EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

A Look at P.E.O.'s First Project:
Over 100 Years of Supporting Women's Education
### OFFICERS OF International Chapter

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sue Baker</td>
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<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>Brenda J. Atchison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>Patricia L. Brolin-Ribi</td>
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<td>Organizer</td>
<td>Cathy Moss</td>
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<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Alix Smith</td>
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<td>Jackie Matt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Finance/Treasurer</td>
<td>Kathy A. Soppe</td>
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<td>Director of Communications/Historian</td>
<td>Kate Westercamp</td>
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The administrative staff has offices at the P.E.O. Executive Office.

**Cottey College**
President, Jann Rudd Weitzel, Ph.D., 1000 West Austin Blvd., Nevada, MO 64772

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Layout and design of The P.E.O. Record by Allison Vial.
Gratitude is a Mindset, A WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD

Gratitude initiates an upward spiral of positive emotions. There is a place for GRATITUDE in our P.E.O. world that will make others want to be with us; grateful women are nice to be around. It has been said that a grateful heart is a magnet for miracles. I am deeply grateful to have been invited into a community of women who care so deeply for me and my family. There is nothing quite like P.E.O. where we live out the virtues of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth every day. I have long felt that if the whole world lived by these same five virtues, all problems would be solved. If we tried to truly understand each other we could live in harmony, ultimate happiness and peace.

While searching for gratitude inspiration, I was led to an essay by Michael Perry and have included excerpts here, from his book “Roughneck Grace.” It makes me think of P.E.O. with Gratitude and Grace.

Gratitude.
Such a lovely word. Humble and warm.
Humble, because it’s not a word you use if you think you did everything yourself.
Warm, because gratitude is not compatible with a cold soul, but radiates like the gentle rays of a heart-sized sun.
Gratitude goes softly out and does good works — which generate more gratitude. Gratitude is renewable energy.
Gratitude, because to offer anything less would be to ignore all privilege. The privilege of existence. The privilege of health. The privilege of privilege. And now we are back at humility — or ought to be.
Gratitude, even in grumpiness. Which is to say I am not talking all hosannas, hugs, and puppies here, I am talking about perspective and preponderance and relativity and a sideways glance into the cosmic mirror, where behind me I spy millions of souls who would give all they own for just one of my disappointing Tuesdays. Gratitude as my moral duty.
Gratitude, because it’s so easy. A note. A word. You don’t even have to talk. Gratitude can be soundless. You can speak it with your eyes. Share it with a smile. Weave it into your works. You can kneel down and offer it up.
Gratitude, with our loved ones in mind. The ones who suffer our ingratitude with grace, and that grace yet another reason for gratitude. Grace: cousin and catalyst to gratitude.
Gratitude, no matter the season.
Gratitude.

Now let’s talk about technology—are we grateful for it? I know enough to get by—with the help from my sons-in-law (sometimes receiving desperate pleas), excellent staff (communications team) and board sisters. I have found that avoiding technology is not a realistic option. The lives of most individuals are inextricably intertwined with technology; however, we must learn to manage the techno-stress. Sometimes, we need to limit the distraction of dings, pings and tonal rings so that we can focus on the project at hand. It is impossible to get anything productive done if all we do is respond to what is being tossed our way.

One goal we have as a board this biennium is to become more “visionary” and less “reactive.” We listen and consider suggestions to improve. We do have the advantage of a wider perspective than many of our local chapter members, but feel it is our duty to help others gain understanding of that perspective, too.

To educate and give members an opportunity to hear directly from the executive board, we will soon be launching a series of podcasts on topics of expressed interest. This is way out of my comfort zone, but I am studying and preparing so that we can successfully engage in this endeavor in the very near future!

While we must continue to be innovative in our ways to create connections, we must never veer far from the human power of love. It is ever important to reach beyond ourselves, as women who believe in giving more than receiving. In gratitude, we must be reminded that each day is another day granted, but not guaranteed. Live well.

With gratitude and grace...
LEAD Forward

Sue Baker
President, International Chapter
May–June

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Submission of material to The P.E.O. Record is your consent to our right to edit and publish it, either all or in part, in any P.E.O. print or digital communication medium. The content matter may or may not reflect the opinions of the Sisterhood. Complete submission guidelines appear on the “Members Only” section of P.E.O.’s official website, peointernational.org. The P.E.O. Record welcomes members’ submissions to the address on the inside front cover.
P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) is passionate about its mission—Promoting educational opportunities for women.

Our Sisterhood proudly makes a difference in women’s lives with six philanthropies that include Cottey College, an independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women, and five programs that provide higher educational assistance: P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, P.E.O. Scholar Awards and P.E.O. STAR Scholarship. P.E.O. is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa.

P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund
Educational Loan Fund (ELF) is a revolving loan fund established in 1907 to lend money to qualified women students to assist them in securing a higher education.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship
P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) Fund was established in 1949 to provide scholarships for international women students to pursue graduate study in the United States and Canada.

P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education
P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) was established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the United States and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families.

P.E.O. Scholar Awards
P.E.O. Scholar Awards (PSA) was established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women of the United States and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral level degree at an accredited college or university.

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship
The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship was established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional high school senior women to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the United States or Canada in the next academic year.

Cottey College
Cottey College is an independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women. Located in Nevada, Missouri, it has been owned and supported by the P.E.O. Sisterhood since 1927.

Individual donors may make tax-deductible gifts to the above mentioned projects or through the P.E.O. Foundation. Checks should be made payable to the project or the P.E.O. Foundation and sent directly to the P.E.O. Executive Office. Donations may also be made online through the website peointernational.org. Look for the “Giving Opportunities” link on the home page.

All P.E.O. chapters are classified by the United States Internal Revenue Service as exempt from Federal income tax, but they are not Section 501(c)(3) charities. Consequently, contributions to P.E.O. chapters are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cottey College; and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

For more information visit the website www.peointernational.org. A reprint of this page is available on the members’ website under P.E.O. Projects.
Finding My New P.E.O. Home

When I moved from Austin, Texas, to Sedona, Arizona, I knew I wanted to find a new P.E.O. home because Chapter HR in Austin was so dear to me and I had learned to love those sisters.

As soon as the boxes were unpacked, I went online to find contact information for Sedona chapters. The president of the first chapter I contacted responded immediately. She told me that Chapter DO members were gathering for lunch and I was welcome, so I went. I loved that my first contact with Chapter DO was not in a regular meeting but in a social gathering so that we could get to know each other in an informal setting. They invited me to the next meeting, and I went.

Thoughtfully, they stationed at the door to greet me a sister who had recently moved to Sedona from San Antonio, Texas—not Austin, but close. Like me, her husband had spent his career in education, and we had many mutual friends. Of course, by this time, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to join Chapter DO.

Before the next meeting, a sister called to ask if she could pick me up. I was grateful because I was still unfamiliar with the area. At that meeting, one of my new sisters walked up to me with a notebook in her hand. “Will you be our new PCE chair? I’ve really enjoyed doing it, but it’s time for someone else.” Frankly, I was a bit intimidated. I had never done PCE, and I didn’t know anyone in the area who might be a candidate. I had been there for only four months! But I said yes.

At the next meeting, another new sister handed me a slip of paper with a name and phone number. “This young woman works at Kachina Point (a rehab facility), and she wants to go back to school. Maybe you could call her about PCE.” That young woman became the first candidate I shepherded through the PCE application process, and she was funded. So then I had the elation of success.

This young woman was the first of several that this sister recommended to me through her handwritten notes with names and phone numbers. As I look back on the experience now, I realize that she was encouraging and involving me in a very thoughtful, subtle, meaningful way.

Then the day came—a Sunday afternoon. I was walking my dogs through my neighborhood. I was thinking, “I don’t have any friends here,” and feeling sad. At that moment, from behind me, I heard someone call my name. You guessed it—a sister from my new Chapter DO who was riding her bike through my neighborhood.

That’s the miracle of sisterhood. We are never alone. All we have to do is reach out.

— Nancy Oelklaus, DO, Sedona, Arizona

Unaffiliates...An Untapped Membership Resource

How often have you heard, or asked, the question, “Where can we find new members?” This has long been a question Wisconsin chapters have asked the state’s executive board, membership committee and each other. One of the answers has always been the unaffiliate list. Wisconsin alone has more than 1,300 unaffiliates on its list. Can you imagine how many unaffiliates there are nationwide?

For many years, the Wisconsin Membership Committee has been distributing the unaffiliate list to its chapters three times a year, but as a state we wanted to do more. Through the diligent work of the state membership committee, executive board and webmaster, the unaffiliate list is now available on our state website for easy access at any time.

Even with this list, some chapters are reluctant to contact an unaffiliate if no one in the chapter knows the member. But aren’t we all sisters? Recently Chapter AD-BG in Superior took the initiative and reached out to an unaffiliate they found on the list posted on the state website and shared their experience. A member from the chapter contacted the unaffiliate, invited her to meetings, socials and a reciprocity event. In the words of Deb Krieg, Chapter AD-BG, “She liked us and we adored her!” The unaffiliate is now the newest member of Chapter AD-BG and they are “full of daisy joy!” The chapter was thrilled to have the unaffiliate list as a resource. This is P.E.O. as it is meant to be.

Next time your chapter wonders where to find new members, look no further than the unaffiliate list!

— Chris Totzke, CU, Pewaukee, Wisconsin
The Educational Loan Fund (ELF), P.E.O.’s first project, was established in 1907, nearly 20 years after the first mention was made of finding a unified project suitable for support by all P.E.O.s. Ideas for such a project were discussed at many Grand Chapter Conventions between 1885 and 1907 and included endowing a chair at a college or university, building a music hall at Iowa Wesleyan University or opening an industrial school for delinquent children. All were significant educational endeavors, but none captured the full enthusiasm and attention of the Sisterhood. It wasn’t until 1907 when, with a fund created from a surplus from P.E.O. Day at the World’s Fair in Saint Louis three years before, the idea for a fund for educational scholarships was proposed and adopted.

As the information on the next few pages illustrates, ELF has changed and grown significantly over the years. Established as a memorial to our Founders, P.E.O.’s first philanthropy is truly a legacy to the memory of the seven pioneering women who started our Sisterhood and represents over a century of women helping women reach for the stars.
1904
“P.E.O. Day” was held on June 18 at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis “to make P.E.O. better known to the world.” The Sisterhood assembled in the Missouri Building. Funds were solicited by event chairman, Olga Iddiols, Chapter O, Missouri, from all chapters to help defray the expenses of the event.

1905
“P.E.O. Day” organizers presented $658.88, their balance after expenses, to Supreme Grand Chapter at the 1905 convention. Supreme Chapter added $146.87 to bring the fund balance to $800.

1906
1907
1908
Edna Pickering received the first loan of $300.

1909
The first board of trustees was appointed. Interest on loans was set at 4%.

1910
1911
ELF trustees printed the first informational pamphlet to provide consistent and complete information about the fund to all chapters.

1912
1923
It became policy that every applicant for a loan shall be recommended by a chapter, in addition to the investigation of the board of trustees.

1924
Trustees were forced to discontinue loans for a period of time due to lack of funds.

1925
1926
1927
72% of loan applicants were pursuing careers in education.

1928
1929
The fund totaled $111,800. The Educational Fund Endowment was established with $2,300.

1930
1931
1932
The bank holding the fund closed its doors, but repayments received were sufficient to cover the promised loans to girls. Delinquent loans became a problem and chapters were asked to contact their recipients “to send whatever she can—even one dollar helps another girl.”

1933
1934
Still concerned that the small bank being used could not secure the fund, money was placed in amounts of $5,000 in several banks insured by Federal Deposit Insurance. Money was transferred back, as needed to the small bank in Iowa out of which the loans checks were drawn.

