Enthusiasm is Contagious—Pass it On!

Are you enjoying the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer”? I surely hope so! I also hope you’re taking this time to enjoy some special moments with members of your chapter as well as with members of other local chapters in your area. It’s those special moments that help us strengthen the bonds of fellowship we hold so dear in P.E.O. These strong bonds of fellowship give our members the extra encouragement to more actively participate in chapter life.

In my earlier messages, I’ve shared ideas with you about how we can grow our sisterhood by offering the gift of P.E.O. to women who share our values, would be supportive of our philanthropic purpose and would be congenial to our members. What I hope we all realize is that we can also grow our sisterhood by nurturing our current members to let them know how important they are to us and to help them get the most out of their P.E.O. membership. You see, it’s not just about getting new members… it’s also about keeping our existing members engaged. When members are active participants, they feel the passion and have the enthusiasm that makes them want to remain involved in P.E.O.

Being a P.E.O. is so much more than just paying our dues and attending our local chapter meetings. It’s about getting to know each other better and sharing in each other’s lives. P.E.O. is about being there when our sisters need us—showing that loving concern we so willingly offer. It’s about growing as individuals because we accepted responsibilities based on our members’ confidence in our ability. Additionally, it’s about being part of the “bigger picture” by participating in activities within and outside our local chapter and by having a voice in the governance of our organization when serving as a delegate at conventions.

When I visited conventions this past spring, I was so inspired by the delegates and visitors who were in attendance! They were fully engaged! Both delegates and visitors were attentive during the business meetings and they actively participated in the workshops that provided valuable learning experiences for all. Attendees were touched by the special stories shared by the P.E.O. project recipients. Their passion for P.E.O. was very evident!

It was especially heartwarming to watch everyone renew old friendships and develop new ones with members living in another part of their state, province or district. When they said their “goodbyes,” they were essentially saying “until next convention” because that’s become a time they’ll be able to visit with each other again. I was thrilled to see all of this enthusiasm because it’s the actions of individual members and the local chapters that “make it happen” for P.E.O. Have you ever noticed that enthusiasm is contagious? When you’re around someone who is excited about what they’re doing, doesn’t it make you want to join them? If you have a member in your chapter who hasn’t been actively participating lately, why not share your enthusiasm and passion with her? It may be the little ‘nudge’ she needs to regain her own enthusiasm for P.E.O. Think about it... could Active Enthusiasm be your “Power of 1”?

Maria T. Baseggio,
President, International Chapter

Please join me in extending our deepest appreciation to Kathleen (Kathi) Wysong, Chapter CR, Texas, for her seven years of service on the Cottey College Board of Trustees from June 1, 2007 through June 1, 2014. We welcome Grace Chalker, Past President, Ohio State Chapter, who has accepted the appointment to the Cottey College Board of Trustees for a seven-year term commencing June 1, 2014 and ending June 1, 2021.