



“Don’t Throw It Away” Why It’s Important to Preserve DOP District #6 Memories

Dear Sisters of Empire District 6 Chapters,

Today, we seem so far removed from when our foremother’s got together to plan and dream of creating a Woman’s Organization, which would help the immigrant women assimilate into their new country, through education for themselves and their children. Today we can look back on the goals and predictions our predecessors had set for themselves and for the thousands of Daughters of Penelope that were to follow. Did we attain their goals? Did we fulfill their dreams and aspirations? Yes, as we inch closer to the century mark of our worthy order. Our beliefs based on our Order’s tenets have not only been words but deeds of action. Our mothers, grandmothers’ godmothers and aunts are smiling at us. Bravo Pedia.

However, be cautious!!! All our sisters hard work through the years can cease to exist, so preserving the histories of Empire District 6 of New York State for future generations is critical. Not only will doing so allow Daughters of Penelope members a hundred years down the line appreciate how we grew into a renowned organization, but it will allow your children and grandchildren a more in-depth view of our evolution. At the end of the day, the biggest reason why it’s important to preserve your chapter paraphernalia boils down to one simple statement: **Memories Matter!** They remind us that we have a magnificent connection to the **past 93 years** and are all connected, even if only in the littlest ways. Just as your mothers, aunts, grandparents and friends regale you with stories of their time spent as a member of this special organization, you will eventually be able to do the same with future DOP sisters.

Through the many decades, many chapters’ officers and members have created and destroyed records, and misfiled them, or stored them in boxes, desks, and cabinets. They were held for safety by an officer or member. Eventually, the records were forgotten, accumulated and were a nuisance as they become more and more difficult to use and store. Missing or Misplaced are many of our past, official documents, pictures, banners, tablecloths, minutes and numerous memories, that can deteriorate over time if not properly tended to now. They are a very important part of our District memories for our future.

In fact, most chapters are already taking steps to ensure an organized approach to their records, by electing a group of sisters to review all books, minutes, letters, pictures, awards and any important documents and organized in a safe place and have them recorded in the minutes. Every chapter must try to do the same by making it a fun project before the 100 Anniversary.

- Contact senior and retired sisters and their families to see if there might have forgotten chapter paraphernalia in a closet or drawer. Family member might find items after a sister is deceased. How will we preserve our many chapter records for the future generations during this day of new technology? In sharing your chapter’s collections and yearly programs the sisters preserve the precious memories that bridge the past, and has the ability to share them with others in the form of many narratives, pictures and stories.
- Use a camera, computer webcam, or even your cellular phone, to take picture of all so you can preserve your documents and stories for your chapter.
- Maintain files of important historical documents such as a constitution, bylaws, or articles of incorporation, keep files of the minutes of previous meetings.
- Maintain scrapbooks, photo albums, and similar mementos of the group’s activities and interests. Even if these records are not organized or arranged, their mere existence holds promise for the future success of your chapter’s records program.
- Keep the most important organizational records, and day-to-day activities, include pictures, memos and letters, minutes of meetings, newsletters, publicity materials, policy papers, awards and any type of printed record of the activities of the group and its members. In other words your history and memories.
- Preserving the past allows us to hold onto memories and dreams that our foremothers worked so hard to establish. However, what would they think of us that we are not doing the same for our daughters and granddaughters. We carry a torch, making the people before us proud.” However, we have to pass that touch to our future DOP sisters, so they also can be proud of our legacy.

Yours in Theta Pi,

Lainie Christou
District 6 Governor