1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
Loan activity reached an all-time low and trustees began publicizing the availability of the fund to local chapters, high schools, colleges and universities and professional organizations. The efforts resulted in a 40% increase in loans approved between 1945–47.

The war years were having an marked impact on the fund. The P.E.O. Record published the Policies Governing Loans for the first time.

ELF Milestones
A Century of Growth
1951–52
Number of loans approved increased by four times. Women were returning to school confident of finding employment in the post-war economy.

1957
ELF is 50 years old and the prosperity of the 1950s continued to stimulate loan fund usage.

1962
On September 7, ELF was granted tax exempt status under the IRS code 501-c-3 making all contributions to the fund tax deductible.

1963
The Educational Loan Fund exceeded the $1,000,000 mark. The interest rate was raised to 4%.

1982
Interest was raised to 6%. Loans were now made only to students in their last two years of study.

1984
Chapters could no longer serve as co-signers for loans.

1987
Applicants under 21 were no longer required to submit parental consent forms. Husbands can no longer serve as loan co-signers. The interest rate was lowered to 4%.

2004
The interest rate was lowered to 2%.

2005–07
• All loan records which had been kept manually were transferred to the computer.
• Implemented the use of the applicant’s credit score to determine eligibility for a loan.
• Personal references were no longer required to be submitted with the loan application.
• By September 2006, the ELF fund was nearly 100% utilized.

2007–09
• The credit card was an option for loan recipients and cosigners to make loan payments.
• Eliminated accrual of interest on loans until after the stated graduation date.
• Implemented use of a collection agency.
• Only one cosigner at each address allowed.

2007
ELF celebrates 100 years

Evolution of the ELF Logo

![Image of ELF logo evolution from 1951 to 2007]
ELF’s Past Meets Present

In 1907 P.E.O. Lillian Pollock Parmele proposed that P.E.O. fund educational scholarships for young women; her idea caught on and later became the Educational Loan Fund. Lillian served as chairman of the first Board of Trustees of the P.E.O. Educational Fund (as it was first known).

The passion for P.E.O. in Lillian’s family is strong to this day. At Convention of International Chapter in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2017, the ELF booth featured a standee of a dress worn by Lillian, along with the story of her legacy. It was a special moment then when Ann Bailie, BR, Davidson, North Carolina, and Sara Zeller, CO, Asheboro, North Carolina, Lillian’s great and great-great granddaughters stopped by to pose for a photo. Ann and Sara were generously volunteering their time at Convention and were excited to see Lillian recognized for her contributions to P.E.O.’s first project.
Celebrate P.E.O.’s 150th Anniversary with a Contribution to the P.E.O. 150 Fund!

$150 in honor of 150 years!

With a goal of 100% local chapter participation, each chapter is encouraged to donate $150.

Individual donations are also encouraged—make a donation to the fund in honor or in memory of a special P.E.O. in your life.

The majority of these funds will be used to supplement the International Chapter philanthropic projects.

More information, including how to donate, is available at www.peo150.org.

Commemorative 150 Celebration Jewelry Now Available!

During P.E.O.’s 100th anniversary in 1969, a charm was created and sold. The Sisterhood is pleased to continue this tradition with the new sesquicentennial celebration jewelry.

Now available for purchase, these pieces make a great gift for a special sister or an attractive addition to your own jewelry collection as one of many ways to celebrate our Sisterhood’s significant milestone.

These limited-edition sesquicentennial celebration pieces are available exclusively from Herff Jones, the official jeweler of P.E.O. Visit www.peo150.org for more details, including how to order.

5 Easy Steps to Order “We Who Are Sisters”

1. Visit www.peointernational.org/150 or www.peo150.org and click through to purchase the book from our publisher.

2. Add the number of books you want to preorder to your cart. Note: The cost of shipping is added to the cart immediately. Each book is $32 until July 31 plus the cost of shipping. Tax, if applicable, is added at the end.

3. When you click “Proceed to Checkout,” you will be prompted to create a new account — this is NOT the same as what you use to log in to the P.E.O. International website.

4. Enter your contact information to complete your account creation.

5. Enter your credit card information and place your order. You should receive an email confirmation of your order.

PLEASE NOTE:

Books are 20% off until July 31, 2018 and quantities are limited! Place your preorder today.

Consider having one person place an order for others in the chapter to save on shipping costs and to help those who might not be comfortable shopping online. You can order up to 20 books at once.

Books will begin shipping January 2019.
Angela Sadler Williamson’s Movie Presents an Intimate Portrait of the Civil Rights Hero

by Mary Jo Fowler, QU, Ontario, California

Visit any public school classroom in the United States and you are likely to see books and posters extolling the life and wisdom of Rosa Parks. Born in 1913, Rosa Parks became famous in the 1950s as a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement when she refused to obey the Alabama law which dictated that she give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She was arrested for her action. This act of courage inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to organize the Alabama Bus Boycott, which propelled the movement toward the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is fair to say that all other 20th-century struggles for equality stemmed from this singular act by Rosa Parks.

When Rosa died in 2005, her casket lay in honor in the U. S. Capitol for two days so that members of the public could pass by and pay their respects. She was the first and only female private citizen ever honored in this manner. In Statuary Hall, her stone likeness joins that of great American political and military leaders from our entire history.

In her eulogy to Mrs. Parks, then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed her belief that without Rosa Parks, she would never have achieved that high office, and President Barack Obama opined that “When the history of this country is written, it is this small, quiet woman whose name will be remembered long after the names of senators and presidents have been forgotten.”

“My Life with Rosie”

This is where our P.E.O. sister, Angela Sadler Williamson, QU, Ontario, California, contributes to the history of the great lady. Angela is a cousin, by marriage, to Rosa Parks. Rosa attended Angela’s wedding to Geoff Williamson on May 2, 1998. Angela got to know Rosa personally and became a part of her family.

Making the documentary “My Life with Rosie” was a two-year labor of love for Angela. The 64-minute film tells Rosa’s story and the struggles she and her family faced in the South; in 1957 they had to flee Alabama because of relentless death threats. The family moved north to Detroit where they faced similar challenges. Through it all, Rosa maintained her mantra: “Each person must live their life as a model for others.”

“My Life with Rosie” features academic and historical reflections about Rosa’s life by researcher and author Dr. Jeanne Theoharis. In addition, Rosa’s cousin, caretaker and confidant Carolyn Williamson Green shares many personal stories and anecdotes about Rosa in the film.

“My Life with Rosie” won the grand prize in the documentary category at the 2017 Culver City Film Festival. Angela plans to enter the film in other festivals in the future.

Angela Sadler Williamson

Angela has been a valued member of Chapter QU since 2014. She researched and led the projects committee to give financial help to two deserving women through the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education. It was Angela who encouraged us to find worthy recipients, and we are now active in our pursuit for other women—she is our inspiration!

Angela obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees in mass communications from California State University, Fullerton, California. She is a former producer and copywriter for the Orange County NewsChannel, Fox 11 Television, Fox Sports West and Prime Ticket. A multiple Telly awards recipient, Angela also has a doctorate in human services with a specialization in management of nonprofit agencies from Capella University in Minnesota.

“My Life with Rosie” is gaining more widespread attention and there is no doubt that showcasing this labor of love will continue to be a memorable experience for Angela and her family. Chapter QU is so proud of our sister!
On February 2, 2018, at the Rosa Parks Federal Building in San Bernardino, California, Angela and her husband, Geoff (pictured) and members of Chapter QU attended the unveiling of the statue of Parks, which is now on display in the building.

Pictured above: Four generations of Rosa Parks’ family in front of the bus on which Rosa was arrested. The bus is on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Pictured to the right: Carolyn Williamson Green (left) strives to preserve Rosa Parks’ public service legacy and continues working toward Rosa’s mission.

My Life with Rosie:

An exploration of Carolyn Williamson Green’s quest to preserve the public service legacy of Rosa Parks
Let’s take a look back to 1893—125 years ago—when the P.E.O. Sisterhood was only 24 years old. How was P.E.O. growing and changing? What was happening in the lives of the five living Founders?

Significant Changes
Understanding the need to be a legal entity, P.E.O. filed incorporation papers under the laws of Iowa on February 21, 1893.

As reported in The P.E.O. Record’s October 1893 issue, there were two state chapters within Supreme Grand Chapter—Nebraska, with 11 local chapters, and Iowa, with 40 local chapters. There were also six local chapters in Missouri, three in Kansas, three in California, two in Indiana, and one each in Illinois, Michigan and Arkansas.

At the 1893 Convention of Supreme Grand Chapter in Waterloo, Iowa, the governance structure we use today was adopted. This three-part Constitution of the P.E.O. Sisterhood that defined the local chapter, state/provincial/district chapter and International Chapter, stands the test of time. Many influential sisters contributed to the building of this structure that included flexibility for continued change. With studied solutions to best meet current and future opportunities, P.E.O.’s coming of age was not without challenges yet 125 years ago our organization established the governance framework that’s still viable and strong today.

Growth & Expansion
Planning for P.E.O.’s space at the Chicago World’s Fair was discussed in several issues of the four-year-old P.E.O. Record. Ultimately, after setbacks and changes, P.E.O.’s space in the Women’s Building opened in June. Subsequent monthly issues of The Record listed members who signed the Women’s Building registry. According to the October 1893 Record, “The World’s Fair space and exhibit has made us known to people of the world who never knew us. Over one-third of our entire membership has registered.” (This registry book is now archived in the Centennial Center, Des Moines.)

An increasing community of friends and relatives from Mount Pleasant and Iowa Wesleyan were settling in Fairhaven, Washington—later to be consolidated into the city of Bellingham. By 1904, Chapter F, Bellingham organized with three of the seven charter initiates having direct Mount Pleasant ties—most notably, May D. Crane, daughter-in-law of Hervey N. Crane, the jeweler who provided the first P.E.O. emblems in 1869. Chapter F is credited with the expansion of P.E.O. into British Columbia, Canada in 1911.
The Living Founders

Alice Bird Babb
(age 43) continued to reside in Mount Pleasant with her husband W.I. Babb and family: son Max, a sophomore at Iowa Wesleyan University; son Miles, high school senior; and 6-year-old daughter Alice, whom she called Alice Junior. The Babb family’s other daughter Clarabelle died from diphtheria in 1890. Alice was deeply committed to P.E.O. responsibilities; she served on the Supreme Grand Chapter revision committee for the Constitution. She was offered the courtesy nomination to be president of Supreme Grand Chapter again but declined. In her own chapter, A, she often served as substitute hostess or pro tem officer; she also served as a supporting adviser to the officially-chartered Iowa Wesleyan University Chapter AJ (later Chapter S).

Mary Allen Stafford
(age 45) lived in Mount Pleasant with her husband Rev. Dr. Charles Stafford, who was president of Iowa Wesleyan University. Their son Clarence was a Wesleyan collegian; 12-year-old son Ralph was a student in Wesleyan’s preparatory academy. They also had a 4-year-old son, Reuben. The Staffords’ daughter Eva May died 10 years prior at age 4. Mary or Mame (as she was informally called) was not mentioned in Chapter A minutes in 1893 so it seems she was not actively involved in the Sisterhood at that time.

Ella Stewart
(age 45) returned to Mount Pleasant two years earlier to care for her ailing mother and was listed as a teacher in the 1893 city directory. With chapter officer elections every six months, Ella served as both president and chaplain of Chapter A in 1893. Ella was in chronic, declining poor health and passed away the following year.

Franc Roads Elliott
(age 41) lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, with her husband Simon. There Simon was a merchant; their china/queensware store suffered financial difficulties in the Panic of 1892–93, so Franc, who had been teaching in the art department at the University of Nebraska, took the position of art supervisor in Freeport, Illinois, public schools. Son Charles was 20 and daughter Stella was 16. Chapter K was organized in Lincoln in 1893, but Franc was not available to participate.

