A Portrait of Resilience: Meet Naturalist and P.E.O. Day Scott
### OFFICERS OF International Chapter

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<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>Patricia L. Brolin-Ribi</td>
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<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>Cathy Moss</td>
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<td>Organizer</td>
<td>Alix Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Kathryn S. Ebert</td>
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### Standing Appointments

**Administrative Staff**
- **Executive Director**: Kathy A. Soppe
- **Acting Director of Finance/Treasurer**: Kathy A. Soppe
- **Director of Communications/Historian**: Kate Westercamp
- **Director of Information Technology**: Dawn Clayberg

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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### To Reach P.E.O.
- **Mail**: P.E.O. Executive Office, 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312-2899
- **Phone**: 515-255-3153
- **Fax**: 515-255-3820
- **Web**: peointernational.org (Go to Members Login, enter username and password, then click Contact Us.)

### To Reach Cottey College
- **Mail**: 1000 W Austin Blvd., Nevada, Missouri 64772-2790
- **Phone**: 417-667-8181
- **Fax**: 417-667-8103
- **Email**: peorelations@cottey.edu
- **Web**: cottey.edu

### To Reach The P.E.O. Record or Submit Material
- **Becky Frazier, Editor**
- **Mail**: P.E.O. Executive Office, 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312-2899
- **Phone**: 515-255-3153
- **Fax**: 515-255-3820
- **Email**: bfrazier@peodsm.org

Layout and design of The P.E.O. Record by Allison Vial
Our hearts are with each of you, our sisters, as we grieve together through the loss of friends, family and those who have touched our lives.

In 2019, as we celebrated our 150th Anniversary of the founding of P.E.O., our thoughts were often taken to the friendship of the Original Seven and their bonds of sisterhood. We’ve learned that it was Alice Coffin who suggested the five-pointed star, with the letters P.E.O. displayed proudly on the front in black letters.

Our motto, those important letters P.E.O., have continued to guide the Executive Board of International Chapter in our decisions these past few months. While many of our decisions have been unprecedented, we have followed similar decisions made in the past.

In the oral President’s Report given at the Twenty-Fourth Biennial Convention of the P.E.O. Sisterhood held on September 30 to October 3, 1919, in Denver, Colorado, Margaret Durward, President of Supreme Chapter stated:

“Much of the correspondence has been directed toward two great efforts, each a seeming contradiction to the other; during the winter and spring of 1918 an effort to show many states and many local chapters that we must continue our meetings and state gatherings even tho we were in the midst of war, and thus be prepared to serve our country to the utmost since we were organized and trained for that purpose; the next few months after that when the ban had been placed for months on all meetings and a great distress had arisen in many quarters because meetings could not be held and no progress made, I found myself writing much that sounded contradictory to my earlier statements; my main theme became… ‘Hold the line just where we are. We are large enough and strong enough to overcome temporary lapse.’”

As of March 1, 1917, there were 14 Grand (State) Chapters, 663 local chapters and 18,344 active members. Through 1917-1919, our Sisterhood did grow with the organization of Wisconsin Grand (State) Chapter, 74 local chapters and the initiation of 3,309 new members. Our Sisterhood was stronger as those important letters of P.E.O. helped us come together through the two major international events of that time: World War I and the 1918 influenza pandemic.

We have no such “seeming contradiction” in this generational pandemic attacking our friends, families and sisters. We have been asked, directed and even ordered by our local, state, provincial, district and national governments not to gather during this COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Not as sisters, families or friends.

And so, we turn once more to those important letters…

P.E.O. and the strengths of our Sisterhood. The strengths through the bonds of sisterhood, friendships, our philanthropy of Women helping Women.

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Reach out to your sisters.

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

Brenda, Patti, Cathy, Alix and Kay
Sisters in Chapter DF-JH, San Diego, California, love reading about long distance P.E.O. angels, never dreaming our chapter would have one of our own. Our sister Judy Young was severely injured in a car accident in Utah, 700 miles from home. How could we let Judy know we’re thinking of her? We went to our wonderful P.E.O. website, looked up Saint George, Utah, where Judy was in the hospital, and reached out to Chapter AM president, Debbie Dunn.

