



Attendance Challenge

International Chapter's Attendance Challenge is a fun way for local chapters across the Sisterhood to increase attendance at a specific business or social meeting. We've chosen the month of December for this challenge; however, your chapter can choose to participate in this activity **whenever** it works best for you.

1. The goal of this activity is to encourage as many members as possible to attend a designated chapter meeting. The following are suggestions for implementing this activity in your chapter:
2. **Set a goal.** Ask the treasurer to calculate the average number of sisters who attend chapter meetings. Set an attendance goal of 5 to 10% above that number.
3. **Select a date.** Take a look at your chapter meeting schedule. Is there one meeting in December (or other designated month) at which this activity would work best? Consider changing meeting times and/or days to accommodate working members or those who attend school. If your chapter has members with young children, consider hiring a babysitter for the meeting. Brainstorm ways to accommodate those members with transportation problems. Do you have members who are residents of assisted living facilities? Consider helping them host the meeting in their clubhouse or meeting area.
4. **Choose a theme.** Create enthusiasm for your attendance challenge by setting a theme for the activity. Suggested ideas can be found in the Membership Activities panel of the online red membership toolbox on the P.E.O. website. Look for the special Attendance Challenge Hot Spot created especially for this activity.
5. **Send invitations.** To create more excitement, consider sending invitations to all members of your chapter. Don't forget to send them to your nonresident, unaffiliate and inactive* sisters, too. Ask for RSVPs.
6. **Follow up.** Personally call those members who don't respond. Remind them of your attendance goal and encourage everyone to make every effort to attend.
7. **Take a photograph.** Is it time for a new chapter photo? This might be a good opportunity to take one. If you decide to take a photograph, be sure to include this information in all pre-meeting publicity.
8. **Celebrate your results.** Announce your results at the next chapter meeting.
9. **Plan next year's activity.** Think of how much fun it is to have so many sisters together! What ideas can you generate to make next year's event even more successful?

***Reminder: members with inactive status are ineligible to attend regular or special business meetings; however, they are welcome to attend socials, chapter programs and other activities.**



Attendance Challenge

Social Event Ideas



Is your chapter participating in **The Attendance Challenge** activity in December? If so, here are some fun programming options to help you encourage member attendance.

Title: Happy Birthday!

Purpose: To celebrate the organization of your chapter and take a new chapter photograph.

What you need: Designated meeting, chapter photographer, cake and ice cream (optional)

How to implement:

- Designate a chapter meeting where all members will be encouraged to attend.
- Consider changing the date and time to accommodate members who may not attend regularly due to work, school or family commitments.
- Set an attendance goal of 5% to 10% above your average meeting attendance.
- Send fun birthday party invitations to all members. Follow up with emails and phone calls. Remind everyone there will be a chapter photo taken for the yearbook/scrapbook or history files.
- At the meeting, ask charter members to share their stories; make chapter scrapbooks available for everyone to see.
- If your state, province or district is participating in the attendance challenge, send a copy of the photo along with attendance numbers to the appropriate board or committee member.

Title: Big Bunco Bonanza

Purpose: To have fun with P.E.O. sisters.

What you need: Dice, bunco score sheets, pencils, scratch pads, bells, hostess, convenient day and time, white elephant gifts, refreshments

How to implement:

- Choose a date and time for this event which accommodates the majority of your members. Please note: this might mean meeting at a different time and/or day than usual.
- Set an attendance goal and send invitations to all members. Follow up with phone calls and emails to encourage as much participation as possible.
- Limit reports and streamline the business meeting to allow as much time for fun as possible OR choose to count this as one of your three allowable social meetings.
- Divide into teams to play bunco and enjoy the company of your sisters. Directions on how to play bunco, as well as free score sheets, are available online.
- Serve refreshments and give white elephant gifts to winner and loser.

Title: Holiday Auction

Purpose: To raise funds for P.E.O. projects and share holiday cheer with your sisters.

What you need: Hostess and meeting time, donations from chapter sisters, auctioneer (optional), holiday refreshments.

How to implement:

- Choose a date and time for your holiday auction.
- Ask each member to bring an item or two to auction.
- Set an attendance goal and send invitations to all members. Follow up with phone calls and emails to encourage as much participation as possible.
- Consider making this a social event and inviting prospective members.
- Ask a professional auctioneer to donate his/her services, or an enthusiastic chapter sister or BIL.
- Serve refreshments while you auction the donations.
- Enjoy your sisters and their guests!

Title: Holiday movie night

Purpose: Have fun with your P.E.O. sisters

What you need: Hostess, favorite holiday movie, refreshments, wrapped gifts (optional)

How to implement:

- Find a hostess with a living room large enough to accommodate a movie viewing. One with televisions in multiple rooms may also be appropriate.
- Choose one (or several) holiday movies to watch. It's a Wonderful Life or Holiday movies are good examples.
- Set an attendance goal and send invitations to all members. Follow up with phone calls and emails to encourage as much participation as possible.
- Consider having a gift exchange among attending members. To implement, ask each member to bring a small (\$5-\$10) wrapped gift to the event. Distribute before the end of the evening.

Title: BIL invitational

Purpose: To have fun with your P.E.O. sisters, BILs and other friends or family members.

What you need: tickets to the theater, museum or other local attraction, dinner reservations

How to implement:

- Choose a fun, local activity, such as a trip to the museum or community theater.
- Decide on a date for the outing.
- Set an attendance goal and send invitations to all members. Follow up with phone calls and emails to encourage as much participation as possible.
- Be sure to offer rides to those who cannot physically attend by themselves. Encourage those without BILs to invite a family member or close friend.
- Make dinner reservations at a restaurant nearby. If possible, ask each guest to tell a little about themselves before the meal arrives.