Suela Pearson Penfield
(age 42) and her family were living in Cleveland, Ohio. Their household included her mother, Eleanor, who had joined them permanently when widowed in 1886; daughter Marie Rose, age 18 and 16-year-old son Frank. In the early 1890s Suela and Frank Penfield’s marriage was troubled; it would later end in divorce. Suela did not participate in organizational P.E.O.

See page 9 in this issue of The Record to learn how you can participate in the Sisterhood’s Sesquicentennial Celebration!
Organized April 30, 2011, Chapter CR, Wake Forest, North Carolina, took the words “consider thoughtfully the full import of P.E.O.” to heart right away. Referring to themselves as “Chapter Radiant,” the sisters of Chapter CR committed themselves to membership growth and project support through their fundraising efforts and the sponsorship of project recipients. Since its organization, Chapter CR has increased its membership from 15 to 28 sisters, has contributed to all P.E.O. projects and nominated STAR Scholarship candidates annually and has sponsored several ELF and PCE recipients.

One of Chapter CR’s more ambitious goals was to become a “Partner in Peace” chapter through its donations to the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) and/or a Laureate Chapter through its donations to the P.E.O. Scholar Award (PSA) program, each of which requires a minimum chapter donation of $500 per year. In order to accomplish this, Chapter CR donates to both projects annually but makes the larger $500 donation to only one of these projects in alternating years.

In 2015, Chapter CR learned it had been assigned its first Partner in Peace student, Huong “Genie” Nguyen from Vietnam, who was an MBA candidate at the R.A. Mason School of Business Administration, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. Upon completion of her MBA program, Genie’s goal was to return to Vietnam to develop programs for unskilled women moving from rural to urban areas in Vietnam to help them build confidence and self-esteem so that they can secure educational or training opportunities which will improve the quality of their lives.

Chapter CR immediately began discussing how they might support Genie. One of the chapter’s sisters, Nancy Loncto, is the retired Associate Director of the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) at Cornell University which was founded in 1950 to “promote the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about countries, cultures and languages of the region.” Nancy’s professional involvement with the SEAP program at Cornell provided her with an “acute awareness of how difficult it is to find funding as a foreign student in order to matriculate at a U.S. institution.” Learning about P.E.O.’s educational opportunities for women, including international women, is what drew Nancy to P.E.O. In fact, Nancy has led Chapter CR’s efforts to “radiate all light possible” in their support for Genie.

Connecting with Genie
The chapter’s first initiative to connect with Genie was to collect small gifts and inspirational notes for her from the chapter’s sisters as a way to express their loving concern and support. Nancy wrapped each item and mailed them to Genie with instructions to open one gift each day up until Thanksgiving so she would know that Chapter CR sisters were thinking of her. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, Nancy and her BIL Steve stopped to meet Genie for lunch in Williamsburg, Virginia, on their way home from visiting family in Maryland. At the chapter’s holiday luncheon that December, Nancy shared details of her lunch meeting with Genie. With much enthusiasm, it was suggested the chapter consider bringing Genie to Raleigh for a visit so the entire chapter would have an opportunity to meet her.
As Chapter CR sisters planned for Genie to visit in the spring, they identified three distinct goals as the major components of Genie’s visit:

- Provide an opportunity for Chapter CR to experience the rewards of sponsoring an IPS Partner in Peace recipient.
- Provide Genie with an opportunity to meet with Raleigh area agency and community representatives in the non-profit sector in order to learn more about the specifics of programs providing services to underprivileged, undereducated and vulnerable women.
- Provide Genie with an opportunity to experience the cultural side of the city of Raleigh through its restaurants, museums, gardens and historic areas.

**Genie’s Visit to Raleigh**

On a Sunday afternoon in March, Genie took a train to Raleigh. Nancy and Steve took her out for dinner at one of Raleigh’s premier barbecue restaurants as her first exposure to Raleigh’s southern cuisine and hospitality. During her visit, Genie stayed in the homes of Chapter CR sisters and was accompanied by chapter members to all appointments, cultural events and hospitality dinners.

Chapter CR coordinated “hospitality dinners” for Genie’s week-long visit. Duties were split so one sister provided her home for the dinner while meals were provided by other chapter sisters. Chapter CR members were encouraged to attend any of the dinners over the four nights, providing ample opportunity for all sisters to meet Genie and enjoy a personal connection with her.

In order to provide Genie with an opportunity to learn about the inner workings, business operations and cultural context of non-profit agencies in the U.S., interviews were scheduled each day with executives and representatives from various Raleigh area non-profit agencies.

Genie’s was struck by the compassion shared by all the agencies for the clients they serve and said, “I hope that one day, with my education, I can make (an) impact and pay it forward to people in need.”

In addition, Genie had the opportunity to view exhibits at the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, and the Museum of Life and Science, Durham, as part of her cultural immersion. Between morning and afternoon interviews, Genie was treated to lunch daily at area restaurants representing southern cuisine and farm-to-table dining.

After her visit to Raleigh, Genie reflected, “I am thankful for the hospitality of Chapter CR for their caring and interest about my life, my family, my life in the U.S., my studies, my searching for an internship. The trip to Raleigh gave me a personal touch and understand more what P.E.O. wants to do. I could feel the support and empowerment from all the P.E.O. sisters that I met during the trip.”

For the sisters of Chapter CR, the privilege of hosting Genie as their first Partner in Peace recipient was its own very special reward.

**A Lasting Connection**

Chapter CR sisters continue to keep in touch with Genie. She wrote them from Vietnam recently with an update on what she’d been working on since her graduation from William and Mary. After graduation, Genie was able to gain some practical working experience in the U.S. before returning to Vietnam. Genie wrote, “I joined the team at East-West Center, a non-profit organization that promotes better relations and understanding among United States and Asia Pacific region. I helped to design and facilitate training in some of the leadership and also business skills. The experience gave me the opportunity to practice my leadership skill as well as sharing the knowledge I learnt and experience from my past work and training.

“Upon finishing this assignment, I joined to work in the human resource team at Room to Read, a non-profit organization that supports girl’s education and literacy. I assisted the team in reviewing the training guides and some recruitment tasks. It was only a short-term project but provided me an overall understanding about human resources…and working for an organization with a mission to empower girls education really aligns with my interest.

“I’m having conversation with some organizations to explore the next career opportunities. With the education and experience gained in the U.S., I am confident that I will find the right opportunity to continue build my career. And I am always grateful for the support from P.E.O and especially the connection that I have with…everyone at Chapter CR.”

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2. Chapter CR’s “Hospitality Dinner” for visiting IPS Partner in Peace Genie Nguyen at the home of Elizabeth Smith. *Seated left to right are:* Pam Aukland, Genie Nguyen, Jackie Revill, Dee Mason, Elizabeth Smith, Deb Sinay.
3. Nancy Loncto and her BIL Steve with Chapter CR’s IPS Partner in Peace, Genie Nguyen.
4. Quilt made as a gift for Genie by Chapter CR sister Janice Thurston. *From the left:* Debbie Kotecki, Pam Aukland, Genie Nguyen, Janice Thurston, Deb Sinay.
P.E.O. Madeleine Sabo Overcomes Blindness to Pursue Artistic Passions

by Janie Smith, White Oaks, New Mexico
Madeleine Sabo, AR, Ruidoso, New Mexico, is a prize-winning artist who has had her work published in numerous magazines. Winning awards and being published, however, is not what distinguishes Madeleine. In 2008 she contracted a bacterial infection, MRSA, which is resistant to antibiotics. Weak and disoriented she was admitted to the hospital. Stymied at Madeleine’s condition, the medical staff saved her life, but the blood staph infection caused her retinas to detach. Madeleine went into the hospital with sight and came out of it nearly totally blind.

In Tennyson’s poem Ulysses, Ulysses says of himself

“Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”

Thus it came to pass that Madeleine again became an active artist. She could not paint her former detailed portraits in acrylics but her spatial sense enabled her to make colorful landscapes. She started working in clay with a stunning result being her colorful and intricate leaf bowls. That a person with only very slight vision in one eye could create such a work of art is a testament not only to Madeleine’s skill as an artist, but to her inner drive to overcome the challenge of her blindness.

Madeleine also began to work on the lathe again. One of her latest wood vases won Best in Professional Category at the Woman’s Club Regional Convention in Ruidoso, New Mexico; that vase later sold for a substantial amount at the Christmas Jubilee Show at Ruidoso’s Convention Center.

Madeleine has been inspired by the spirit of P.E.O. and the support of her sisters has encouraged her to strive for excellence not only in art, but also in life. To this end, she refuses to be idle. This year she has walked 190 miles. She has a computer which has a Windows Eyes program operated by keystrokes. When the keystrokes open an attachment, the computer gives an audio translation. Madeleine admits that memorizing those keystrokes is a pain, but with her usual determination she has mastered them. It appears that there are no challenges that are too daunting. Madeleine has not only overcome the challenge of her blindness, but she has conquered it.
Carole Splater would like a nickel—no, she’d rather have a yard of fabric—every time someone claims that “people don’t sew anymore.” For the past 17 years, Carole has been ripping apart that myth by giving thousands of yards of fabric to people who not only sew, but also generously donate their handwork to thousands of people in need.

“I’m addicted to fabrics,” laughs Carole, past president and 39-year charter member of Chapter LB, Ballwin, Missouri. “I’ve got stashes of fabric five feet high in my basement. There’s a 12-step program for people like me, but I’m not interested.”

Neither are the core volunteers who drive to Carole’s house every Thursday to work a four-hour shift in her basement: sorting, folding, packing and labeling. At day’s end, between 40 and 50 bags are filled with fabric and prepared for Friday pick up (or delivery by a volunteer driver). Recipients know that the fabric is a gift from Charity Sharity, the ministry that Carole founded when she and her fabric-loving friends decided to share their surplus fabrics with charities in the Saint Louis area.

“We don’t collect scraps,” explained charter volunteer Sandy Butler, who is the current president of Chapter LB. “We need good, clean fabric that’s at least a yard in length.” Sandy, who’s been sewing since she made her first doll clothes at age seven, met Carole when they were freshman at Missouri Southeast State College in Cape Girardeau. “Carole and I worked in every theater production until we graduated. She designed the costumes and I sewed them. A few years ago Carole introduced me to P.E.O. Now we’re sisters.”

Charities Benefit from Carole’s Fabric Ministry

In 2001, Charity Sharity gave fabric to 35 local charities. Three years later, after the women were featured in an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the public donated an avalanche of fabric. Today, about 200 groups—schools, prisons, churches, scout troops, hospitals, nursing homes, sewing guilds, retirement homes, military organizations, foster care centers and others—are the grateful recipients of the fabric, or the items made from the fabric.

DenimQuilts, a fellowship of Saint Louis quilters, has custom-made and donated 1,250 quilts to children whose lives hold unimaginable challenges. Founder Sally Saffranski, ID, Webster Groves, Missouri, says, “I’d estimate that 70 percent of our quilts have some fabric from Charity Sharity. That’s between 3,000 and 3,500 yards of flannel, denim and twill, as well as hundreds of pairs of jeans donated as a result of Carole’s public speaking.”

In her job as the full-time volunteer coordinator for Epworth Children and Family Services, a private charity that served 15,000 people last year, Margaret Mahan, LU, Manchester, Missouri, has observed the indignities of homeless persons. “We have residential care on our campus. Some children arrive with all their possessions in a black plastic trash bag. They think their possessions are trash and they feel like trash. I know Carole through church and P.E.O., and one day asked her if Charity Sharity could provide some nice fabric drawstring bags for our residents. She said yes immediately. It’s a joy for me to connect people with services they need.”

