

DISTRIBUTE TO: Group through Territory Women's Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Women's Leader, Naoko Leslie
SUBJECT: Women's Division Guidelines 2022

Women's Focus

1. We will unite as 4D to make our districts our core!

Let's conduct heartfelt encouragement with members and guests so that our monthly discussion meetings overflow with joyful experiences!

"There's no special secret for making a discussion meeting lively. Having said that, however, I think a meeting's success lies in how many people share experiences of gaining benefit through faith. People who share their experiences brim with joy and energy. That feeling communicates to everyone else, and the joy spreads until the entire meeting becomes positive and vibrant. As a leader, it's important to be firmly determined and to take action to ensure that each member receives benefits."

"First, you need to chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo earnestly, exert yourself wholeheartedly in Soka Gakkai activities and accumulate your own benefits through faith. Then joyously share your experiences with others."



(Ikeda Sensei, *The New Human Revolution*, Vol. 18, p.257)

2. Let's make chanting our "top priority" like Sensei and blossom with happiness!

"It is crucial to chant intensely and dedicate ourselves to kosen-rufu. By doing so, our faith will never stagnate. I've come this far myself by making chanting my top priority. When we pray, we change ourselves. And by bringing forth the life-state of Buddhahood from within ourselves, it is possible to influence those around us to change. We can also make the entire universe our ally. (Ikeda Sensei, *The New Human Revolution*, Vol. 22, p. 360)

3. Let's plant lots of seeds of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and let's each have one friend awakened to the mission to dedicating one's life for kosen-rufu!

4. Let's warmly encourage and raise our precious Young Women!

SGI-USA Women's Day—February 27th Commemorative Introductory Meeting

Between February 25–27, a virtual introductory meeting open to all women, young women and non-binary guests, will be held in commemoration of SGI-USA Women's Day.

Each region can decide the level to hold this meeting (group or district).

71st Anniversary of the Establishment of the Women's Division—June 10th Relay Gongyo and Daimoku

Second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda inaugurated the women's division on June 10, 1951. He repeatedly encouraged women, expressing his heartfelt wish for each and every one of them to become happy.

Suggested Agenda

- Intro to Buddhism
- Message (TBD)
- Experience
- Presentation and Group Discussion Questions (prepared by Region Leaders based on Buddhist concepts)
- Small Group Discussions
- Encouragement by WD or YWD Leader

Friday, June 10th—Relay Gongyo and Daimoku for the Happiness and Peace of the Land

- One-hour relay gongyo and daimoku at your own home
- Anytime from 5am to 10am in your time zone

Daimoku Charts

Feel free to utilize the daimoku charts available at this link:
<https://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/womensdivision/resources.php>

AMERICA VICTORY DAIMOKU GROUP

The America Victory Daimoku Group is open to all women to chant 1 hour domei (simultaneous) daimoku for:

- Sensei and Mrs. Ikeda's excellent health and longevity.
- The earliest end to the pandemic.
- To secure the peace of the land through planting seeds of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo.
- The happiness and growth of our Future Division members as our successors.
- Personal breakthroughs and victories.

Agenda (NEW! We will chant AFTER a brief meeting):

- Powerful Faith Experience/District Report
- Chapter or Region leader read the points above to confirm the purpose of this activity and share a quote on daimoku from recent publications, *The New Human Revolution*, or quotes provided in the column on the right. **(No Q&A)**
- 1 hour of domei daimoku at your own home.

The frequency can be decided by the leaders at the level the activity is being held. The meeting portion can be by phone or zoom.

“The Mystic Law enables us to transform all poison into medicine. There may be times when we ask ourselves why bad things happen to us, but when we practice Buddhism, everything that happens has profound significance. We can move everything in a more positive direction, confident that our prayers will be fulfilled. Faith in the Gohonzon guarantees that ‘misfortune will change into fortune’ (“Reply to Kyo’o,” WND-1, 412). As the Daishonin declares: ‘Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is like the roar of a lion’ (WND-1, 412). With daimoku, we can break through all obstacles.” (November 2021 *Living Buddhism*, p.64)

“When we chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo with faith in the Gohonzon, we come into contact with the Daishonin’s spirit and manifest the same great life state as the Daishonin, the life state of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, in our own beings. That’s how we bring forth limitless wisdom, compassion and courage, powerfully overcome every difficulty, and change poison into medicine. How fortunate we are!” (November 2021 *Living Buddhism*, p.65-66)

SOPHIA GROUP—Let’s encourage every woman to join the Sophia Group!

In February 1990, Ikeda Sensei named a gathering of women’s division members “Sophia” (meaning *skill, intelligence, wisdom* in Greek) with the intent that its members expand their intellect for the sake of happiness for themselves and others and the protection of our kosen-rufu movement.

The purpose of the Sophia Group is to develop leaders who are rooted in the oneness of mentor and disciple and who advance kosen-rufu on the frontlines by creating victories in their personal lives and districts.

Sophia Term

Sophia will continue without any graduation from January 2022.

Study Material

Study Material will be *The New Human Revolution*, Volume 30, which is available for purchase as an e-book and book form online at <https://bookstore.sgi-usa.org/> and local SGI-USA Centers with Book Stores that have re-opened.

Suggested Agenda

- Presentation on Material
- Small Group Breakout
- Encouragement by Local Leader
- Memo to Sensei

Eligibility

Sophia Group is open to all women’s division members and guests who want to deepen their study and must

be subscribing to SGI-USA publications. Please use this opportunity to encourage new women’s division members, including YWD graduates, to join the Sophia Group. Since the Sophia Group is an ongoing women’s study group, there will be no graduation certificates at the end of the year.

Small Group Breakout

The group should be no more than 6–8 women to accommodate meaningful discussion. It is suggested that meetings be held at the chapter level.

Facilitators (Group through Region Leaders)

If there are any addition or changes in the facilitators, please submit by **December 12th** to your women’s leader.

The facilitator’s role is to coordinate and communicate about the monthly study to the Sophia Group members and to keep this activity fresh and vital. Prior experience in Sophia Group is not necessary.

FNCC

October-details forthcoming.

This information and additional resources are available on the SGI-USA Women’s Division Page at: www.sgi-usa.org



Five Eternal Guidelines for the Women’s Division

1. Everything begins with prayer.
2. Advancing harmoniously with our families.
3. Fostering young successors.
4. Cherishing our communities and societies.
5. Joyfully sharing our experiences in faith.