



ORGANIZATION MEMO

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

MEMO: 2017-ORG-044

DISTRIBUTE TO: Region through National Women's Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Women's Leader – Akemi Bailey-Haynie
SUBJECT: Champions of Peace and Happiness Group Guidelines 2018

In 2018, SGI-USA's sole focus with all activities and efforts will be to raise youthful lions and to build momentum each and every day toward our 50,000 Lions of Justice Festival in response to our vow to our mentor. Every member of SGI-USA is encouraged to do one youth shakubuku and ensure that this youth participates in this significant event. ALL Champions of Peace and Happiness Group activities should be conducted with this single purpose in mind.

BACKGROUND:

On October 21, 2015, the SGI-USA Women's Division received the name “**Champions of Peace and Happiness**” from President Ikeda for the formation of a new women's training group designed for women ages 45 and under.

PURPOSE:

The goal is to raise capable women leaders for the future growth and development of American Kosen-rufu toward the 100th anniversary of SGI in 2030 and beyond.

To raise women's leaders for the next generation it is vital to engage in study and dialogue. The series *Wisdom for Creating Happiness and Peace*, Volumes 1 & 2 will be used for members to learn the correct practice of Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism for themselves, as well as others.

The Champions of Peace and Happiness will take the lead by studying and living the wisdom Sensei has provided us from this series, to be victorious in every aspect of their lives.

With a focus on the Five Eternal Guidelines for the Women's Division:

- *Everything begins with prayer*
- *Advance harmoniously with our families*
- *Foster young successors*
- *Cherish our communities and society*
- *Joyfully share our experiences in faith*

In addition, the Champions of Peace and Happiness are encouraged to study:

- President Ikeda's shakubuku campaigns to learn the spirit of propagation; and
- About *Soka Spirit* to be able to combat negative influences that seek to block the forward progress of our *kosen-rufu* movement, and our own lives.

Through study and dialogue the Champions of Peace and Happiness members should become shining examples of disciples striving with a great vow to accomplish Kosen-rufu together with their mentor. Taking action to spread the Mystic Law with the spirit of the oneness of mentor and disciple is the lifeblood of the Soka Gakkai.

DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

Duration: including Gongyo and Daimoku: 90-120 minutes

Frequency: Formal meetings *every other month*. Additional chanting, study and preparatory meetings can be held as local organizations feel appropriate, but not mandatory.

Coordinators: Assigned region level leaders who schedule, co-ordinate and attend meetings. They may also assist presenters with presentations and assist in finding guest leaders.

Presenters: All Champions of Peace and Happiness participants of the second class are presenters. They may appeal to their women's region leader for advice as they gather material, edit and practice while preparing their presentations prior to the formal bi-monthly meetings.

SELECTION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES:

1. Participants for this group will be 45 years old and younger women's division members and recommended by the zone and region women's leaders.
2. Every participant will be visited and interviewed by region and/or zone leaders. Home visits are recommended to start right away in order to be ready to launch this group by February. (*The correct spirit and commitment of participating in this group will be shared at the visit.*)
3. The term will be for two years with meetings every other month. In order to be part of this training group – **there needs to be a serious commitment by the participant.**
4. Please select no more than 5-10 women's division per region.
5. Ideally, meetings should be held on the region level. Depending upon locale, after discussion with the region and zone, frontier areas may have chapter level gatherings if it best serves their locale.
6. Participant must meet all guidelines below:
 - a. Practiced for one year
 - b. Actively participates in district activities
 - c. Taken and passed the SGI-USA Intro Exam
 - d. Participates in contribution
 - e. Subscribes to the publications
 - f. Challenge to accomplish one personal youth shakubuku in 2018, nurture and ensure he/she participates in the 2018 youth festival
7. Study material – SGI President Ikeda's collected works from *The Wisdom of Creating Happiness and Peace*, Volumes 1 and 2.
8. Graduations will take place at the last meeting of the second year term.

Appropriate Agenda for Champions of Peace and Happiness Meetings (90-120 minutes):

- Gongyo and Daimoku (20 minutes)
- Opening words of encouragement by a Sr. Leader (5 minutes)
- Presentations prepared by local Champions of Peace & Happiness members covering the current focus (20 minutes)
- One *well-prepared* experience related to the focal point selected for that meeting – (10 min)
- Discussion and Q & A - Each member should prepare one thoroughly thought-out response to the materials based on the theme (40 minutes)
- Guest Leader to wrap up the meeting. (20 minutes) (*Coordinator or appropriate invited leader, region & up*)

PLEASE NOTE: For a 120 minute meeting, an additional experience may be added and the discussion and Q&A portion of the meeting may be extended. In addition, please do not include food in your regular meetings. However, you may choose to have food at graduation.