That very day, Debbie went to visit Judy. She continued visiting and keeping us informed for several weeks until she had to leave to attend International Convention. In her absence, she asked several other Chapter AM sisters to continue to check up on Judy.

My chapter tasked our convention delegate, Ginger Higgins, to find Debbie at Convention and smother her with hugs. Debbie, Chapter DF-JH is eternally grateful for your LOVING CONCERN for our Judy. You are indeed, our ANGEL.

— Suzie Curtis, DF-JH, San Diego, California

I decided to go to graduate school right around my 25th birthday. With a few years of work experience under my belt but no real idea of what I wanted from my career, I started looking into MBA programs.

Heading back to school while still working my way out of debt from undergrad was intimidating. Luckily for me, my grandmother, a longtime P.E.O., was able to connect me with a local chapter so I could apply for both a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) grant and an Educational Loan Fund (ELF) loan.

It is an understatement to say the funds from PCE and ELF are what enabled me to go back to school for the MBA program I selected at William and Mary.

In my first year of the program, I got involved with the Women in Leadership club, a part of the school’s MBA Association. The club aims to raise awareness about the issues women face in the workplace and to foster a sense of community and belonging amongst women in the MBA program. Between my MBA program and my friends from other points in life, I know many women who are in situations similar to mine; they are eager to continue their education and looking for ways to do it without taking on a lot of debt.

Recently, Women in Leadership partnered with a local P.E.O. chapter, BA, Williamsburg, Virginia, to host a networking night where students could learn about P.E.O. projects. I’m so grateful to P.E.O. for helping me afford this opportunity, and I want to pass that along to the next group of women MBAs—and hopefully, inspire them to pass it along. We also hope to foster a lasting connection between the women in school and the women in P.E.O. for further mentorship and learning opportunities.

— Kelly Wendt, P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund and P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education recipient

PICTURED: At the P.E.O. networking event with the Woman in Leadership club at the College of William and Mary.

From the left: Sunny Yi, Beth Castaneda, Jenny Sawin, Kelly Wendt, Jan Krapfl, Nancy Blount, Mary Ann Durboraw
The Executive Board of International Chapter is excited to announce that Kathleen (Kathy) Ann Soppe has accepted our offer of promotion to Executive Director of the P.E.O. Sisterhood as of April 1, 2020.

Kathy graduated summa cum laude from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1990. That same year, Kathy passed the exam as a Certified Public Accountant, a license she still holds.

Kathy began her career in public accounting and in 1994, Kathy was hired as Assistant Treasurer at the Executive Office of International Chapter. She was promoted to Treasurer in 2000 and her title was changed to Director of Finance/Treasurer in 2007.

A first generation P.E.O., Kathy was initiated into Chapter LQ, Iowa, in 1994. She has held local chapter offices and served on many committees.

Reporting to the Executive Board, Kathy, as Executive Director, will oversee the management and operation of the Executive Office of the International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, as well as our Sisterhood’s consistent achievement of its shared mission.

Please join the executive board in thanking Kathy for saying "Yes!"

WE’RE MAKING HISTORY together!
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Ensure you are receiving P.E.O. communications, including the P.E.O. Record!

We know members are eager to receive relevant and reliable information from their local chapters, but also from their state, provincial or district chapters and from International Chapter.

To this end, P.E.O. International has plans to start communicating on a more routine basis directly with members via email. Collecting email addresses is also a step in the overall plan for P.E.O. to provide a robust web-based, tailored experience for members.

To receive important communications from P.E.O. International via email, phone and even The P.E.O. Record, be sure your contact information is up-to-date. If you have moved recently or have a new phone number or email address, be sure to update it online on this page HTTPS://MEMBERS.PEOINTERNATIONAL.ORG/UPDATE.

If you have updated your contact information within your local chapter, please submit it via the link above or ask your chapter corresponding secretary to complete a Change in Membership Form to ensure P.E.O. International has the most up-to-date information.

As a reminder, we do not sell or share our member contact information and it is stored and protected in the P.E.O. membership database. ★
Day Scott, QB, Los Angeles, California, was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. In 2005 she moved to Los Angeles for a job in the tech industry. After a company layoff, she discovered her passion for the wilderness, which is what eventually led her to P.E.O.

