

SPOUSAL/LIFE PARTNER (SLP) FORUM

How to launch a Spousal/Life Partner (SLP) Forum in four months

In four short months, your chapter can:

1. Build interest
2. Educate prospective SLP Forum members on Forum commitment
3. Forum train interested and committed SLPs
4. Conduct your first SLP Forum meeting

Build interest

Send a letter or email to EO members and make an announcement at an event to build interest.

Set a response deadline to receive more information.

Identify an SLP to champion the initiative for one year with the member engagement, Forum and membership chairs.

Documents needed:

1. Introduction letter/email to EO members and SLPs
2. SLP Forum benefits flyer
3. FAQs about SLP Forums

Educate prospective SLP Forum members about making a commitment

A. Introduce the Forum cornerstones—confidentiality, vulnerability, Forum Mindset and personal responsibility.

B. Describe Forum Mindset (Gestalt) and confidentiality: Explain WHY we need to share our 5 percent and be vulnerable in Forum. Vulnerability builds trust and leads to personal growth and collective growth of the Forum.

C. Emphasize the importance of personal responsibility and committing to the meeting calendar: Explain that your Forum misses you and your experiences when you don't attend a meeting; it's not just about what you might miss by being absent. Schedule around Forum meetings and events. EO members must also respect this commitment for their SLPs to be successful.

D. It doesn't matter whether SLPs are working outside the home or not currently working. A Forum gains strength by blending both situations. Experiences shared in a Forum are highly valuable; after all, 5 percent is 5 percent, no matter what you do during the day.

Documents needed:

1. Informational meeting agenda/test drive
2. SLP participation policy guide
3. Forum meeting quick reference guide
4. Forum roles

Forum and moderator training

Set a date to train the SLP Forum together before launching. Seven to ten members per Forum is a best practice. Fewer than seven members is not recommended. Make sure the moderator understands best practices before setting a meeting.

The chapter should treat SLP Forums similarly to member Forums regarding Forum health workshop opportunities, moderator and Forum training, moderator calls and quarterly lunches. Keep the SLP Forums up-to-date on best practices. This ensures healthy SLP forums and keeps SLPs' EO members happy.

Conduct the first Forum meeting

Work with the regional or global champion to share best practices and examples compatible with your SLP Forum.

Contact: Forum team at forum@eonetwork.org

Documents needed:

1. Sample monthly 5% Reflections form
2. Sample constitution
3. Identify Forum roles of members