



Organization Dept

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DISTRIBUTE TO: District through Territory Women's Leaders
and Zone & Territory Offices

FROM: SGI-USA Women's Leader Linda Johnson
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SUBJECT: 2012 Sophia Group Guidelines

Sophia Group of the Second Act

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of thousands of women across the country during the last twenty years, the Sophia Group has continued to flourish, enabling the women of SGI-USA to grow and develop into capable leaders of the 21st century. It is a source of great pride that so many leaders have been raised through participating in Sophia Group.

During the last two years we revisited the original purpose of President Ikeda's establishment of the Sophia Group, which is:

- 1. Leadership development based on the oneness of mentor and disciple; and**
- 2. Support for the transition of recent YWD graduates into the Women's Division.**

A two-year term for Sophia Group (2010-2011) was established due to the large amount of material contained in our study material, *The Human Revolution*. Based on feedback from Sophia Group members from around the country we have re-examined the two-year term. We want to respond to many women who while finding the challenge of the two-year commitment encouraging and exhilarating, still feel a shorter term the wiser choice.

Therefore, starting in January 2012, new Sophia Group members will have a term limit of one year only. This term will be from January to December 2012. All current Sophia Group members (2010-2011) will graduate at the end of 2011.

The Meaning and Purpose:

The focal points of Sophia Group will continue to be:

- Understanding the history of the SGI and the significance of the district discussion meeting;
- Deepening one's understanding of the oneness of mentor and disciple; and
- Infusing the spirit of these first two points into the district discussion meetings.

Each Sophia Group member will have the clear mission to use her experience not only for herself, but for the sake of others, including translating her Sophia training into:

- Contributing to the success of 4-Divisional district study, and
- Support the efforts for the success of the SGI-USA study exam program by imparting the joyful spirit to study learned in the Sophia Group.



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In order that Sophia Group members have a clear awareness of these points, a Sophia Group mission statement will be provided to read at each group's first meeting.

Material:

English: The *New Human Revolution*. Each Sophia Group should determine which volume(s) to study.

Other languages: Due to the limited availability of the *New Human Revolution* in various languages other than English, each language-based Sophia Group should determine the most appropriate material to study based on the availability of President Ikeda's officially published translated writings.

Facilitators:

Facilitators should be selected and assigned by the appropriate level (region or area) of women leaders. No prior Sophia Group experience is necessary. This is a chance to give more women the opportunity to grow and develop through taking responsibility as a facilitator which will also be limited to a one-year term. With the spirit of continually raising more successors, leaders should select individuals they are confident can fulfill this important responsibility. This will keep the Sophia Group fresh and vital.

In order to instill the mission and purpose of Sophia Group, and provide training and inspiration, all new facilitators for 2012 will have the opportunity to participate in a territory or zone level Sophia Facilitators Conference call sometime in January 2012.

Group Size:

Please select a Sophia Group size that is small enough to accommodate meaningful discussion.

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