She says, “I remember reading an article that said spending time outdoors was good for the soul, and mine was in serious need of uplifting. During my first hike into the foothills of Southern California’s San Gabriel Mountains, I became fascinated with all of the wildlife and felt so invigorated and curious.”

Day went on to become a certified naturalist and started working as manager of environmental education at the Ballona Wetlands, a state ecological reserve. On a camping trip to Pinnacles National Park with the Sierra Club, Day met P.E.O. Irene Yoshinaga. Day recalls, “I was by myself and Irene was there with a friend. On the first night camping, I forgot to put my cooler in the car so I woke up to find raccoons took all my food. Irene and her friend shared their food and cookware with me and that’s what started our bond. I just stuck with them the entire trip.”

As the women continued to talk and get to know each other, they discovered they lived in neighboring communities and the friendship continued after the camping trip. Irene took Day under her wing and told her about P.E.O. Day visited Chapter QB and was subsequently invited to join, initiated in June 2016. Day recalls, “I remember saying yes and just
loving the ladies. I loved them because they embraced me; that was the number one thing. I felt so much love from those ladies. Especially me being black and with such an age difference—despite the cultural and age differences, they treated me like their daughter or granddaughter. For me that was important because I didn’t have family in Los Angeles. They were so kind and loving and just the most caring group of women that I’ve ever been around.”

While still living in Los Angeles, Day attended every P.E.O. meeting. Even after her move to Wyoming (read more about that journey in the accompanying piece on page 9), she continued to keep in touch with her Chapter QB sisters and was buoyed by their support. She couldn’t imagine how that network of P.E.O. Sisterhood would later impact her life.

In the summer of 2019, Day was in a horrible car accident. As she was driving to Idaho, she hit a small herd of pronghorn antelope. Her car was totaled and Day suffered a traumatic brain injury. When her P.E.O. sisters in Los Angeles learned about Day’s accident, they put the wheels of P.E.O. loving concern into motion. Via Facebook, QB sisters reached out to sisters from Chapter Q in Day’s small town of Lander, Wyoming.

“These ladies just started showing up,” said Day. “They came and brought me food, drove me to appointments and took me to run errands.” While Day’s brain injury makes it difficult for her to be around groups of people because of hypersensitivity to sound, she has attended some Chapter Q socials. Sisters picked her up, drove her to events and ensured there were quiet spaces available where she could retreat to rest if she got overwhelmed. “They took good care of me,” said Day.

While it’s been eight months since the accident, Day’s recovery is still just beginning. She has already made great strides; she can walk without assistance and her speech is back to her normal rate. She has a regular physical therapy routine, including vestibular rehab to improve her balance and occupational therapy to help improve cognitive function. Day continues to struggle with dizziness, headaches, compromised vision and brain fog.
Learning to accept this as her new normal may be the hardest part for her. “It is very hard to not be able to function like I used to,” she said. “I’m trying to get back what I had and I never want to stop that fight but I know I may never get that back.”

She continues, “The new me is maybe the me that will be more helpful to society. I’m such a positive person. That’s one thing I have on my side. I have not lost that drive to want to go forward. That’s still in me. I just want to get back to my life and my journey so I can help people. I still have passion for nature and want to get back to my wildlife photography.”

Day still finds solace in her true love, nature. Despite the struggles of living in a remote area, away from her family, she is determined to stay in Wyoming and carry on with gratitude. “I’m going to go for a walk,” she said. “I won’t feel great. I’ll feel dizzy, but I will still enjoy that beautiful walk.” ★

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**DAY SCOTT**

by Stefani Farris, Associate Director, Wyoming Outdoor Council (WOC)

Listen to naturalist, outdoor educator and new WOC member Day Scott talk about her journey from Los Angeles to Wyoming and it’s clear she’s hardwired to forge connections and build community.

In the six months since moving to Lander, Day has become a regular volunteer and photographer with a pet rescue organization, helped out at the farmers’ market, served as a wilderness first responder for local events, and had her wildlife photography featured on the Only in Wyoming media company’s Facebook page. The connections she’s made have led to continuous house- and dog-sitting opportunities, a marketing job at NOLS, dinner invitations from nearby campers, and, most recently, to meeting a group of likeminded people eager to learn the ins and outs of advocacy.

