



**We Learn from our Glorious Past....
We Live in our Enriched Present...
We Look & Leap into our Bright Future...**

For the last two years as I traveled to each of my liaison districts I have ended my remarks with "Remember as long as we have vision our future will remain bright".

I truly believe that as long as we have women of the caliber in this room and those officers and members across our Daughters domain that vision lives in all of us. Some have "near sighted" vision that sees as far as the Chapter and how to make that Chapter great; others do the same on the District level and finally on a National level. But all of us have one thing in common, we have a vision that views this women's group as a great organization on all levels with the challenge of becoming an even greater organization.

How does this relate to getting more members?

In order to persuade women to become members we must first **believe** in this organization. We have to express our **love** of this organization. We do this by telling others about the wine & cheese event we put on and how much fun we had in doing it. How when we were preparing everything we worked as a unit, not as separate entities. How pleased we were with the response of the attendees and how much they are looking forward to coming again next year. We **BRAG** about what we do, what we accomplish.

When others hear what is happening in the organization they want to become a part of this revitalization of the Daughters of Penelope; the rebirth of a solid organization on the eve of celebrating its 80th anniversary.

There is more to just having a vision. There is how to make this vision work for you and your chapter and districts. With visions come ideas. These ideas are unique to each of us.

Each chapter has a unique make-up. Members of the chapters have to build upon their uniqueness in order to gain new members. Some chapters focus one on or more of the following: civic, cultural, and/or educational events, scholarships, hospital funding, abused women's shelters, children, etc. These focal points should be emphasized when campaigning for new members.

Our slogan this year is "***Our Vision will bring a Brighter Future***".

Enhance our Sisterhood:

Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld, our founder, had an idea or a vision. Her dream was the Daughters of Penelope. The actual organization went far beyond her vision or dream. Our sisterhood grew with the help of ideas or visions from members. Our organization is comprised of thousands of individuals all with different and unique ideas. And when these ideas are brought together or "brainstormed" inventions are developed as are sisterhoods.

Scholarships: Some one, some place visualized scholarships for young women. Later, The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc was born under the auspices of then Grand President Sonja Stefanadis. Today scholarships are awarded on the local, district and national levels of the Daughters of Penelope. It is an ever evolving task to develop novel ideas to obtain new scholarship support.

Community Service/Civic Responsibility: Enjoy getting involved, work at city and state events, do "walks" for various health organizations and of course talking, writing or visiting your congressman, city councilman, mayor or governor, promote literacy in our youth.

Philanthropic Endeavors: Enjoy planning and executing fund raising events for a charity, church or schools.

All of the above is done by our members with excitement and enthusiasm for the greater good of our order.

Also, it is done with great love. We want to share our hopes and dreams with others. We want...we need sisters who desire to become a part of us...**The Daughters of Penelope**...so that they too can share their ideas and **vision for a brighter future.**

Planning & Preparation Relating to Prospective Members

- A. Set up a schedule of meetings and events at the first meeting that covers every month of the fiscal year. (It would be ideal if the officers met before the first meeting to set up tentative plans to be presented at the first meeting for all to decide on.)
- B. Talk about what we are doing
 - a. What events will be taking place
 - b. Socials
 - c. Fundraisers

(A chapter having a lot of activities makes others want to know more about those activities)

- C. At the beginning of the year (September or before) start targeting new members
 - a. Make a list. Send out "feeler letters" to see if they would be interested in joining. Sample with survey enclosed.
 - b. Be sure to notify these prospects of any events you have planned
 - c. Have a "rush"/membership event...tea, themed party
- D. Talk up the Daughters of Penelope. Create a positive image.
- E. Talk up our current projects...chapter...district...national
- F. Talk about our goals. Communicate our mission simply and clearly.
- G. Show with deeds our respect and love for the community in which we live
- H. Best way to recruit volunteers is by word of mouth. Satisfied members bring in new members.

All of the above bring about an awareness of our organization and creates an interest in what's happening in the Daughters of Penelope in their community.

Before you ask prospective candidates to join, these individuals need to know what we are all about. We want ladies who want to be a part of the happenings not spectators.

Develop Goals

We all know that to achieve any amount of success we need to develop goals and timetables to accomplish our objectives.

Set a number of new members you want to increase your chapter size by. For example if you have 15 members you want 1 more, but set your sights higher for 5 or 30% increase. Anything between 1 and 5 is a plus for your organization.

ID Prospective Members

Changing demographics: Pros and Cons

Due to changing demographics our chapters are affected both positively and negatively depending on the community location, size and age groups.

