

## Article IX of the DOLLS Chapter Constitution: "5 Main Conference"

Each officer chosen to serve their campus as a 5 Main MUST commit to attending the annual 5 Main Conference, taking place during the first weekend of August each year. This is a REQUIRED conference for all student leadership. Students that are unable to attend this conference, in its entirety, should NOT apply to serve as a 5 Main. No exceptions to this rule will be made.

DOLLS Headquarters feels strongly about the purposes of this conference. We are not willing to negotiate our officer's mandatory attendance at this conference for the following reasons:

### **Protection**

As rule for doing business, DOLLS Headquarters has adopted Ephesians 4:27 as our motto, which says, "Do not give the devil a foothold." We would be foolish not to recognize that when we release our officers to do ministry on their campuses, the enemy **will** have it out for them. It is of utmost importance that we *prepare the troops for battle*. The primary purpose of Conference is to equip our officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively lead their chapters. Through the training received during this conference, officer teams will leave a fully educated team of leaders, unshakable by the thwarting efforts of our enemy, prepared for any attack. On the contrary, we believe that if we **did not** require the entire team to be in attendance, we will have effectively provided the enemy with an opportune foothold for which to bring down that team's ministry.

### **Credibility**

5 Main Conference is essential for our officers because attending provides them with a level of credibility that they will need in order to win the support of their members. Especially in the case of chapters that have been in existence previously, there is often a hesitation within the membership to rally behind the new leadership put in place. This occurs for various reasons, including the membership's deep commitment to a previous 5 Main team or sometimes a lack of confidence in a less experienced team. Having the ability to start the school year with the qualification of 5 Main Conference behind them gives our officers the credibility they need to take on their leadership positions and earn the trust of their membership.

### **Relationship Building**

In order to be effective in ministry as a team, it is vital that the officers have an opportunity to begin functioning as a unit. 5 Main Conference offers a chance for teams to come together for the first time to discover how they will function as a 5 Main, under the mentorship of D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters staff. In the past, before rigid enforcement of the conference attendance policy was in place, officers who were unable to attend Conference with their teams confessed to feeling "left behind" and "out of the loop" because they had missed important relationship building time that the other teammates were able to enjoy.

### **Consistency**

D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters has established many standards and protocols that it considers part of what makes this ministry uniquely "DOLLS." Likewise, D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters takes great pride in protecting the name and integrity of this organization. For both of these reasons, it is of the essence that all officers associated with this organization have exposure to these standards, expectations, and protocols so that a positive reputation of D.O.L.L.S. is maintained on each campus. When our officers receive an understanding of what is expected of them and they are introduced to girls from other campuses and D.O.L.L.S. HQ leadership who can help keep them accountable to these standards, the character of the ministry is protected.

### **Liability**

One of the advantages of being a recognized Chartered chapter of D.O.L.L.S. is the protection its chapters are offered through the organization's liability insurance. Many school districts have strict rules regarding outside organizations existing as school-recognized clubs. One of these rules often includes the requirement that the organization has its own liability insurance policy. These policies protect the districts, the sponsors, and the students in the incident that an unforeseen accident should occur during a D.O.L.L.S. sponsored event.

D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters views it as an absolute imperative that we are able to extend this level of protection to our chapters. 5 Main Conference serves as a bargaining tool used to promote a favorable relationship with insurance agencies, and establishes that we have made great efforts to educate our chapters to the standards and protocols of this organization. This, in effect, places D.O.L.L.S. in a position that agencies feel comfortable insuring, guaranteeing that such protections are available for our chapters.