Last month, Day graduated from WOC’s inaugural Conservation Leadership Institute. Of everything she learned, she was especially interested to discover that nearly all the presenters over the eight-week course highlighted one theme as the basis of successful advocacy: relationship building. That term is used a lot these days, “but it really is the basis of life,” she said. “It’s so important. This is it!”

Day moved to Lander last spring, after taking a class with the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. She’d been living in L.A. for more than a decade, where she’d worked as a technical writer for a major social media company and then as a naturalist and manager of environmental education and outreach for a state ecological reserve. She also spearheaded a wetlands restoration project and, most recently, had started an environmental-based summer camp for kids. She enjoyed her work, but needed a change from the crowds and the pace.

She found that change in Wyoming. Soon after coming to Lander, Day drove through Sinks Canyon and up to a lake on the Shoshone National Forest. “I literally cried. I thought, how can this exist here? It’s just here and I have access to it. And how can people in L.A. survive and be happy when they don’t have this?”

Day admitted that in the beginning she didn’t know what to expect from Lander. She was nervous about how she’d be perceived as a black woman in a predominantly white small town. “At first, I got a lot of stares,” she said. But she pushed through the discomfort of being alone, and began making friends and connections. Soon, word was out that she needed a place to live, and one thing led to another. “Someone let me stay at their house who didn’t even know me — turned over their dogs and house to me … that gave me such a sense of community and total trust. And that’s happened here more than once.”

That sense of community, coupled with Wyoming’s awe-inspiring landscapes, have made Day feel she’s found her home here. “I feel like I need Lander in my life,” she said. As for why she joined WOC, she said that after belonging to bigger, national groups, she was excited to be part of a local, statewide conservation organization. “When I found out about WOC and what they do, making a difference just seemed easier.” ★
The first time I was asked to consider serving as president of my local chapter, I thought the nominating committee was joking. ME!? But after many reassurances and promises of support, I tentatively agreed. Two months later I found myself standing in front of my chapter nervously clutching the gavel. I was afraid I was going to make a mistake. I was anxious about doing a good job. I was worried I wasn’t ready to hold such a significant position within the chapter. I feared I was going to fail.

Fear is a powerful emotion that can keep us safe, so it does have its place and value. But fear can also stagnate us, limiting our contributions to the Sisterhood. What does it look like within a local chapter?

Do you hear this within your own chapter? Have you said something similar yourself? When you let fear of change, fear of failure or fear of comparison dictate your decisions you give up your opportunity for growth. A common characteristic of leaders is that they accept positions, situations and options that stretch their abilities and challenge their skills. Leadership takes a degree of risk.

As P.E.O.s, we are called to instill bravery in others. Did you know that? In the middle of the chaplain’s prayer read at every business meeting is the statement, “Dear Father, grant that all with whom we associate may be purer, braver and stronger for our influence.” Listen for it at your next meeting. The responsibility of engendering bravery in others rests squarely upon our shoulders. But how do we do it? True courage comes from a focus on actions that stem from love, not from fear. Consider two simple, love-based things you can do to encourage your sisters to live bravely.

First, mentor others. When I think of the women who encouraged me to serve as chapter president, I am truly grateful. Who has encouraged you along your own P.E.O. journey? Give the gift of mentorship to someone else. Support, instruction, coaching, feedback, guidance... a mentor can make the difference between a sister who sits on the sidelines or a sister that is actively engaged. Our Sisterhood helps women achieve their fullest potential—not just project matter if I make mistakes. The purpose of our meetings is to conduct our business and enjoy the company of our sisters—worry less about being flawless and more about being effective. Show others it’s okay to make mistakes if we can laugh and learn together. My initial anxiety of serving as chapter president grew into enjoyment and fulfillment.

Through mentorship and modelling, you can encourage others to develop themselves and their own leadership skills. As champions of women, we must be brave enough to nurture ourselves and others from a place of love, not fear.

My sisters, be brave. “We’ve always done it that way.”

“I could never serve as treasurer.”

“I wouldn’t want to follow her as membership chairman.”