For many years, Charity Sharity has provided large quantities of fabric to organizations that use it in the service of others. Two such groups are the Church of Saint Michael and Saint George and the Saint Louis Veterans Home.

Alison Wiedel is one of several women who are active in the Church Service League at Saint Michael and Saint George. This past summer she used Charity Sharity fabrics to make 47 sundresses. “Several of us made dresses for our mission team to deliver to Nicaragua,” she said. “I don’t know what we’d do without Charity Sharity. It would be quite an expense to purchase the fabric we need.”
The Saint Louis Veterans Home is indebted, in a bittersweet way, to both the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Charity Sharity. Volunteer seamstresses at the DAR make shrouds for deceased veterans and deliver them on a regular basis to the home. Ruby Bledsoe, a volunteer at the home, says, “The shrouds are very nice and later given to the families.”

“Carole’s consistency in donating items to us is very valuable to us,” commented Gloria Link, Restorative Justice Case Manager at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center west of Saint Louis. “The fabric she sends us has been made into dog beds for the Puppies for Parole project, and teddy bears for police to give to children following an accident or police intervention.”

Lisa Ross, the nursing director at Manor Grove short-term and long-term residence, calls Carole “very intuitive.” Lisa asked Carole if wheelchair bags could be made for the residents’ personal bath items. Carole emailed her network of 300 individuals/groups who sew and made the request. Within two weeks, 200 bags were completed. Later, when Lisa wondered if Charity Sharity could produce “fidget lap blankets” with buttons, keys and baubles for residents with severe dementia, Carole emailed another request, accompanied by her own simple pattern and instructions. Manor Grove was delighted with the results. Charity Sharity’s contributions to the Saint Louis area and beyond are so vast that even the core volunteers cannot agree on the group’s single greatest highlight. Was it the year they received 11 tons of fabric from one elderly donor? Was it the Missouri women’s prison that made sleeping bags for homeless teens on the street when no other sewing group wanted the task? Was it supplying enough fabric to Patriot Packages in nearby Warrenton so 31,000 drawstring bags could be made for soldiers?

Rose King, an original volunteer who worked for Saint Louis Public Schools for 10 years primarily as an instructional specialist, was initiated into Chapter LB three years ago as a result of her friendship with Carole and Sandy. “Through P.E.O.” Rose said, “I have learned a whole new history lesson in the power of women when they work together for a common goal.” Rose describes Carole as kind, generous, patient and someone who has a profound influence on all volunteers to do their personal best to help others.

Carole Splater, LB, Ballwin, Missouri

Carole Splater was initiated into Chapter LB in 1978, on the day of the chapter’s organization; the president for the initiation ceremony was Wilma Leonard Turner, who later served as President of International Chapter. Carole has bachelor and master’s degrees in speech. In addition to serving twice as chapter president, Carole was a delegate to Missouri State Convention at least six times, has found several candidates who received P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grants, served as Chairman of Ushers at International Convention in Saint Louis in 2011 and has been active on a multitude of chapter committees. Her daughter Laurie Underwood is also a member of Chapter LB. Carole’s BIL Gary has fully supported Charity Sharity by giving up his basement and being a cheerful ambassador for his wife’s deep commitment to both P.E.O. and Charity Sharity.
So, how can you as a chapter member help lead membership forward?

- Remember our history of reaching out and including others. Look back at our beginnings and our Founders’ desire to invite new members.
- Use Franc’s list [https://members.peointernational.org/identifyingprospectivemembers] to identify friends and family you might introduce to P.E.O.
- Invite potential members to a social or activity to meet chapter members.
- Tell prospective members about all P.E.O. does for women’s education.
- Sponsor women for membership, provide counseling and initiate a new sister.
- Volunteer to be on your chapter’s membership committee.
- Help your chapter develop a campaign to contact your non-participating members to encourage them to come to a meeting or social.
- Reach out to the unaffiliated sisters who live in your area who are looking for a new home in P.E.O. It could be your chapter who transfers in that P.E.O. sister who will become a much loved and involved member.
- Step up to a leadership position in your chapter. Maybe it’s your turn to be an officer.
- Visit the red toolbox in the Membership tab on the International website at [https://members.peointernational.org/lcmembership]. There are many useful resources to help you and your chapter.
- Contact your state, province or district membership committee for the tools you need to accomplish your membership goals: remember to Lead Forward in Membership!
- Be the spark in your chapter to encourage sisterly love and share that love through membership growth.
P.E.O. for the Next Generation:  
Young is a Relative Term  
by Debbie Clason, Coordinator of Membership Development

This article is the first in a series of four based on member suggestions contributed during the P.E.O. for the Next Generations workshop at the 2017 Convention of International Chapter.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the need to initiate younger women into P.E.O., mainly because the future of our Sisterhood depends upon our ability to attract new members as well as retain them. But what does the term “younger” mean exactly? Is it 18, the year in which a woman can become a sister? Are you still young at age 40? What about sisters who have recently retired?

During my tenure as Coordinator of Membership Development, I have heard “younger” defined as that woman who is five to 10 years younger than yourself. That’s not a bad measuring stick, considering the inexhaustible spirit of some of the volunteers I work with on a daily basis. As they say, it’s not the size of the dog in the fight, it’s the size of the fight in the dog. The same can be said for the amount of vitality in a P.E.O. sister!

If our Founders were young collegiates today, they would be considered part of the millennial generation. Today’s millennials were born between 1981-2000, have never known a world without computers and are often described as open-minded, confident, upbeat and receptive to new ideas. When I think of our Founders, I imagine others would describe them in much the same way. They were forward-thinking, confident young women who wanted to remain friends forever and boldly took the steps necessary to create a new organization, one that still flourishes nearly 150 years later.

When International Chapter asked a group of younger members (age 40 and younger) whether P.E.O. is relevant to today’s young woman as part of a bulletin board focus group in spring 2015, their overwhelming response was “yes.” The results of a subsequent Washington State Chapter young member survey supported our initial research.

So, with the understanding that every member is valued regardless of her age, what can our chapters do to secure our Sisterhood’s legacy? During the P.E.O. for the Next Generations workshop at the 2017 Convention of International Chapter, we asked the more than 1,000 members in attendance to write suggestions for finding younger members and encouraging more members to stay active on a sticky note, which they left on a display board as they exited the presentation. As I sorted these sticky note suggestions into categories, it struck me that many of these ideas apply to chapter life and sisters of all ages:

• **Communicate effectively.** The more we know and understand what is happening in our chapter, the more we feel like part of the group.

• **Facilitate attendance.** It isn’t always easy to get to meetings. Work, school and family obligations—or health and mobility issues—can prevent even the most passionate member from attending on a regular basis.

• **Encourage chapter participation.** All of us contribute to the Sisterhood according to our own unique talents and abilities. How boring the tapestry would be if all the fibers were the same! Schedule relevant programs. Members are more apt to stay—or make the effort to attend a meeting—if programs are brief, interesting and relevant.

• **Plan fun socials.** Chapters with the most vitality are those whose members spend time together outside of meetings in activities appealing to members of all ages.

Topics for the remaining three articles will include 1) **Ways to communicate effectively with younger members,** 2) **Ideas for making meetings more effective** and 3) **Suggestions for talking about P.E.O. in your community.** To keep the conversation going in your chapter, have some frank conversations with your sisters. If young is a relative term, how is it defined in your chapter? What steps are you taking now to ensure your chapter will be viable for the next generation?
6 Tips for Writing Emails that Pack a Positive Punch  

by Marylou Ruud, P.E.O. Leadership Development Initiative

Consider some of the many communication options available today: Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin, Twitter, Pinterest, Snapchat. What would our Founders think? They wrote letters. For official P.E.O. communication today, a form of letter writing—email—remains the standard.

Imagine the number of emails that flow daily through our organization. When communicating with sisters, you want to maximize the impact of your messages as well as minimize the risk of your message being misinterpreted. Use the tips below to help you compose excellent emails that increase your productivity and build stronger relationships.

1. Create a productive subject line.
   • The intent of the subject line is to catch the reader’s eye and to specify exactly the contents of the email.
   • Labeling all of your emails as “URGENT” or “ASAP” can be counterproductive. As with the little boy who cried “wolf,” people soon will learn to disregard you. If you truly need immediate action, try phoning or texting. Otherwise, concisely state the substance of the email in the subject line. Examples: “Chapter Program Schedule: Response Requested by 2/28/18,” or “Annual Report: FYI.”

2. Identify yourself and your topic at the outset.
   • Unless you are the recipient’s close friend, immediately tell her who you are, your state or district, your chapter and your position. It helps the reader to know this basic information from the start.
   • State the purpose of the email up front rather than in the last line. Then develop your case.
   • Tackle one topic at a time. This prevents jumbled strings that can lead to missed opportunities.

3. Be careful what you say and to whom.
   • An email can be like old telephone “party lines.” You don’t know who might be privy to what you write. If you don’t want the world to know, don’t say it.
   • Is “reply to all” necessary? Has the sender of the email requested it? If not, does everyone in the thread need know your response?
   • Beware of overusing the Cc option. Copying an email should come only when it is necessary for person(s) other than the recipient to read what you are writing. Caution here can keep sensitive material from becoming public.

4. Ask questions sparingly.
   • Too many questions can become log jams, causing the reader to throw up her hands if she cannot answer them all quickly and sufficiently. Prioritize what you need to know and save other inquires for follow-up emails.

5. Remember that correct usage is not archaic.
   • Standard spelling, paragraphs, periods and grammar not only make your email more quickly comprehensible, they also indicate your professionalism. Save the acronyms, artistic fonts and emojis for your texts to pals and family.

6. Set a positive tone.
   • When you cannot see the person with whom you are communicating, it’s easy for delivery to become robotic. Make an effort to infuse positivity into your message. Be careful not to make your emails so brief that the reader must guess at what you mean, or so long Hemmingway would have rolled his eyes. Finally, remember that good old P.E.O. sincerity always applies.

Following these tips will lead to streamlined, concise, informative, positive and well-received emails. Good luck!

LEADERSHIP TIP

Place a copy of these tips next to your keyboard. Before you hit “send,” put each email you compose to the test of meeting these criteria, to maximize your effectiveness. www.peoleadership.org • Productivity: “Effective Emails Tip Sheet”
The Next Era of Cottey College

by Dr. Jann Weitzel, President, Cottey College

Since 1884, Cottey College has been educating women to become the globally aware, socially responsible leaders they have the potential to become. As an outstanding four-year private liberal arts and sciences institution, Cottey is dedicated to creating incredible futures for our students and the worlds they will impact. We are proud to introduce to you the next era of Cottey College.

Over the past year, Cottey has partnered with Geile/Leon, a marketing firm located in Saint Louis, to define the Cottey of today, our Cottey. In order for all of us, as P.E.O.s and BILs, to speak about our College, we must speak with one voice and tell one cohesive story and to do so, we must have a full understanding of the institution, its programs and its students.

With financial assistance from the P.E.O. Foundation and input from students, faculty, staff, alumnae, the Cottey College Board of Trustees and members of the P.E.O. Executive Board, a new branding statement and logo, the first in 30 years, were developed. Many attributes of the College were considered:

• The institution, and its constituents, are committed to advancing women’s education;

• We are dedicated to conscientiously developing a curriculum and methodology that serves to expand our students’ growing minds and challenge them academically, keeping them engaged, interested and motivated to become lifelong learners;

• We are a close-knit community with a strong common bond;

• We are dedicated to providing a transformative experience for our students; and

• We prepare our students for the world by bringing them together from across North America and the rest of the world, approaching academics with an appreciation of other cultures, and embedding a global perspective into the Cottey experience.

Further, Cottey is committed to infusing leadership qualities into our students throughout the entirety of their educational experience, making it the foundation and inspiration for everything we do. With these attributes at the center of our discussions, a new College tagline was developed.

