

SOPHIA

SOCIETY OF PHILOSOPHERS IN AMERICA

The Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of involving the greater public in dialogue with philosophical scholars from a variety of backgrounds. To fulfill its purpose, in 2015 SOPHIA revised its mission to become a chapter organization. Our local chapters foster community building through engaged philosophical conversations. Members value and embody the virtues of civil discourse, inclusivity, and intellectual rigor. The national organization offers a framework for how to build these communities, planning resources, and opportunities to connect with other members and chapters.

Mission statement:

The mission of the Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA) is to use the tools of philosophical inquiry to improve people's lives and enrich the profession of philosophy through conversation and community building.

Join us!

Members can

- Join or build local SOPHIA chapters / communities
- Apply for small chapter seed grants & ad hoc grants
- Publish with SOPHIA's journal, *Civil American*
- Join our radio show & podcast, *Philosophy Bakes Bread*
- Cross promote philosophical activities through SOPHIA
- Collaborate with the *Public Philosophy Journal*
- Access & add to resources for SOPHIA groups and meetings
- Propose SOPHIA panels at professional gatherings
- Collaborate on funding applications
- Participate in institutes, summer programs, & other events
- Be recognized for excellence in public engagement

Membership types:

Student membership – \$10

Regular membership – \$25

Sustaining membership – \$250

How to Join:

Head to PhilosophersInAmerica.com and under “Membership,” Click “JOIN”!



**PHILOSOPHY
Bakes Bread**



CIVIL PHILOSOPHY
FOR
EVERYONE
AMERICAN

How is SOPHIA different?

There are many organizations and conferences that provide opportunities to present formal papers and to have them critiqued. SOPHIA aims to provide spaces for conversational philosophy. Our aim is to build communities of trust and friendship. There are countless book clubs, in which people get together to talk and enjoy themselves. SOPHIA can create similar spaces for people of any ages. We also realize that people are busy and may not be able to read homework prior to events. So, we try to base our conversational meetings around single-sheet documents that people can read on location and discuss, with help of a facilitator, with people literally on the same page. SOPHIA is developing content for such one-sheet documents through our radio show and podcast as well as with our journal. There are many resources available already. We also welcome members' efforts to create useful one-sheet conversational tools to share with other chapters.



SOPHIA meetings can be relaxed or formal, occasional or frequent, so long as they aim genuinely to build communities of civil, friendly philosophical conversation about topics that matter to the public, discussed accessibly and meaningfully in two-way conversations featuring philosophers and friends from other fields or from beyond the academy.



Initial Chapters:

ASU West Campus AZ Chapter
Oxford MS Chapter
Lexington KY Chapter
Milwaukee WI Chapter
Seattle SOPHIA WA Chapter
Shining Network SOPHIA Chapter (New Delhi, India)
South Puget Sound WA Chapter



Sample past events:

- “Should Everyone Go to College?”
- “Food Symposium”
- “Neuroscience and Pragmatism”

2017 Award

In January of 2018, SOPHIA received the APA / PDC’s 2017 Prize for Excellence and Innovation in Philosophy Programs!



To learn more about SOPHIA, check out PhilosophersInAmerica.com