Second, model bravery. Put yourself out there. Show your sisters through your own example that you don’t have to do a job perfectly in order to do it well. I remember about halfway into my first year as chapter president, thinking, “Will I ever get through a meeting without making a mistake?” I’ve since realized that it doesn’t matter if I make mistakes. The purpose of our meetings is to conduct our business and enjoy the company of our sisters—worry less about being flawless and more about being effective. Show others it’s okay to make mistakes if we can laugh and learn together. My initial anxiety of serving as chapter president grew into enjoyment and fulfillment.

Through mentorship and modelling, you can encourage others to develop themselves and their own leadership skills. As champions of women, we must be brave enough to nurture ourselves and others from a place of love, not fear.

My sisters, be brave. ★
A PIECE OF P.E.O. SESQUICENTENNIAL JEWELRY WENT INTO SPACE! On February 15, 2020, a Northrop Grumman Antares rocket launched the CRS2 NG-13 (Cyanus) spacecraft on a commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station; a vermeil sesquicentennial charm was onboard the craft and was transferred to the International Space Station, where it remained for several weeks. In a serendipitous twist of fate, it was astronaut Jessica Meir, a P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient, who was handling the cargo! The P.E.O. jewelry returned to Earth on SpaceX-20 on April 6.

P.E.O. Stephanie Jenkins, GI, Texas, was instrumental in making this happen. Her father, Bruce Baker, is employed by a company heavily involved in space flights and had the necessary contacts to bring the idea to fruition. This would not have been possible without James Dunn at NASA’s Johnson Space Center. He never stopped pushing to have the pin launched. Without prompting, he followed up with every flight to find space for the P.E.O. jewelry in the cargo. After a year, he was successful and P.E.O. is so grateful for his persistence!

Once the sesquicentennial jewelry is back at P.E.O. International headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, it will be proudly displayed along with another historic piece of jewelry—the P.E.O. charm carried by Buzz Aldrin on his Apollo 11 flight to the moon in P.E.O.’s centennial year, 1969.
We launched the Let’s Talk Survey on September 14, 2019, the final day of the 2019 Convention of International Chapter where we celebrated P.E.O.’s sesquicentennial anniversary. The survey was completed by 5,620 members: some with lots on their minds and some with simple, straightforward thoughts and ideas. Thank you to everyone who participated. We welcomed your input. Our strengths as a sisterhood, an organization with a shared mission, have shone brightly and touched the lives of so many of our families and friends in these extremely trying times.

**P.E.O. has much to be proud of!**

Our data gurus within P.E.O. confirmed for me that the information we gathered is a direct reflection of our membership. I’m a bit hesitant to state that definitive conclusion though, as this survey wasn’t sent to every member. The survey was shared multiple times and in multiple ways, so please take the results in that light.

Our Sisterhood is based on friendship and mutual respect. We meet to support each other, for fellowship and for the common and unifying purpose of assisting women to reach their educational goals. As we reflect on our own legacy within P.E.O. and that of our local chapters, the top two survey answers confirmed the strengths our Sisterhood is built on and shows P.E.O.s are united.

- **The Bonds of Sisterhood, Friendships and Women Helping Women (47%)**
- **Our Philanthropy and shared mission (37%)**

I need to acknowledge the help I’ve received in reading each open-ended answer our members provided. My gratitude goes to the executive board, our amazing team at the executive office and one amazing sister, Peggy Bottorf, Past President of California State Chapter. Peggy has helped categorize each answer to make this presentation as accurate as possible.

I’m happy to share some of the wonderful answers in this article. Reading these, I’ve been taken back in my memory to the loving sisters I’ve known in my P.E.O. journey. Their wit, smiles and hugs and friendships are in my mind daily. Despite the lively conversations that occasionally happen regarding sensitive items on which we may disagree, it’s clear from these survey results that the things that unite us far outnumber and outweigh those that may divide us.

In future articles about Let’s Talk, we’ll share data and answers regarding membership and the opportunities for P.E.O. The executive board will share the data and answers surrounding your thoughts regarding the weaknesses of and threats to P.E.O., although as we work through our unprecedented decisions due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the welfare of each sister is at the top of our list of concerns.

My love to each of you, my sisters!

