut-ins and stay and visit if possible.

*Use social media to stay in touch: Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and LinkedIn.

*Take pictures of events and send digital "we miss you" cards.

These are just a few suggestions to keep nonparticipating members engaged. Do not wait until you get that phone call that says, "I want to go inactive." There are many signs that are evident by this time. Be proactive and love that sister back into the arms of your chapter.



Local Chapter Membership Toolbox Spotlight

There is an excellent resource in the Local Chapter Membership Toolbox, [What to Say to a Sister Considering Inactive Status](#), which will help answer some key questions when you talk with a sister considering inactive status. How do I know a sister may be considering inactive status? What can I do or say? And finally, what if she still indicates she wishes to go inactive? This article will help you be prepared with timely responses that show her you care.