Those communities that are small and not located in an area with job potential tend to lose population thus affecting the sub-communities. Consequently, those chapters that were once strong are now weak. The upside to this is that communities that are growing should take advantage of this shift in population and strive to attract women from that new base.

- ❖ Target new parishioners
- ❖ Target newly initiated Ahepans' wives and family
- ❖ At your respective District workshops have discussions with representatives from chapters which are maintaining their membership or even increasing their number of members to see how they are accomplishing this feat.
- ❖ Talk to friends and family members who are not involved. Sometimes they just need a boost to make that big step.
- ❖ Look at your non-Hellenic friends and co-workers that may be interested in what the chapter is undertaking.

Remember that volunteer trends are on a decline. People are wrapped up in their personal well being and do not want to get involved with something that doesn't benefit them. We, in our chapters, have to offer an enticement that will excite them into joining and working with our group.

Daughters of Penelope



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the AHEPA
Family is to Promote
Hellenism, Education,
Philanthropy,
Civic Responsibility,
Family and Individual Excellence

Daughters of Penelope



Objects of the Order

- a. To encourage and promote loyalty to the United States of America or to another country in which a Chapter exists.
- b. To encourage the interest of its members in the duties of citizenship and a further participation in the larger life of their country as well as in the philanthropic, social, political and civic life of their respective communities.
- c. To cultivate the ideals and traditions of Hellenism as our best contribution to the development of America or to another country in which a Chapter exists.
- d. To promote opportunities of education.
- e. To cooperate by precept and example in furthering the purposes and ideals of the AHEPA Family.
- f. To promote the welfare of the Junior Order of the Daughters of Penelope, the Order of the Maids of Athena.

Why Am I a Member?

Each and every one of us joined this dynamic group of women for different reasons....

My mother made me! Some of us had or still have a mother who loved/loves the Daughters of Penelope and wanted her daughter to share that love with her.

My husband/father was/were Ahepans. Many joined to please their spouse or parent. A true family activity!

Peer Pressure. Friend or friends joined the organization and wanted you to join also.

Liked what the group was doing and wanted to be a part of it,

A good fit. Wanted to join a philanthropic organization and being of Greek descent this association was truly a good fit.

And finally

Looked good on my resume'!

But no matter the reason was that we joined this dynamic group we are here. We are active. We are members of a woman's organization which is ever evolving. We want to be a part of that evolution. We want others to know the joy of giving...of sisterhood.

Create Enjoyable Daughters' Meetings

1. Relax...enjoy your peers
2. Keep meetings short and to the point. Have and follow an agenda.
3. Utilize the unique talents of your fellow sisters. They have ideas and are enthusiastic to help.
4. Hold joint installations with AHEPA and DOP chapters. Even better, if you have Maids and Sons have them participate also. Make it a true AHEPA Family event.
5. Have holiday parties – Halloween, Founders' Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Derby Day, etc
6. Have speakers – investments, CPR, cancer awareness, exercise, nutrition, interior decorating, reflexology, etc.
7. Fun activity – Making wreathes and donating them, painting or making ornaments, origami, etc.
8. Plan Fundraisers – fashion shows, "bakeless" bake sales, book sales and signing, etc.
9. Monthly bulletins – Who, where, when, why and how
10. Remember those who cannot attend with cards, emails and phone calls.











Above all enjoy the meeting – doing good for others does **not** have to be a chore!

How to Dim our Brighter Future

- It's all right in theory
- If you think it's a good idea, you be the Chairman
- Be practical
- Let's discuss it. It is a good idea, but...
- Let's form a committee
- It costs too much
- Why hasn't someone suggested it before if it's such a good idea?
- It needs more study
- It's not in the budget
- It's too hard to do
- It's not my job
- Let's not start anything new right now
- Let's table it until the next meeting.
- It's not our problem
- We've never done it that way before
- We tried that years ago...it didn't work!
- We have been doing it this way for a long time and it works
- I've done it before, let someone else do it.
- Let the young ones do it!!!!

(Who are the young ones? The 20, 40 or 60 year olds!?!)

Why Volunteer?

-  To foster friendships
-  To have fun and make good memories
-  To feel needed
-  To share a skill
-  To get to know others in the community
-  To keep busy
-  To be a part of a team
-  To feel proud
-  To meet new challenges
-  To support others

Volunteering: Good deeds equal good times & good feelings

Invitation Packet

With your letter of invitation to join the Daughters of Penelope, you might want to include some information about the Daughters local, district and national projects, etc.