P.E.O.’s greatest strengths include honoring and preserving the fundamental values and ideals of our Founders, while embracing new concepts and ideas which will enhance our Sisterhood. Our ability to grow in diversity, age, culture and religious backgrounds, without promoting change to our core values. A Sisterhood of bright, thoughtful, philanthropic, loving sisters who are committed to each other and dedicated to supporting the educational goals of women—a Sisterhood which continues to enrich the lives of our members, and the lives of those in our community and throughout the world.

Mary Hanley, AI, Metuchen, New Jersey

**Let’s Talk**

**The Strengths of P.E.O.**

by Brenda J. Atchison, President, International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood

WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER WHILE BEING OUTWARDLY FOCUSED THROUGH THE PROJECTS. I LOVE THAT DUAL FOCUS. WE ARE EXTREMELY Organized—BEING an OFFICER IS EASY AND MAKES YOU ABLE TO DO so IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. We DEVELOP DEEP BONDS that REMAIN STRONG NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE. —Joanne Gustafson, FF, Fort Worth, Texas
**What is your age?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>25-34 years old</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-44 years old</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-54 years old</td>
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<tr>
<td>55-64 years old</td>
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<tr>
<td>65-74 years old</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 years or older</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**How many local chapters have you been a member of?**

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<tr>
<th>Number of Chapters</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 or more</td>
<td>0%</td>
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**How many state, provincial or district chapters have you been a member of?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Chapters</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 or more</td>
<td>0%</td>
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**Have you served on an executive board of a state, provincial or district chapter?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>90%</td>
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**Which local chapter office have you served in?**

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<thead>
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<th>Office</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>President</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not served yet</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Our greatest strength is that we are women and who have wonderful objects and aims that we can strive to live each day and by doing so can make our community and beyond a better place.**

Diane Cowdrey, W, Cooperstown, North Dakota

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“We are a sisterhood of women who understand the importance of caring and nurturing each other which creates a bond of love for who we are and what we do. And our unity of purpose—our P.E.O. projects—keeps us focused on the mission of funding and finding recipients for these projects. We are operationally structured in all we do with a single message from our International President; therefore we are all working from the same game page. It can be branded in a new logo and slogan every year but the goals are always more members and more money and more candidates for the projects. This continued focus is what has given P.E.O. the strength to endure 150 years so far!”

Devon Gedney, AR, Wilmington, North Carolina
THE P.E.O. FOUNDATION AND IPS —
A Perfect Partnership

by Lou McLaren, Chairman, P.E.O. Foundation Board of Trustees

What would you do if $157,457 fell in your lap? Hire someone to do all that weeding? Adopt all the dogs from the local animal shelter? Hit the home shopping network? Or...educate women forever? Wait, what? Educate women forever? How does that work?

Through the generosity and support of P.E.O.s everywhere, the 150 Fund, in honor of the Sisterhood’s sesquicentennial, was a smashing success. The exciting news, shared by Brenda Atchison, President of International Chapter, is that each project received $157,457 to be used as its board of trustees so desired. Wow! The Board of Trustees of the International Peace Scholarship (IPS) took that one step further and decided to establish a permanent fund in the P.E.O. Foundation. Wow again! And, this is the first fund ever created by a project board of trustees. Wow one last time!

“We were all of a like mind that doing something perpetual was the right thing. The board didn’t deliberate; it just felt right.”

Partnering with the P.E.O. Foundation, the trustees’ goal is to have a transfer fund to IPS, whereby the net income will accrue until there are sufficient funds to make a Named Award, currently $12,500. (A transfer fund has its net income transferred directly to one or more of the P.E.O. educational projects.) On average this will allow one additional international student to receive a Named Award roughly every three years.

Had all the money been spent this year, IPS could have made 12 additional awards. But they desired something different and long-lasting. The IPS trustees recognized that the power of education could be given to far more recipients, if they set up a permanent fund in the Foundation. When asked what motivated IPS to establish a scholarship fund, chairman Barbara Olsen said, “We were all of a like mind that doing something perpetual was the right thing. The board didn’t deliberate; it just felt right.” Thus the P.E.O. IPS Legacy Fund was born.

If you have a desire to support any of the other projects in perpetuity, there likely is a fund already established that could help you meet that goal. For sisters who have a special place in their hearts for IPS, the P.E.O. IPS Legacy Fund provides an excellent way to make charitable donations now and in the future. With the assistance of the P.E.O. Foundation, this new IPS transfer fund will provide educational resources for deserving women in perpetuity. And that is how you educate women forever!