Think about it! We are ALL creators of incredible futures. The faculty and staff work each day with our students, teaching them in and out of the classroom, serving as role models, offering advice, answering questions; in that way, they direct our students toward their incredible futures.

By putting students at the center of every decision, the Cottey College Board of Trustees ensures that students have the support they need to become the educated leaders of tomorrow.

Members of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and the BILs are creators of incredible futures. Through their recruitment efforts, their scholarships and suite endowments, and their emotional and financial support of individual students and suites, they help our students know that there are over 230,000 women believing in them and supporting them.

Our alumnae, donors and friends of the College are creators of incredible futures as they tell the Cottey story and recruit students to our College. Additionally, simply stated, without their financial assistance and their belief in our College and our students, many of our students would not be able to attend our institution. By their words and their gifts, they make possible an amazing educational experience.

But most importantly, our students are creating their own incredible futures. We cannot do that for them—we make opportunities available to them and by utilizing those opportunities, our students take the next steps toward creating their own incredible futures.

Thus, together, all of us are creators of incredible futures.

For more information, visit www.cottey.edu and scroll down to click on the Brand Identity button.
Globally, literacy is a human rights issue, and one of the identifiable solutions to poverty, hunger, violence and conflict, child and maternal mortality, gender inequality, under-development, environmental pollution and degradation and disaster (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] 2014).

Adeline Borti, from Ghana, is pursuing her Ph.D in curriculum and instruction, specializing in literacy education at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Literacy education is the study of literacy practices and rich language from early childhood through adulthood. Ghana is in the midst of a national literacy crisis with female and rural adult illiteracy hovering above 55 percent. Adeline passionately believes that with her literacy education she will help develop future generations of empowered and engaged leaders, who will become strong change agents in Africa.

Adeline is not waiting for completion of her Ph.D and professorship before addressing the literacy problems back home in Ghana. With her passion and belief that literate societies have less war and conflict and are more sustainable, she founded Access to Books; a project that provides books to needy schools in Ghana. In addition, to broaden the reach of this program she also conducts literacy workshops during semester breaks for local school teachers in Ghana with the goal of assisting them in promoting literacy education.

While in Laramie last year, Adeline was awarded a Doctoral Student Mini-Grant in Literacy that enabled her to ship home 21 literacy teacher resource books, bookshelves and 540 reading books to elementary school students in the Agotime–Wodome Salvation Army Basic School. Her husband, Daniel received the book shipment, assembled the bookshelves and made the donation on Adeline’s behalf.

Adeline expresses her deep appreciation as a 2017-2018 P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship award recipient. She says,

“With the financial assistance I was able to buy a laptop and printer in order to make academic work more manageable. Worrying about how to meet essential needs related to my education has been lifted. For sure, the seed being nurtured in me will grow and bear good fruits and P.E.O. will forever be part of my life’s history.”
Three and a half months before turning 99, golden girl Vashti “Tish” Irvin McMichael got up in the dark of night to turn off her squealing oxygen concentrator, losing her balance and falling as she made her way around the bed. A trip to the hospital emergency room by ambulance, followed by hours of x-rays and scan, revealed that she had three fractures, all inoperable, requiring a month-long stay in a rehab hospital.

Tish, initiated into Chapter M, El Paso, Texas, in 1955, was cared for by many competent nurses, techs and therapists over the course of her stay, but tech Voy McNiel Crane was especially outstanding. Through conversations with Tish and her daughters Elaine Darnell and Dianne Doan, also P.E.O.s, members of Chapter O, Moriarty, New Mexico, Voy shared that she had plans to go back to school to become a registered nurse. Always looking for opportunities to help women further their education, Tish, Dianne and Elaine worked with their Chapter O sisters to successfully sponsor Voy for a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) grant.

Voy is on target to receive her associate’s degree and become an RN by April 2019. She is naturally drawn to being a caregiver because she grew up around livestock—chickens, goats, cows and horses. She also helped care for her great-grandmother. Her mother calls her “Nanny Goat,” because she is always taking care of animals and others. Her own challenge with epilepsy added to her fascination with the human body and brain and the importance of the medical field. She doesn’t let her illness slow her down—quite literally! She is extremely competitive in her favorite sport. By the time she was 16 years old, Voy had won 40 belt buckles in team roping, a typically male-dominated sport.

The members of Chapter O fell in love with Voy when they met her and committed to support her young family in emotional and financial ways. She had an amazing joy to share with them. Voy and her husband Ryan were expecting a baby boy. Having survived very serious cancer, her pregnancy was truly a miracle. When asked how she is balancing being a new mother with her studies, she laughs, "It's about master juggling. There is no balancing and no scheduling. All schedules revolve around the baby for now." She sees him as the greatest blessing from God. "I hope that one day Stratton will love team roping like I do."

Having just celebrated her 100th birthday on January 16, 2018, Tish says, “P.E.O. has been a great influence in my life. I am most grateful to have had over 60 years in this wonderful organization.” Two of Tish's granddaughters have been helped through the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, and her great-granddaughter Shea Sizemore was one of the first recipients of a STAR Scholarship. Tish and her daughters were all educators themselves, and realize that education is crucial in opening doors for all women.

Voy was a godsend to Tish and has brought joy to Chapter O. She appreciates how P.E.O.s through the PCE grant are helping her, and she will bring joy into the lives of many others whose paths she will cross.
Helpful Hints: How to Write a Compelling Scholar Awards Recommendation Letter

Amazing! Brilliant! Accomplished! Clearly these are the words that come to mind for women who have been named as P.E.O. Scholars. Applications need to provide proof that the nominee possesses these qualities. The candidates themselves provide evidence of their qualifications. Professors and other scholarly connections who know the candidate well write letters with supportive details. But none of this information matters until a local chapter submits the initial nomination, making the letter of recommendation for their candidate a very important document.

As the person charged with writing your chapter’s letter, you might naturally feel some anxiety about providing the best possible information. Of course, you want your candidate to be one of the lucky recipients of a Scholar Award. This money can be life changing. On a personal level it can ensure a woman’s dream of achievement at a doctoral level—the ultimate degree in education. Beyond the individual it can allow the candidate to do significant research that can affect people world-wide far into the future. So, speaking for your chapter, you want the letter you submit to be just right. That can be a bit scary!

To make your job a bit less intimidating, the Scholar Awards Trustees would like to offer a few tips for making your letter effective. Consider the following ideas:

1. Be natural rather than scholarly. You are not writing to talk about your direct knowledge of the applicant’s research. That can be better done by the applicant herself and her university representatives. Instead, your role is to tell the trustees why your chapter has chosen to submit this woman’s name. Does someone in the chapter (or all of you) know her personally? How long have you known her? In what capacity did you first meet her?

2. Talk about your personal connection with the applicant and what makes you feel good about her. If the applicant is someone that a university official has recommended to you, you still have made a personal connection. You have interviewed her, in person or through technology, so you have had a chance to form an opinion about her. It was a positive one, or you would not be submitting her name. What strikes you as promising about the impact her research can have?

3. Use your letter to provide information that is not found in any other application document. As you reflect on your candidate, avoid listing facts that impressed you if they will be included elsewhere. For example, the titles of all her publications or presentations (although impressive) will be listed by the applicant herself, as will her grade point average and academic awards. So, your letter should focus on other things. Has this woman shared her research with your chapter in a program? Has she talked about her goals in research, what she hopes to do? Talk about what excites you about what she has told you. What is significant about how her work can affect our world in the future? Make your letter as personal as possible. Reveal the woman behind her achievements.

4. Be concise. Your letter does not have to be lengthy. By leaving out information that will be elsewhere in the application, you should be able to more briefly talk about why you and your chapter sisters support this candidate. Introduce her as a real person.

Following these suggestions should help your letter come alive—a clear picture of a very special woman.
It’s spring! Have you had your ears to the ground listening for stories about exceptional young women and/or visiting with the high school counselors about a likely STAR candidate yet? It’s time! As you continue the process, consider:

- The pre-selection interview allows a chapter to get to know the potential applicant. Go beyond achievements and dive to the heart beating beneath. What are her passions? Who or what inspires her? What sets her apart?
- Post-selection mentoring of the student as she completes the application is not only permitted, it is encouraged.
- Stay in touch during the period from application to awards. Offer encouragement.
- Consolation (non-monetary) if she is not an awardee—just being sponsored is a significant honor.
- Celebrate if she is awarded, including proper press release/media protocol. The Media Kit to guide your story is found on the P.E.O. International website peointernational.org.
- Stay in touch as she heads to college and throughout her college career.
- Supply P.E.O. with updates as she progresses by contacting the P.E.O. STAR Supervisor at star@peodsm.org.
- If your applicant exhibits the qualities we in P.E.O. hold dear, invite her to become a member.

Chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada enjoy relationships with their STARs.

This support has made a resounding impression on this STAR Scholar. “Before P.E.O., I didn’t understand how much power I held as a woman,” explains Cleashae. “I didn’t know that my goals and dreams and life held importance for anyone but myself. These ladies showed me that if my success can inspire their chapter, it can just as easily change the world.” View Cleashae’s inspiring speech at the 2017 Convention of Michigan State Chapter on the Michigan P.E.O. website at www.peomichigan.org.

Another STAR recipient teaches us that we can all support our STARs. Morgan Brown is a STAR Scholar at Cottey College and is also a P.E.O. sister. Morgan is a third-year student and works as a research assistant on campus. An active member of Chapter BQ, Winter Park, Florida, Morgan’s chapter, including four family members, has offered strong support through notes, cards, care packages and warm welcomes when she returns home.

Yet, there is more to Morgan’s story. As a Cottey student, Morgan reports, “What I’ve noticed in my three years at Cottey is that it’s not just the support of one chapter that makes the relationship between Cottey students and P.E.O.s so special — it’s P.E.O. in its entirety, through many different avenues, that offers us the love and support we need.”

Morgan and her classmates deeply appreciate talking to P.E.O. campus visitors, cards and care packages. A token of love in the form of encouragement for these emerging leaders is support for P.E.O.

Our youth are our most precious resource. The benefits we derive by nurturing our P.E.O. STAR Scholarship applicants are resounding. It is said that we remember not what a person says or does, but how that person (or chapter) makes us feel. By nurturing our amazing STARs with loving care and consideration, we build a foundation upon which we can promote community awareness and membership. With Gratitude and Grace, let’s strive to help our STARS Lead Forward.
New Presidents of State, Provincial and District (S/P/D) Chapters will be installed at S/P/D conventions this spring. These leaders will help shape the future of our Sisterhood and have already dedicated years of service to P.E.O. In the next few issues of The Record we will meet the committed women who make up the class of 2018 S/P/D Chapter Presidents.
Elizabeth (Lisa) Sallo  
Alabama  
Celebrate the Joy of P.E.O.

Lisa Sallo's journey with P.E.O. began over 30 years ago. She was initiated into Chapter J, Huntsville, Alabama, her mother's chapter, in 1983. Upon her graduation from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, it became important to Lisa to become involved in an evening chapter, which led her to become a charter member of Chapter Z, the first evening chapter in the Huntsville area.

Lisa served in every office at the local level, and on various state committees prior to her election to the Alabama State Board. She received her bachelor's degree from Samford University, and worked for a large litigation firm prior to pursuing her graduate studies at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she earned her MBA.

Currently Lisa is a program manager with KBRwyle’s Government Services Air and Missile Defense Group. She and her husband, David, are active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, serve on the technical team for contemporary worship and are committed to Compassion International’s efforts in freeing children from poverty. They enjoy all types of travel, from camping to cruising, home remodeling and entertaining friends and family.

Lisa is currently a member of Chapter AL, Madison, Alabama.

Tracey Ritchey  
Arkansas  
Think, Share, Grow.

