

## **From Helen Wolfe**

**May 17, 2000** Helen Wolfe invites 30 women to her home to present the Idea and Concept for : The Sedona Women “ Dames who make a Difference “ , Joyously embraced by all!

**May 24, 2000** Women at Helen’s home decide to start the organization right away and not wait until September to begin. Each woman present was to invite another woman to attend a preliminary meeting to present idea for the Organization which included the following precepts.

- 1) The Women would meet once per month - 2nd Wed. of the Month 10:00 to 12:00 ( no food ) Topics of Interest to Women and of importance to the Community
- 2) The Women would take One major out of town trip per year and two trips within state. For “ Girl" Fun, comradeship and developing of friendships
- 3) Special once a year program, " Day Just For Me “ Planned all year, that would educated, enrich and uplift women
- 4) The Organization would not fund raise. Monies would come from Membership Dues, member Donations, Profits from trips and events. All events must be self sustaining
- 5) One major Community project, accomplished once a year. Start to Completion 90 days; 30 days to develop concept, 30 days to organize, 30 days to implement
- 6) The Organization would run September- May and go “ Dark “ June- July- August.
- 7) All programs and trips were to be planned/ developed for the following year, by April of each year.

On May 24th ( At a 10:00 am- noon at Dahl and Delucca Restaurant) had 89 ladies in attendance- Approved the concepts above and voted on the name, The Sedona Women “ Dames who make a Difference “ It was agreed that the first meeting of the organization would occur on September 13, 2000- The meeting was organized by Helen Wolfe . Names, addresses of attendees were taken.

## **June, July, and August of 2000**

Helen Wolfe organizes the first four programs for the Organization and the first out of town trip for the month of February 2001, to Tucson Arizona.

Helen mails first Newsletter to all attendees of the May 24th meeting. Informing of upcoming meetings, trip and events. All attendees are invited to bring friends to the first official meeting to be held September 13th. at Dahl and Delucca Restaurant

## **August 29th, 2000**

Helen Wolfe interviews and selects 10 women to serve on The Board of The Sedona Women. All accept and attend a 5 hour organizational meeting at Helen Wolfe’s home on August 29th, 2000. Each member, selects an area they want to participate in to cradle and foster the organization. The group agreed to the head the following committee's: Meetings, Trips, Day Just For Me, Monies, Record Keeping , Public Relations, Development of 501 C3 Non- Profit status, Policies and Procedures and CC&R’s .

## **September 13th, 2000**

First official meeting of The Sedona Women “ Dames who make a Difference “ held at Dahl and Delucca restaurant 10:00a.m. - 12: 00p.m. 153 women in attendance.

Meetings were held at Dahl and Delucca restaurant until March 2001, when the overflow exceeded the of building allowance, of more than 228 persons, Due to Fire Marshall ruling, the group move to the Conference Center of Best Western Hotel off Airport Mesa and 89 A in April of 2000. In the year of 2001 the group moved to the Creative Life Center, which had just been completed.

Dues for the Organization was presented in October of 2000, implemented in November 2000. The membership dues were \$50.00. Attendees of all trips ( due to insurance regulations must be members) The first year, the Organization had a membership of 178, the second year, membership was 249. The third year the organization had over 300 members.

The first " Out of town trip, with 76 members attending , was to Tucson Arizona in February of 2001.

By the sixth year, the Organization had accumulated \$49,000.00 in its bank account. These funds came from membership dues, and the profits from each trip or event. " Contentiously Frugal " was the mantra for the Board. Each trip and event were charged with this philosophy " Each trip or event must cover all costs by members fees ". Each committee charged an additional 20% to each event or trip to ensure monies covered the expenses. The Founding Board, strongly believed, that The Sedona Women, should not be " A fund raising organization " . The monies, garnered from trips and events and Membership, were able to provide enough revenue to insure the Organization would be able to make a difference in the Community.

Each of the Founding Board members, served two terms ( 6 years). New members were first added to the Board, after year four. The Board was not to exceed 15 members. Members were to be added to overlap for those who were leaving as their term expired. Board members, were to " mentor" new Board members for one year. The Board consisted of : 1/3 Members; 5 years or more, 1/3 members; three years or more, and 1/3 less than 2 years. Board Members at the May Board Meeting were asked to " anonymously" write down, "the best person in the group" , to lead the Organization for the next year. This person, was then elected to serve as the New President, to begin in September. During the summer months, the former President worked with the New President to prepare for their tenure.

The first Community Project, Developed, Organized and Implemented in 90 Days was in the year 2002. The Redecorating of three properties used by the community by the Sedona Women, ( all funds to redecorate were achieved by each committee for each project, finding resources to fund each project ) were **1)** The Adult Community Center, **2)** The Boys and Girls Club **3)** The Verde Valley Sanctuary; Living Room, Dining Room and Kitchen. The membership broke up into three groups, each organizing and developing the concept and completion in 90 days. Two Board Members headed each Project.

The President for the first year of the Organization was Helen Wolfe, The President for the second year was Judith Keane, The President for the third year was Pamela Morris, the Presidents for the next three years were all members of the Founding Board.