Remember...YOU are a philanthropist! ★
P.E.O. Membership Has Its Own Language

by Laura Parris and Lauri Cushing, P.E.O. International Membership Committee

Most organizations have what may seem to a newcomer a language all their own. It can be lonely being the new kid on the block trying to learn the ropes when you don’t know the language. Recognizing that the language of membership can be confusing, here are some defined membership categories.

**Active:** A member who has paid her annual dues and has all privileges of the Sisterhood.

**Inactive:** A member who has forfeited the privileges offered in the business meetings of the Sisterhood by not paying her annual dues before March 1. An inactive member may be reinstated.

**Nonparticipating:** An active resident member who doesn’t attend or participate regularly in the life of the chapter.

**Nonresident:** An active member who lives too far away to regularly attend her chapter’s meetings.

**Resident:** An active member who lives in or around the city where the chapter is located and can regularly attend meetings.

**Initiate:** A new active member who has just been given membership through the Ceremony of Initiation.

**Transfer In:** Transfers the membership of a member to your chapter.

**Transfer Out:** Transfers the membership of a member to another chapter.

**Unaffiliate:** An active member who lives in your community, but belongs to a chapter in another area. An unaffiliate in your area is a nonresident member in her home chapter.

**P.E.O. recognizes that we live in a mobile society. Meetings are set up to be conducted the same way all over the United States and Canada so that when sisters move or travel, they will feel right at home in a new chapter. We have names for those situations as well.**

**During our P.E.O. journey, life changes can happen. The following terms describe situations that can occur during the different seasons of our sisters’ lives.**

**Lateral Transfer:** Transfers the membership of a member to another chapter in the same area that meets at a more convenient day and/or time.

**Reinstated Member:** A member who—after relinquishing her membership—returns to active status by submitting a notification letter to her chapter or to a chapter that has extended her an invitation to transfer and paying the reinstatement fee.

**Initiating new members is vital to keeping a chapter healthy. It also ensures the future of our Sisterhood.**

**Sponsor:** To sponsor a woman for membership by signing the official Sponsor for Membership form—based upon personal knowledge—that firmly states the candidate is eligible, and will be a congenial addition to the Sisterhood. You will be able to sponsor after you have been a member of P.E.O. for one year.

**Membership is the responsibility of every P.E.O. Learn the language and join your sisters in building our legacy and making history!**
P.E.O. Taps into Creativity, Finds Humor in Battle with Breast Cancer

by Ruth Rabby, CW, Delaware, Ohio

Always the optimist, always the “glass half full” type, when Leigh Rabby, CW, Delaware, Ohio, received a diagnosis of triple negative breast cancer after her routine annual mammogram in November 2018, her creative tendency began searching for a coping outlet. Her degree in photography always took her that direction in problem solving, and this time photographing her routine chemotherapy infusion setting as something else seemed like a possibility.

The first Taxol appointment site was transformed into a tropical setting where she might be embarking on a planned vacation. The infusion pole became a palm tree over a lounge chair as she luxuriated in tropical attire complete with exotic cocktail in hand. Needless to say the imported setting created quite a stir in the halls of the Stephanie Spielman Center of the Arthur James Cancer Center, Ohio State University Medical Center.
All the attention to her novel approach to dealing with such a serious situation inspired Leigh to create a new setting for each subsequent treatment—10 in all. Themes ranged from sports (March Madness during the college basketball final four games), a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for St. Patrick’s Day, recreating the famous dance scene from “Singin’ in the Rain” complete with fake rain in April, the solar system with her by-then-bald head as the sun and others. Leigh’s creative process involved all with whom she shared her plan—family, friends, Chapter CW sisters, work colleagues, clinic staff and other patients—so that many others became invested in the weekly photo.

The good news is the final outcome: A CANCER-FREE REPORT AT THE END OF THE TREATMENT.