Tracey Ritchey is a charter member of Chapter DP, Blytheville, Arkansas, organized March 29, 2008. She was first initiated into Chapter N, Blytheville, in 2003 beginning her P.E.O. journey.

Tracey has spent her working career at Arkansas Northeastern College and the last 25 years at Tenaris. She currently works in Community Relations for Tenaris managing the company’s education and community projects in the Blytheville Area including an after-school program, merit awards and technical education.

She attended Arkansas Northeastern College earning an A.A. degree, Park University earning a B.S. in management and University of Arkansas earning a M.S. in operations management.

Tracey has a daughter, Alexx Ritchey, son, Jacob Ritchey and daughter-in-law, Hillary Ritchey. Alexx and Hillary are both members of Chapter DP, Blytheville. She has three rescue dogs—Trixie, Junie B. Jones and Lola.

Tracey is a member of First United Methodist Church in Blytheville and serves as Lay Leader and is a member of the chancel choir. She has served on various committees. Tracey is active in United Methodist Women, currently serving as Northeast District President. She is in her second term on the Blytheville School District Board of Education. Tracey also served on the Greater Blytheville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Tracey enjoys family, reading, travel and volunteering.

Del Nyberg  
British Columbia  
Women of the World: Learners, Leaders, Community

Del Nyberg calls herself an Ameri-Canadian. She was born and raised in Brush, Colorado, where her grandma, mom, two sisters and a niece became P.E.O.s. Del moved to Canada in 1982 and has since become a citizen of Canada and carries two passports. She was happy to learn that P.E.O. is also in Canada and joined the Sisterhood soon after with the help of her sister and a neighbor who was the provincial president of the British Columbia Chapter at the time.

Del became a P.E.O. and a charter member of Chapter BO, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in 2009.

Del is a speech-language pathologist (SLP). She attained her master's degree at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado, and began her career as an SLP in Terrace, British Columbia. She changed careers in 1990 and worked as a manager with the BC Ministry of Health until she retired in 2011. She resumed her career as an SLP and operates a private practice out of her home—she loves it.

Del and her husband, Brian, are enjoying their part-time self-employed life. Their two daughters and two granddaughters live a ferry-ride away in Vancouver, British Columbia. Del enjoys vigorous walking, yoga, bridge, bicycling, reading, skiing, gardening, car trips and fine-dining with friends.
Deborah (Deb) Kerchner was initiated into Chapter BZ, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1995. She has served in most local chapter positions, as well as the state membership committee. As state organizer in 2016, Deb had the honor to participate in the initiation of her daughter, during the organization of a new Delaware chapter. Deb now belongs to Chapter L, Lewes, Delaware.

Ron and Deb have five grown daughters, 14 perfect grandchildren, and in 2018 they became great-grandparents! Raised with brothers, Deb considers her P.E.O. sisters that family she missed.

After growing up in northern New Jersey and New York, Deb attended Graham Junior College in Boston and Eureka College in Illinois, earning her degree in marketing. This very versatile major served her well over the years.

A cradle Episcopalian, Deb served on a diocesan board for Episcopal Church Women for 10 years. Now she enjoys parish ministries.

Deb and Ron love to travel. They have toured a dozen countries, with more on their bucket list.

When she has a moment, Deb enjoys skiing, biking, yoga and walking on the boardwalk. Retired in the beautiful community of Bethany Beach, Deb intends to return to reading, creative pursuits and maybe learn to play the keyboard after her board service!

Julee Carucci was invited into P.E.O. by Chapter L, Louisville, Kentucky, in 2009. She was thrilled to be welcomed by this wonderful group of sisters who share her desire to help women achieve their educational goals.

Raised in northern California, she received her Bachelor of Science in biology at Stanford University and her M.B.A. at University of California, Berkeley. She then moved to New York City to pursue a career in banking.

Julee and her husband, Rick, love to travel, so when he was offered an opportunity to work in the international division of his company, they jumped at the chance. Following assignments in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Nicosia, Cyprus; Honolulu; Sydney, Australia; and Dallas, they settled in Louisville.

Julee also enjoys reading, playing tennis and volunteering in the community. She has served on numerous school committees and on the Kentucky state board of Court Appointed Special Advocates. She is particularly proud of her volunteer work (2012–present) on the Board of Directors at the Home of the Innocents, a residential facility for children who have been abused and neglected and a long-term convalescent center for medically fragile children.

Julee and Rick have two daughters.

Catherine Leen is a third generation P.E.O. and a second generation Massachusetts State Chapter president, as her mother, Nancy Hill, was president in 2010. Catherine was initiated by her mother into her chapter, M, Melrose, Massachusetts, in 2005 with her grandmother, Virginia Stooker, Chapter IL, Alton, Illinois, in attendance.

Catherine grew up in Rowley, Massachusetts. She attended Brown University where she received her B.S. in computer science and met her husband, Mike. Her first job was at ITA Software in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Catherine currently works as a software engineer at Google in Cambridge.

Catherine and Mike live in Somerville, Massachusetts, with their two cats, Athena and Orion. Catherine is active in her church where she serves as collector and sings in the choir. In her spare time she enjoys knitting, playing board games and solving puzzles.
Audrey Ramirez grew up in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, the second of eight children. She earned her B.A. in office administration from Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana, and moved to New Orleans to work for Shell Oil Company. While there she met and married her BIL, Lloyd.

As they moved to various locations in the U.S., Audrey worked for a temporary agency where she used her organizational and clerical skills at various companies. They moved to Diamondhead, Mississippi, in 1991 shortly before Lloyd retired.

Audrey was asked to join P.E.O. by two very special friends and was initiated into Chapter T, Diamondhead, Mississippi, in 2007. She has served Mississippi State Chapter as historian and web master and served as her chapter’s delegate to the Convention of International Chapter in 2013.

Audrey volunteers at her church and is director of the Ladies’ Club and treasurer of the Altar Society at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She was president of the Diamondhead Women’s Club and served two four-year terms as secretary of the Diamondhead Boaters Association. She has also held office in many other local organizations and was awarded the Diamondhead Performing Arts Society’s Female Citizen of the Year in 2012.

She enjoys cross stitching, paper quilling, card making, jewelry making and reading. Her future plans are to travel and play golf in each of the lower 48 states, take a cooking class and take art classes.

Lenora Oesterreich began her life journey in Kansas City, Kansas, where she met Bob in high school choir. Married in 1964, they lived in four different states.

Lenora was given the gift of P.E.O. by her dear friend Susan Brown. Two weeks after being initiated in 1974 into Chapter BO, Broomfield, Colorado, she became the organizing treasurer for Chapter GN. Blessed with the gift of transfer, she belonged to five chapters in three states. She became involved at the state level in Nevada serving on several committees and co-chairing the 2006 Nevada State Convention.

Lenora and Bob have two daughters, Trish and Heather, who she was privileged to initiate. She has three grandsons.

After retiring from a 35-year career in education, Lenora manages to stay involved through P.E.O., her church activities, theater, singing and crafting of all types.

Losing Bob unexpectedly after 47 years together led Lenora to consider service to P.E.O. at the state level. Being married to a teacher, raising a teacher and being involved in education all these years, fills her heart with the need for and continuing support of the projects. Her favorite, the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, holds a special place in her heart. But more important is the love and support that all of her P.E.O. sisters have provided for her over the past 44 years.

Lola Orcutt was born in southern Maine, and then moved to the Bangor area as a teenager. She came from a very large Acadian family. She was a government employee, starting her career in the Department of Agriculture and then transferring to the Department of Justice. She retired from the Federal District Court in 1996 and she tells everybody that, “she then went to work for Mr. Orcutt full time!” Her husband, Amos, was the President of the University of Maine Foundation and she traveled with him over the years until Amos retired in 2012. The Orcutts have five children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Lola was initiated in 2005 into Chapter B, Bangor, Maine, and held many positions in the chapter. Because of her great computer and organizational skills, she publishes the chapter yearbook every year. She became the editor of the district’s newsletter, The FORUM, and worked closely with the district board on many of their technology needs before becoming a member of the board.

Lola is on the board of the Page Farm & Home Museum located on the University of Maine campus. The Orcutts are owners of Great Pond Mountain Farm located in Orland, Maine, and they harvest and sell wild Maine blueberries.
Jackie Hardcastle was born in England, immigrating at the age of 9; living most of her life in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. As an adult, she studied early childhood education, taking post-secondary studies in resource teaching and alternative art therapies; at work Jackie focused on children with emotional and language issues. Jackie later studied interfaith ministry education for three years. She worked for the city of Ottawa for over 30 years in a variety of their daycares, culminating her career in an environmental daycare. Here she developed programs for children under the age of six, lecturing on environmental educational programs to parents and the community.

In 2013 she published her first book, “Visions in Poetry, A Spiritual Awakening Journey,” a mixture of stories and spiritual messages on overcoming life’s obstacles using her own experiences as examples. Jackie also has had several poems published as a finalist in several international competitions.

Jackie joined P.E.O., Chapter O, Ontario, in 2008 then took the leap to provincial board member.

Jackie has two children and five grandchildren. She is currently semi-retired, working part time for Algonquin College, supervising students on placement in their early childhood education studies. She volunteers as an officer and workshop leader for Ottawa Spiritual Pathways Centre. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, animals, nature, theater, dance and musical shows as well as traveling.

Robyn Rivers was born and raised in Centerville, Ohio, the middle of three children. After graduating from Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, Robyn moved home, just long enough for her mother to introduce her to P.E.O. She was initiated into Chapter DS, Dayton, Ohio, in 1980. Work took her to Indiana, Kentucky and North Carolina, where she met and married her husband Robert and began a new career in consumer products. The sister friends of Chapter AQ, Asheville, North Carolina, helped her see how P.E.O. could be a part of her working life. After moves to Georgia then New York, New York (where she joined Chapter AH), she and her husband found a home in Tennessee, where she became a member of Chapter D, Knoxville.

She continues to work part time in the consumer goods industry, helps her husband with his Christmas tree and wreath business, and volunteers in the children’s ministry at Fellowship Church. She has been active in Jr. Women’s Club, BSF, Boys & Girls Clubs, Second Harvest Food Bank and Sigma Kappa Sorority. Her fur babies, Henry and Cooper, bring great joy. She enjoys spending time with her siblings and their six children; so far there is one Cottey grad, four P.E.O.s and two great BILs.

Kelly Dlugos was initiated into Chapter W, Morgantown, West Virginia, in 2004. Kelly was Convention Chair of the 2012 West Virginia Convention as well as the State Unaffiliate Chair for two years before joining the State Board.

Kelly was raised in Lake Lynn, Pennsylvania. She attended high school in Morgantown, where she met her future husband, Todd. She attended college at Slippery Rock University, Wheeling Jesuit College and West Virginia University. She holds a degree in physical therapy and has been a practicing clinician for 24 years, treating in a variety of settings.

Kelly is the proud mother of three: Matthew and Ally are studying at West Virginia University, while Kate is a junior in high school. Kelly has been involved in scouting, school volunteering and sports, and continues to be a cheering “ball” mom.

