

## **PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS**

### **THE FIRST MEETING**

Your PWP contact person will attend your first meetings and conduct the Organizational/Orientation sessions. An Orientation Meeting is a requirement for prospective members of Parents Without Partners because it gives prospective members a clear understanding of Parents Without Partners and the reasons for its organization in the community. It also explains the role of the chapters in the international organization.

Prospective members attending the first meetings should complete a Membership Application and pay their appropriate dues. Under the International Bylaws, 10 or more new dues-paid members are required to organize a chapter before a Charter is granted.

All new members should sign the Chapter Petition Form, which will be included in the Organizational Kit you will receive to help you get started. The original and a copy are given to the assisting officer or their representative for transmission to the International Office. A copy is retained by the chapter. (Remember, ALWAYS keep a copy of EVERYTHING!)

Further information concerning Chapter formation is included in PWP's Policy Manual, C/RC.12, Chapter and RC - Chapter – Formation, which you will have access as soon as your Member-At-Large Membership has been processed.

On approval of the petition by the International Board of Directors, a charter will be issued identifying the group as an official chapter of PWP International. The members will be issued International membership cards which recognize their membership in the International organization and permit them to participate in the activities of their chapter as well as visit all chapters in the United States and Canada.

All the above sounds like a lot of work but it is rewarding and fun, too! So send an e-mail and your PWP contact will get your first meeting scheduled - you'll be on your way to having a PWP chapter in your area! Welcome to the PWP family, where new friendships begin!