

## MAIDS OF ATHENA 101

# Maids of Athena: Facts you should know

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

### What do we stand for?

Our members are encouraged to strive to achieve and embody the ideals of our order: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. In addition to these ideals, members embrace the following goals and principles: Sisterhood, Service, Citizenship, Hellenism, Family and *Arete* (Virtue).

### What do our sorority letters stand for? Parthenes tis Athenas

**A Formal Meeting:** shall consist of the complete Ritual and shall be used at least four (4) meetings of the year, and whenever a member of the MOA District or Grand Lodge visits the Chapter.

- Ritual Meeting (aka Formal Meeting): It's a chapter meeting at which a ritual ceremony, as described in the Book of Rituals, is performed.
- Types of Formal Meetings include, but are not limited to: Ritual of Initiation, Installation of Officers, Dedication Ceremony, Funeral Ceremony, Past Presidents/District Lodge Ceremony, and Outgoing Ceremony

**An Informal Meeting:** shall consist of obtaining the password, the opening prayer, and the closing prayer. All other ceremonies shall be eliminated (i.e.: wearing of jewels, preparation of Altar and Bible, Flags, etc.).

- A chapter meeting where the order of business is followed in an informal setting and where you will usually find your sisters assembled around a dinner like setting. Since there is no dress code at informal meetings, come as you are!

**Use of Gavel:** an action done by the Worthy Maid, to call the meeting to order or to instruct the chapter to do certain things. This is done by banging or rapping the gavel.

- a. One rap: seats entire assembly; maintains order.
- b. Two raps: officers rise
- c. Three raps: ALL RISE

# The Chapter Executive Board

The various offices of a Maids of Athena chapter must be filled by girls who meet the qualifications and are willing to perform the duties specified by the Constitution, Ritual and Manual of Instruction. All of the officers must be ambitious, hard-working, sensitive and loving girls, who are UNITED in their efforts to lead their chapters. You are the public symbol of your chapter so how you represent yourselves is how others will view you.

Being an officer is a privilege and there is a great deal of responsibility involved when you are an officer. You set the tone for chapter participation. If you are dedicated and involved, your members will be too. If you convey an attitude that is unproductive, your members will be unproductive.

There are eight members who make up the chapter officers (complete duties found in Constitution):

**WORTHY MAID-** is known as the Chapter President. She must, at all times, serve as a leader and motivator for the members in her chapter. She must be knowledgeable of rules, regulations and obligations governing the Order. It is her responsibility to see that everything is done properly and efficiently and follow-up with committees and projects. She is the chief organizer of all activities, the builder of morale and inspiration, and liaison officer with all other chapters and individuals. She appoints committee chairs and delegates responsibilities.

**LOYAL MAID-** is known as the Vice President. It is her responsibility to assume the duties of the Worthy Maid when she is unable to fulfill them and assist the President with chapter projects.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY-** is in charge of all incoming and outgoing correspondence. She has the important job of informing all chapter members and advisors of upcoming events and/or meetings. As well, she helps keep the District Lodge and Grand Lodge informed about the chapter activities.

**RECORDING SECRETARY-** is responsible for keeping complete and accurate minutes of each chapter meeting. She records attendance at meetings and collects dues and issues receipts for it.

**TREASURER-** is responsible for any and all money belonging to the chapter, and must keep an accurate record of the chapter's financial status. Along with the Worthy Maid and Chapter Advisor, she signs all checks.

**PHYLAX**- is responsible for all Chapter paraphernalia and for keeping a detailed record of the property.

**DELPHIS**- has the important job of establishing the spiritual atmosphere of the meetings by offering the opening and closing prayers.

**MESSENGER**- escorts visiting dignitaries and generally establishes the proper setting for elections and initiations and any other ritual ceremony.

## **MEMBERSHIP 101**

### THE SISTERHOOD EXPERIENCE

A sister is someone who will be honest with you, help you realize your full potential and be by your side to give you a hug during the good and bad times. Think of the friends who have touched your life through the Maids of Athena. Our fraternal organization affords us the opportunity to establish long-lasting friendships throughout the globe and unite under our Hellenic heritage.

The Maids of Athena builds character and strength, enhances confidence and gives young women the drive to set higher goals and accomplish them. We offer many different scholarships, opportunities to travel throughout the world, meet a variety of people that can develop into great and meaningful friendships, develop skills and create outlets for learning about leadership. There are always tournaments or a convention that you can participate, which allows members to truly see the world. In addition, the Maids of Athena exposes you to a variety of philanthropic events in which you can learn so much about yourself and society. Young women are well prepared for any challenges of life due to the experiences of the Maids of Athena.

### RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

**ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT EXIST WITHOUT THEIR MEMBERS.** Becoming a member is not enough to make someone remain a member. Remember we are part of a **voluntary** organization, which means that you as an officer must work harder to ensure that members are being fulfilled through your events, rewards, and interaction. It is your responsibility to ensure creativity and motivation flows throughout your chapter.

Places to recruit:

1. Dance Groups
2. Festivals
3. High School and Colleges/Universities
4. Greek Night Event
5. Sunday School
6. Maids of Athena or other AHEPA family Social Events

Ask members of your local Daughters of Penelope or AHEPA chapters for names. Chances are you know of potential members but never realized that they were of age and would make a great asset to your chapter.

The longer a member stays in the junior auxiliary, the more likely that member will remain a member for life. If your numbers are decreasing in terms of recruitment, think about how you are *presenting* the information. Is it interesting and fun? Do you focus on the benefits of membership? Do you involve your participants?

There are many choices to choose from when joining an organization. Make sure that you focus on the positive differences that the Maids of Athena can offer compared to other organizations (i.e. focus on Hellenism, scholarships, travel opportunities, mentorship program).

After initiations, welcome your sisters by giving them a small gift that symbolizes the Maids of Athena. For instance you can give neophytes a Pi Alpha pin. With most sororities, each chapter has their own flower. For example, if you want your official flower to be a sterling silver rose, you can give each new sister a sterling silver rose as well with a brief explanation about why that particular flower was chosen. Giving these types of gifts connects new members and when they know what the meaning behind such gifts represent, it more appreciated.

## **HOW TO BUILD A STRONGER BOND WITH YOUR LOCAL AHEPA CHAPTERS:**

- Invite local sponsoring chapter to attend your monthly meetings and/or committee meetings
- Send a detailed report of what activities your chapter has held/going to hold
- Have members of your chapter go to local meetings and ask to give a report during open forum
- Heard a local chapter is holding an event? Reach out and ask in what ways your Maids of Athena chapter can help
- Hold more joint events

The AHEPA Family all share the same mission statement. Therefore, find ways to use the ideals and principles of the AHEPA Family to cultivate a stronger bond with both our senior Orders and the Sons of Pericles. All that the Maids of Athena do is exemplified by our greater AHEPA Family: each Order may be separate, but united in purpose, ideals and mutual respect.

Having a strong relationship between our local AHEPA Family Orders, but especially with your sponsoring Daughters of Penelope Chapter, not only benefits your Maids of Athena chapter, but also all local chapters. The Daughters of Penelope serve as a guiding light to the Maids. It is through their assistance that we achieve our goals. As a united AHEPA Family, we strive to promote a better and more comprehensive understanding of the Hellenic peoples and nation. And to revive, cultivate, enrich and marshal into active service for humanity the noblest attributes and highest ideals of true Hellenism. This stronger bond between local chapters allows us to gain a common bond of harmony and respect with love and cooperation, we have obtained the keys to a priceless treasure.