Kelly enjoys spending her free time improving her CrossFit skills, running, road cycling and kayaking. She also loves to read, sew and rehab furniture.
NEW chapters

CHAPTER JN
The Woodlands, Texas

Organized: February 25, 2017

First row from the left: Texas state organizer Belinda Hargrove, Jean Swanson
Second row: Caroline Cameron Yarp, Kathryn Painter, Judy McCarty, Susan Swanson, Carol Shelton, Susan Olver
Third row: Sally Johnson, Jane Chandler, Lue Penton, Genette Stanton, Valerie Reeves, Barbara Vissers, Diane Roberts
Fourth row: Michelle Robinson, Lynda Cimera, Mary Pat Stahl, Lynne Williams, Suzi Baumgardner, Carrie Bucki

CHAPTER JP
Burnet, Texas

Organized: February 23, 2018

First row, from the left: Nancy Kinard, Marilyn Schaefer, Sue Allen, Roberta Wood, Maxine Heath, Jimmie Sue McKeller, Debbie Smith
Second row: Cheryl Henderson, Elise Shirey, Susan Neans, Patricia Caroom, Penny Brydson, Jean Schar, K. Lynn Ray
Third row: Donna Kiley, Sally Cooper, Mary Readel, Haila Kaufmann, Linda Brown, Marianne Goodyear, Kay Glover

CHAPTER BI
Clarksville, Tennessee

Organized: March 3, 2018

First row, from the left: Melanie Mosier, Nancy Williams, Eavealine Jackson, Sharon Hall, Amy Ortiz, Vikkie McCarthy
Second row: Elaine Foust, Ginny Newman, Betty Guthrie, Tracy Hoard, Shaun Kueter, Cathy Cothren, Whitney Swallows, Gloria Miller, Shirley Butler
Calling all P.E.O. International Facebook Followers!

We appreciate all of you and strive to provide important, useful content in our posts. To guarantee you don’t miss any posts, go to our PEO International Facebook page, click "Following" and select “See First.”
Put on your detective hat, pull out your magnifying glass and crack the code!

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**Key:** $A = 1$, $B = 2$, $C = 3$, etc.

Calling All P.E.O. Sleuths!

Put on your detective hat, pull out your magnifying glass and crack the code!

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**LOOK IN THE MIRROR.** You might have a bigger impact that you realize. *(Learn more in the next issue of The P.E.O. Record...)*
**AWARD-WINNING ideas**

**Birthday Bucks for P.E.O. Projects**

**Chapter D, Arcadia, Louisiana**, has found a way to celebrate each sister’s birthday while also raising money for the P.E.O. projects. Each month the technology person sends an email to each member letting them know who has a birthday that month. Each sister is asked to bring $1 for each sister’s birthday to the meeting that month. At the meeting, the birthday sisters count their money and decide which project they want their birthday money to go to. At the end of the P.E.O. year, Chapter D donated more than $500 to the P.E.O. projects through this fundraiser.

**P.E.O. is On the Board!**

**Chapter OS and Chapter N of Chariton, Iowa**, joined forces to participate in a community event that allowed the recognition of P.E.O. as part of the community. The Chariton Area Chamber/Main Street Organization sponsored the creation of a Chariton-opoly Board Game fashioned after the traditional Monopoly game. The retail community, clubs and organizations were offered the opportunity to have their names and logos printed on the Chariton-opoly game board for a fee. This allowed Chapter OS and Chapter N, to obtain recognition and awareness of P.E.O. in the community. The two P.E.O. chapters accepted donations from members to purchase the “Free Parking Square” on the Chariton-opoly game board. Each time a player lands on the “Free Parking Space” the player receives a P.E.O. Scholarship. The design of the space includes the P.E.O. Star, Chapter OS and Chapter N, as well as the P.E.O. website address.

**P.E.O. Movie Night a Consistent Success**

**Chapter CG, Carlisle, Pennsylvania**, held their third annual Movie Night in late 2017. The movie “Hidden Figures” was screened. Good publicity from the local newspaper, social media, word of mouth and promotions on the theater marquee contributed to the success of the event. All 47 active CG sisters participated by selling tickets, requesting donations and preparing a large table of refreshments for moviegoers. Sisters also sold popular soup and rice mixes in the lobby. A silent auction was held in the lobby before the movie as well—25 baskets supplied from donations from local businesses were filled with jewelry, food, gift certificates and more.

P.E.O. Movie Night has become the event of the season for many Carlisle P.E.O. sisters, families and friends and one which the community welcomes and embraces. $5,450 was raised for P.E.O. projects with this popular and fun event in 2017. Plans for Movie Night 2018 are underway.

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Mystery Days

Knowing many members of Chapter EQ, Medford, Oregon, don’t often get out into the woods, the chapter’s finance committee thought it would be fun to take an outing to the great outdoors; they organized an event with a twist—a mystery day!

The sneaky sisters told members to meet at a home with spare change (not needed — a decoy), a poem, a hat and walking shoes. Sisters were not told where they were going. They started out driving on a four lane road, then went to a two lane road, then one with an unmarked center then finally a dirt road. After stopping at picnic spots on the Rogue River for people and wildlife watching, they ended up at a small fairly remote campground in the woods. A BIL had brought along an ATV (4-wheel 2-seater all-terrain-vehicle) and offered rides on dirt roads in the woods to all. Most took him up on it, and most even drove it back to our picnic spot. Even some 80-year-olds drove it! A gourmet picnic lunch was served under the canopy of trees and everyone read the poetry they’d been asked to prepare.

Following the picnic lunch, the group walked a short distance through mounds of wildflowers to see natural springs that fed the creek that flows into the Rogue River, and eventually to the Pacific Ocean. On the way home they stopped to view Mount McLoughlin in all its snowy glory.

Two Mystery Days have netted $510 for P.E.O. projects.

Uncorked Sisters

To encourage more socialization and activities for the members in Chapter IR, Lombard, Illinois, Mary Cation, suggested special interest groups could be formed. Jan Kintonis immediately put out a sign-up sheet for a group interested in wine tasting. Ten members shared an interest in learning about and tasting wines, so the “Uncorked Sisters” group was born.

Sisters receive notes on the white and red wine to be tasted well in advance of the tasting. Each one is assigned a wine from a specific country and area to bring to the lunch, while the hostess provides the appetizers, entrée and dessert. Wines are blind tasted and rated by each member before the labels and prices are revealed. There is also a discussion topic of the day, such as the California wild fires or celebrity wineries. Although Jan tries to keep the group focused, it is difficult to do because they are having way too much fun!

Besides learning about wine, the tastings have given sisters the opportunity to know each other better in a casual setting. It is reported that they have some marvelous food at these tastings! It has also given members an opportunity to invite guests who may be interested in P.E.O., to learn more about us. One guest has already joined the chapter!
Bobbe Palmer, AV, Estes Park, Colorado, wrote a book of short stories called “Can This Be Home?” The collection of five short stories shines a light on five women of different ages and circumstances as each faces unique challenges. Bobbe received a degree in English from the University of Denver. She taught English at a junior high school in Kansas before moving to Wyoming and later Alaska with her late husband, a Presbyterian minister. Bobbe has five children and enjoys watercolor painting.

Jill Ridky-Blackburn, AG, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, wrote “Historic Coker Hills: A Botanists’ Neighborhood in Chapel Hill.” The Coker Hills neighborhood’s quiet and spacious landscape contains a rich cultural and natural history. When University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill botany professor William C. Coker purchased the hilly area now known as Coker Hills, he bought it with a keen eye for the flora. Upon Dr. Coker’s death the land was developed with a botanists’ theme in his memory.

Jill earned her M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. When moving into the Coker Hills neighborhood and serving on the board she discovered that Coker Hills was more than just another neighborhood. The book is offered as a contribution to Chapel Hill’s history and also celebrates the many citizens who made and continue to make Coker Hills a special neighborhood.

Paula Davidson, GM, Enid, Oklahoma, wrote a book for children ages 4-6 called “The Tale of Daffy and Taffy.” This book is based on a true story of two ducks Paula’s sister Nena had. It has a valuable lesson to be learned in taking care of her two ducks. Half of the proceeds for the book will go to the Alzheimer’s Foundation. Four and a half years ago, Nena, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Paula enjoys writing and is going to work on another book. Her other interests are walking, singing with The Praise Team at her church and enjoying her family and friends.

Chris Mabon, G, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wrote “101 Ways to Nurture Yourself,” a book about our most important relationship: the relationship we have to ourselves. While doing the activities and contemplating the ideas identified in the book, she came to understand that self-nurturing is essential to living a full, well-developed life. Filled with 101 ways to love and care for ourselves more, each identifies a physical as well as an emotional aspect for consideration. Readers are invited to try one or all 101 and see how good self-nurturing feels.

Chris spreads her message about friends through her program The Five Essential Friendships That Enrich Our Lives, monthly newsletter, workshops and seminars.

Linda Hass, BV, Jackson, Michigan, wrote “MICHIGAN’S CROSSROADS TO FREEDOM: The Underground Railroad in Jackson County,” and “Hidden in Plain Sight,” both about the Underground Railroad in Jackson, Michigan. Linda is a fervent fan of local history. She enjoys bringing to life the personalities and adventures of historical figures whose contributions continue to impact the present. After earning a master’s degree in journalism from Michigan State University, Linda has worked for several regional publications, writing about everything from business to religion and history. When not exploring dusty archives or traveling to libraries and museums, Linda and her husband enjoy frying a batch of pan fish after a day on the lake.

Dottie Kelley, AA, Carson City, Nevada, wrote “Musings: Haiku to touch your soul.” Over the years Dottie had many positions in administration and, with her husband, was also very active in Carson City life. However, no matter how busy she was, poetry was always her joy. Using the traditional Japanese pattern of poetry called Haiku, Dottie evokes strong feeling about nature, family and friends. There is a sweet touch of humanity in every poem. Dottie wants her book to cause the reader to laugh, sigh and occasionally shed a tear. Dottie’s husband passed away recently and she misses him terribly, but as always, her faith, her friends and her P.E.O. sisters form the foundation of her life. She dedicates her book to husband Bill, her mother Jessie and to God.
Kimberly Weires, MP, Dubuque, Iowa, wrote her third devotional with a twist of humor in the series “Day-To-Day with Kimberella and Prince Ain’t-So-Charmin’ (Is It Midnight Yet?)” Prince Roderick and Kimberella Buckskin try to live normal lives, but sometimes their antics get them into trouble. Prince Roderick’s country childhood often clashes with Kimberella’s city upbringing, but their shared love of camping, fishing and playing in a band together keeps them going strong. Each story ends with a relevant bible quote to inspire readers to reflect, reach for their own Bibles and discover God’s work in their lives.

Kimberly is a 28-year member of Chapter MP.

Johnnie Bernhard, D, Biloxi, Mississippi, wrote “A Good Girl,” a historical fiction novel exploring the complexities of family relationships as Gracey Reiter faces her father’s approaching death and accepts her crippling legacy.

Gracey crosses a long-denied line of pain as she reads her Grandmother Walsh’s hand-written accounts from the 1840s in the family Bible. The chaotic gene pool of the Walsh-Mueller family began when Patricia Walsh left the famine of nineteenth century Ireland, losing her parents and siblings to disease and starvation. She finds a home, love and security with Emil Mueller in a German settlement on the Texas Gulf Coast. Their happiness quickly dissolves into a harsh reality as wars, hurricanes, infidelity and alcoholism find them, and the five generations carrying their name.

A former English teacher and professional journalist, Johnnie Bernhard life’s work has been reading and writing. Her work has appeared in numerous publication.


The unexpected death of Betsy’s husband jeopardizes the adoption of their daughter, Emma. Fear propels Betsy into a decision that will change the direction of both of their lives. With the help of her brother-in-law, Betsy embarks on an odyssey that eventually leads to rural North Dakota and the isolation of a lake cabin where she feels safe. In search of a quiet life with her child, each of Betsy’s days is haunted by the fear of discovery. Will she ever be able to go home again and get the justice she seeks?

Beverly is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and PaddleCreek Writers. As an Air Force wife she lived in Japan, Germany and 11 states but considers North Dakota her home. She became a P.E.O. in California in 1991 and now resides in O’Fallon, Illinois, with her husband Don.

Patty Jacobs, H, Eugene, Oregon, has written her third book, “A Long View.” The memoir tells the story of her family’s role in early Longview, Washington; growing up in a lumber town surrounded by rivers and distant mountains and her life in Oregon after marriage. Featured in the memoir are her grandmother, Emma Vandercook, and mother, Esther Vandercook Keller both early members of Chapter BN, Longview, Washington.

