

# RECHARGE YOUR CHAPTER

## How to Care for Your Nonparticipating Members

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Building a healthier P.E.O. chapter

- Why don't some members participate in chapter life?



Ask yourself: why do I participate?

- P.E.O. friendships.
- Program topics.
- Support for P.E.O. projects.
- Convenient meeting time and day.
- Commitment to initiation vows.



- Happy members make a chapter stronger and are more likely to introduce friends to P.E.O.



How would your sisters rate chapter life?

- Timely and organized meetings?
- Fun and informational programs?
- Welcoming and connected sisters?
- Project support and sponsorship of recipients?

# How well do you know your nonparticipating members?

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Take time to understand why they do not participate so you can more effectively meet their needs.



# This is a job for the membership committee!



Ask your treasurer to identify members who attend less than three meetings a year.

Categorize them according to why they do not attend.

Develop an action plan.

Prepare to integrate them back into chapter life.

# Chart your progress.



## Nonparticipating Member Checklist Chapter: AB

Member Name	Best way to contact	Reason she does not participate	Action Plan
Daisy Mae	Phone	Cannot drive	Sally lives nearby. Will call and offer to pick her up for meetings.
Soccer Susan	Text	Small children at home	Ask chapter to arrange childcare once a month.
Corporate Jean	Email	Full time job	Invite to socials. Lateral transfer? Introduce to sisters of Chapter YZ.
Anna NoShow	Friend Amanda	P.E.O. not a priority	Ask Amanda to invite her to next meeting.



# Category #1: Age or health issues

- Does she:
  - live at home but have limited physical ability?
  - live in assisted living or long-term care?
  - have a spouse who is her caregiver?
  - have family living nearby?



# Category #1: Action Plan

- Schedule regular visits. Send cards. Call her often.
- Have the meeting at her assisted living or long-term care facility.
- Take her dinner or goodies from the meeting.
- Go to lunch with her.
- Offer to stay with her occasionally so her caregiver can take a break.
- Help with housekeeping, gardening, or simple fix-it needs.



# Category #2: Attendance Conflicts



- Does her job prevent her from attending chapter meetings?
- Is she attending school away from home?
- Is she caring for aging parents, a spouse or young children?
- Is she a snow bird?

# Category #2: Action Plan

- Always invite her to socials and other special events.
- Keep in touch with emails, chapter newsletters, cards and phone calls.
- If she is an elementary school teacher, volunteer to read to her class.
- Help arrange childcare for her young children on meeting days.
- Keep her informed about changes in meeting times and dates.
- If her children are involved in athletics or other scholastic activities, attend and cheer them on.
- If she attends school away from home, plan an event when she's home on break.



# What about a lateral transfer?

- Another chapter in your area may meet at a more convenient time and day.
- Guide her through the transfer process.
- Encouraging active participation should be your priority.
- Tell her she is not being disloyal but is fulfilling her P.E.O. vows of active participation.



# Category #3: P.E.O. is not her priority

- Not in the habit of attending chapter meetings.
- Always has a reason why she can't participate.
- Long absence makes it difficult to return.
- Closest friend is no longer a chapter member.





# Category #3: Action Plan

- Appoint another member to be her contact sister.
- Make sure she has the most recent yearbook.
- Notify her of upcoming social events and changes in meeting times and dates.
- Ask her to present a program.
- Ask her to be a hostess or co-hostess.
- Tell her about any small interest groups your chapter may have.

# Prepare your chapter for her return.



Wear nametags.

Assign a mentor.

Help her ease back into chapter life.



# Remember: membership is the responsibility of each sister.

- Discuss these ideas with your chapter sisters.
- Engage every member in nurturing nonparticipating members.
- Healthy chapter friendships strengthen P.E.O.