- ✓ Daughters of Penelope Brochure
- ✓ District project brochures for example Scholarship Foundations and other projects
- ✓ National projects for example Penelope House, etc
- ✓ Sons and Maids brochure
- ✓ Projects of the local chapter
- ✓ Membership form

Membership Packet

When a new member has been initiated into your chapter she is enthusiastic and excited about becoming an active member. She should have some materials to get her started on her new adventure.

These are a few suggestions. Remember each chapter is unique, so their packets would be unique.

- ✓ Directory listing chapter officers, members with contact information
- ✓ Calendar of events
- ✓ Copy of chapter newsletter
- ✓ Chapter projects
- ✓ District lodge and their contact information
- ✓ List of chapters in your district
- ✓ Penelope Scroll subscription form
- ✓ Ritual
- ✓ Constitution

Growth & Expansion Program
June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009

Recognition Awards

1. The **District** that has the most **reinstatements**
2. The **Chapter** that has the most **reinstatements**
3. The **District** that has the most **new members**
4. The **Chapter (50 or fewer members)** that brings in the most **new members.**
5. The **Chapter (more than 50 members)** that brings in the most **new members.**
6. The **District** with the **largest increase in Maids of Athena membership.**

*These recognitions are for those areas which gained the most members. However, each chapter and district benefit from these new members with their new ideas and their vision along with "**our vision will bring a brighter future**".*

Questions? Contact me....

Elaine M. Sampanis
6437 Tyler's Crossing
West Chester, OH 45069
513 779-0842
Jubilobby@aol.com

What is the Value of One Member?

Ten little members standing in a line, One disliked the President then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members agree to meet late, One forgot her promise, then there were eight

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven, One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven

Seven loyal members got into a fix, They quarreled over programs, then there were six

Six members remained with spirit and drive, One moved away, then there were five

Five steadfast members wished there were more, One would rather shop, then there were four.

Four cheerful members never disagreed, Till one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members! What do they do? One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done, one joined another club, then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue, She met with a neighbor, then there were two.

Two earnest members, each enrolled one more. Doubling their number, then there were four.

Four determined members just couldn't wait, Till each won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up sixteen more, In another six verses there will be **one thousand twenty-four!**

So what is the value of one member?

Something we should all remember.

One member is pure gold and we do not have a single member to waste.

Author unknown

The Nine Secrets of our Sisterhood

**By
Jacqueline Schiff**

- 1. We stay close. No matter how busy we are, we make time for keeping in touch. As sisters, we're never more than a heartbeat apart.**
- 2. We spread happiness. When we have news to tell, we focus on the upbeat. We share jokes and laughter. In sad times, we fill one another with hope.**
- 3. Our bond is one of respect. We value our differences, share our talents, and nurture one another's potential.**
- 4. When it comes to each other's activities, we express interest. We are passionately interested in each other's life. That's what more-than-close friends are for.**
- 5. We give each other support. We are the shelter in each other's storms. We lift each other's spirits and cheer one another on.**
- 6. We are tops when it comes to trust. I can trust you with my secrets, and you can truly believe that I will keep yours under lock and key. We are loyal in sisterly love and devoted in our friendship.**
- 7. We treasure our family memories. We are proud of where we came from, and we honor those who are our real-life family heroes.**
- 8. We give each other personal attention. We listen with our hearts and help each other meet needs. We share the promise that someone will always be there to care about us.**
- 9. We promote each other's success. We put any envy aside to promote one another. We are each other's highest achievement seekers.**

These are the nine secrets of our sisterhood—but it's no secret that our sisterhood is at the top of our list of things to be thankful for.

MY GIFTS TO YOU!!

Our Vision will Bring a Brighter Future Key Chain

**Flash light: Shines our way to a Brighter Future
Compass: Directs our way to a Brighter Future
Whistle: To keep us safe from distractions on our way to a
Brighter Future**

Keep it on your Key Ring

**It will remind you of a Brighter Future
and
Keep you Safe in your Travels**

KENTUCKY DERBY MINT JULEP RECIPE

*1 CUP SUGAR
1 CUP WATER
1 CUP FRESH MINT SPRIGS
BOURBON
GARNISH: FRESH MINT*

Combine sugar and water in a saucepan; bring to a boil, cook covered 5 minutes (do not stir). Let syrup cool. Crush 1 cup mint with fingers or bruise mint with the back of a spoon.

Place crushed mint in a jar; add syrup, cover and chill 12 hours. Strain and discard mint.

To serve: fill frosted julep cups or glasses with crushed ice; add 1 tablespoon syrup and 1 oz bourbon for each serving. Stir well. Garnish, if desired.

Yield: 21 servings.



PLACE YOUR BETS! LET THE RACE BEGIN!!