Kathryn Callahan, EH, Des Moines, Iowa, wrote “With Love From Vietnam,” a collection of letters she received from her husband, Captain Dennis A. May, while he was stationed in Vietnam. Dennis faithfully wrote letters to Kathryn, beginning with his travels from his home base in the United States, until his fatal airplane crash in Vietnam. Kathryn is pleased to share the letters that she has treasured these many years. Kathryn is a retired teacher who enjoys gardening, playing bridge, traveling, watching sports and spending time with family and friends.
Women helping women reach for the stars

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE RECORD?

Toni Spieth, VC Columbus, Kansas and Martha Bledsoe, ND, Nevada, Missouri, traveled to rural Dominican Republic to install safe water systems. They left their copy of The Record behind with a prospective Cottey student!

Chapter CI, Penn Yan, New York sisters Bernice Spanneut, Sandy Smith, Kish Swift, Linda Bracht, Penny Chapman and Charlotte Gillespie traveled to Paris. Here they are at Notre Dame.

Betty Shell, KH, Raytown, Missouri, visited Chapter CG in Sun City West, Arizona. Here she is with Chapter CG sisters at The Spicery Tea Room in Glendale, Arizona. From the left: Faye Fray, Diana Houlette, Jeannie Sophusson, Karen Ferguson, Molly Hartman, Betty Shell

Pam Kimble, BK, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, on an expedition in Antarctica

Deborah Brown, Chapter P, Calgary, Alberta, in Santa Maria, Cape Verde
Pack the latest issue of The P.E.O. Record when you travel! Snap some pics and send them in—you could be featured in a future issue of the magazine or on our Facebook page or Instagram feed.

Send photos to editor@peodsm.org or mediamanager@peodsm.org.
BILs are Truly VIPs!

by Albert Leffler, Guest Editor, The P.E.O. Record

Our BILs were stars for the year 2017-18. The program committee, chaired by Dorothy Gillett, selected the theme for the year, “Our BILs are VIPs.” Eight brave BILs presented programs throughout the year, and all BILs were invited to attend the program part of our meetings. It was a great way for our relatively new chapter (organized January 18, 2010) to get to know each other. The programs were creative, educational, entertaining and most interesting, plus lots of fun.

- Vince Homer (Sandy) was our first BIL to present a program, titled “Working at 40 Below.” Vince came into our meeting dressed in the layers of clothing that he wore on the job in a company town on the North Slope of Alaska while working on the famed Alaska Pipeline. As he took off each layer of clothing, he explained what the article and layer was for. We were amazed at what it takes to dress for such a job—and we got a bit of a “strip show,” to everyone’s delight!

- Our next program was presented by LeRoy Rogers (Jean) titled “Agricultural Development in Africa.” LeRoy had spent several years evaluating and developing agricultural resources in several third-world countries. His slide show was a reminder that there are people and societies that struggle daily for food and clean water and a source of income to support their families. It was a reminder of how blessed we are.

- We had a delightful social when Don Leighton (Marie) treated us to our very own “Antiques Roadshow.” What fun we had bringing our old collectibles such as, dolls, coins, newspapers, artwork, musical instruments, etc., while Don shared his expertise regarding their worth. While we all thought we had brought priceless treasures, the stories attached to the collectibles were the real treasures.

- Volunteering as a math teacher at an alternative school for “at risk” students was an incredible story told by Dennis Robertson (Carolee). The story of young people who thrive and excel when placed in a safe, supportive and caring environment was amazing. And to know one of our BILs does this as a volunteer after a long teaching career is even more amazing.

- Another educator, Forrest Bell (Karen), retired school superintendent of our Central School District, made an informative and thought-provoking presentation on “Saving the Public Schools.” His talk was a good reminder of how much public education and the value of educators and education have changed, all in our lifetime. Who would have guessed that Amy Carter is the only president’s child in the last century to attend public school?

- Don Isensee (Mary Jane) thought a program on his career as a CPA would make everyone’s eyes glaze over, so he gave a talk on “BILs: Are they People or Places?” His presentation linked the names of all our chapter’s BILs with names of towns and places in Oregon which he pointed out on the map. Who would have known that there is a name of a town or place in Oregon for every one of our 30+ BILs? It was a creative geography lesson and great fun!

- We ended our program year with a presentation titled “Let There Be Light,” by Chuck Thurman (Debi), Superintendent of our local utility, Monmouth Power and Light Company. Chuck reminded us how lucky we are to live in the Pacific Northwest where electric energy is the least expensive and the cleanest energy source, and he shared ways we could be more energy efficient.

- Our BILs are truly VIPs!

Albert Leffler is married to P.E.O. Kathy Leffler, BA, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Send BIL submissions to Albert Leffler at albertleffler@gmail.com or 4251 E Shangri-la Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85028-2917.
ITEMS FOR sale

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MAXIMIZING THE BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY—Make it Work for You!

by Lucy Thoms, Digital Communication Specialist

Technology helps us accomplish so much and it allows us to stay connected in ways we never thought possible. Below are some tips to help make technology work for you and to help you avoid its little frustrations.

❖ Keep track of your usernames and passwords. Find a system that works for you—there are online tools that will save these for you, or you can simply write them down. Either way, having a record of any new accounts you create will alleviate frustration down the road. Tip—update your passwords every so often. This is a good practice to keep your accounts and information safe.

❖ Update your devices’ operating systems and apps regularly. These updates aren’t there to be inconvenient or to take up space—they help devices run more efficiently. Some apps and programs can’t run on outdated operating systems.

❖ Determine if your device needs antivirus software or other security protection. There are many options available, and what you need will vary based on the type of device and its operating system.

❖ Review your internet browser settings. Did you know that the way a website works is often dependent on your personal internet browser settings? This can include things like font size, how documents download or whether fields autofill for you. Tip—check your PDF reader settings to make sure PDF documents you access on P.E.O.’s website (or others) are set to download in a way that’s convenient for you.

❖ Take breaks. Too much screen time is bad for all of us—it affects our eyes, attention spans and our ability to focus. It’s okay to walk away for a while! Turn off your notifications, put your phone in the other room or turn it off all together. Tip—if you spend all day at a computer, try the 20–20–20 rule: every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds to give your eyes and mind a rest.

❖ Think about the positive things technology allows you to do. Whether it’s video-calling your grandchildren, completing a P.E.O. project application online, connecting with old or new friends on Facebook or taking the stress out of simple tasks—technology connects us and saves us time in so many ways.

❖ Use technology to learn something new. Listen to a podcast or watch a video to learn a new skill or to dive into a topic that interests you. The possibilities are endless!

❖ Find ways technology can help you every day. Think about the things you do every day that take up a lot of time or are frustrating, and see if there’s a way to simplify the task with an online tool. For example, set a reminder to do a task, talk to your bank or healthcare provider about what digital tools they offer or use an app that tracks your daily habits for you.

❖ Introduce a Woman to P.E.O. If you know someone who would make a good P.E.O. and she lives in a different location than you, use the “Introduction of a Woman Who Is Not a P.E.O.” online form. Her information will automatically be sent to chapters in her area. Visit https://members.peointernational.org and click on Introduce a Woman.

❖ Hone your leadership skills. The P.E.O. Leadership Development Initiative has several modules available to help you with different leadership skills at www.peoleadership.org.

❖ Find a P.E.O. Bed & Breakfast for your next trip. Meeting P.E.O.s on your trip and supporting our projects is a win-win! Visit https://members.peointernational.org/bedandbreakfast for the full listing.

❖ Help a sister who’s moving find a new chapter. The corresponding secretary should update her address using the online “Change in Membership” (CIM) form and send the “Notice of Member in Your Area” form to local chapters and the state, provincial or district organizer in her new area.

❖ Learn about our 150th Anniversary celebrations. P.E.O. turns 150 in 2019, and we want everyone to join in on the fun. Visit www.peo150.org regularly for information and updates.

❖ Read The Record on the go. The P.E.O. Record is available online so you can enjoy it wherever you are.
Spring Convention Project Mailing
Every state/provincial/district (s/p/d) president has been sent enough packets of project information cards, project fact charts and special 150th anniversary postcards to distribute one to each chapter at their s/p/d convention. Delegates receiving such packets are to give these project materials to their respective local chapter president immediately following convention.

Gift Acknowledgments
Chapter gifts to our projects are acknowledged on the back cover of this issue of The P.E.O. Record. Projects gifts by individuals are acknowledged by the executive office. Named or designated gifts, as well as large gifts above a certain level as determined by the P.E.O. project or Foundation, are acknowledged by each board of trustees. Gifts to Cottey College by chapters and individuals are acknowledged by the College.

Follow P.E.O. International on Social Media
For ideas, inspiration, news and more, follow P.E.O. International on its social media channels. Look for the P.E.O. emblem to identify International Chapter’s official accounts. Following the official accounts ensures you get the most up-to-date, accurate information about our Sisterhood!

Facebook: PEO International
Instagram: @peointernational
LinkedIn: International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood
Twitter: @PEOSisterhood

Cottey Graduates
Cottey graduates have the opportunity to let local P.E.O. chapters know of their interest in becoming a member of the Sisterhood. Each local chapter determines whom to consider for membership, but the form at cotteygrad.com allows alumnae to contact the P.E.O. Coordinator of Membership Development to express interest in learning more about our organization.

Cottey College Viewpoint
The Cottey College Viewpoint is available online. This digital magazine is filled with news briefs and inspiring stories about Cottey College alumnae, faculty, staff and friends of the College. You may view current and archived issues at www.cottey.edu/viewpoint/.

“Introduction of a Woman Who is Not a P.E.O.” Form
There is now an online form for members who would like to introduce someone to P.E.O. who does not live in the same geographic area. When submitted, notifications are sent automatically to chapters in her area, as well as to that state/province/district chapter’s organizer. Visit https://members.peointernational.org/peointroduction.

Celebrate 150 Years!
Celebrating 150 years of Women Helping Women Reach for the Stars!
Please see page 9 of this magazine for more information regarding the upcoming P.E.O. 150th anniversary including information on the 150 Fund, pictorial history book, commemorative jewelry piece and local chapter resources. Visit www.peo150.org to quickly access more information any time.
Send completed form, including your former address printed in the upper right corner (or give address at which magazine was last received), six weeks in advance of your move.

Mail  
Membership Dept., P.E.O. Executive Office  
3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312-2899

Fax  
The P.E.O. Record, 515-255-3820

Call  
800-343-4921 (automated line available 24 hours a day. May not be available in all areas of Canada.)

Email  
membership@peodsm.org

Web  
peointernational.org (log in as a member and click on ‘manage membership’)

Automatic Address Change: The P.E.O. Record may be mailed to two different addresses if the same seasonal address is used at the same time every year.

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Thank You!

Our local chapters and members have shown dedication, hard work and financial contributions for our projects and recipients. By working together, the following results have been achieved:

- P.E.O. has given over $321 million in financial assistance to more than 105,000 recipients of the ELF, IPS, PCE, PSA and STAR projects.
- P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund loans are $195.4 million since 1907.
- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarships are $37.9 million since 1949.
- P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grants are $55.3 million since 1973.
- P.E.O. Scholar Awards are $24.5 million since 1991.
- P.E.O. STAR Scholarships are $8.5 million since 2009.

In addition, P.E.O. has owned and supported Cottey College since 1927. Cottey is a dynamic independent baccalaureate-granting liberal arts and sciences institution that develops leadership qualities and a global perspective within its students throughout the entirety of their academic and co-curricular experience. In 2017–2018, over 75% of students had declared a 4-year major. Cottey College and P.E.O., together, are Creators of Incredible Futures!