A radical double mastectomy to be followed by reconstruction surgery in December made 2019 quite a year that challenged Leigh’s positivity, but the glass is still half full!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Ruth Rabby is Leigh Rabby’s mother. She says, “I want to share Leigh’s story because it is a creative and unusual approach to coping with an overwhelming situation. Perhaps it will inspire others to look at a crisis and find humor during trying times.”
IMPORTANT P.E.O. PROJECTS UPDATES

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship

Dates for local chapters to submit the name of a student to be considered for the 2021–2022 P.E.O. STAR Scholarship will be AUGUST 15, 2020 to OCTOBER 15, 2020.

P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education

Effective July 1, 2020:

The certification or degree program in which an applicant is enrolled must now be from an accredited institution.

An applicant is eligible for a grant if she is within 18 consecutive months of completing her educational program.

Grants are awarded to women for programs or degrees up to and including a master’s degree. Those enrolled in a post master’s certification or doctoral program are not eligible.

The submission window for a chapter recommendation is between 8 and 14 weeks prior to the start of the student’s term for which the grant is requested.

P.E.O. Scholar Awards

Effective in 2021, in honor of the P.E.O. Scholar Awards’ 30th Anniversary, the award will be increasing to $20,000.
CHAPTER RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Special chapter designations have been created to recognize chapters that give $500 or more lump-sum donations to promote and support their favorite P.E.O. project.

$500 lump-sum donations to any of these P.E.O. projects will provide significant support for women and further connect local chapters to the mission of the Sisterhood.

NEW!

EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND
LEGACY CHAPTER

SCHOLAR AWARDS
LAUREATE CHAPTER

STAR SCHOLARSHIP
CONSTELLATION CHAPTER

NEW!

PROGRAM FOR
CONTINUING EDUCATION
BRIGHTER TOMORROW CHAPTER

INTERNATIONAL PEACE
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
PARTNERS IN PEACE CHAPTER

NEW AS OF JULY 2019

For more information about all project policies and guidelines and to learn more about the individual project chapter recognition opportunities, visit the P.E.O. International Member website at members.peointernational.org. ★
How to be Successful with ELF: RECRUITMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESULTS

by Chapter N, Hickory, North Carolina, and Nanci Rosensteel, P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund Board of Trustees

Are you ready to up your chapter’s success with Educational Loan Fund (ELF) recipients? Chapter N, Hickory, North Carolina, shares their “Best ELF Practices” to help you network with community resources, identify and find qualified applicants and complete the application process.

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT FINDING APPLICANTS
First, read about ELF policies on www.peointernational.org

Be knowledgeable about all things ELF! Network with local colleges and universities. Chapter N identified Lenoir Rhyne University (LRU), a small liberal arts college in Hickory, North Carolina, and met with the director of financial aid. LRU granted Chapter N permission to be on campus twice a year. Posters at locations such as churches and word of mouth also resulted in ELF applicants.

BE INTENTIONAL—LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!
Establish a key contact within the financial aid office or other relevant departments to reserve tables, chairs and determine an optimal location. Chapter N’s location in the Health Sciences Building provides fruitful access to nursing, physician assistant and occupational therapy programs. Campus visits in March/April and August/September are cleared by the Dean of Health Sciences. He always says, “We’re glad you are here!” ELF and Program for Continuing Education (PCE) chairmen staff the table for one or two days for up to three hours per day.

Get attention! Chapter N uses a star balloon bouquet and signs that read “Grants and Loans for Women” and “Plan Ahead for Next Semester.” Two chapter customized forms are on the table: “ELF and PCE Eligibility Requirements” and “P.E.O. Prospective Applicant Form.”

When a woman approaches the table, qualify her candidacy by reviewing eligibility requirements. If eligible, have her complete the “Prospective Applicant Form” and say “A P.E.O. will call you soon.”

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT CHAPTER FOLLOW-UP
Follow-up call by chapter member:

■ Tell applicant about the entire loan process.

TIP: Review eligibility requirements again; emphasizing the need for two co-signers.

■ Determine the date, time and place for the in-person interview.

TIP: Make a file and “contact log” for each applicant. Note the date and purpose.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW PROCESS
The in-person interview is the final step before seeking chapter approval needed to recommend the applicant. Have at least two chapter members attend the interview.

■ Ask applicants to tell you about themselves, how they chose their major and about their previous college experiences, degrees and future plans.

Be sure to use the “Local Chapter Interview Worksheet” found on www.peointernational.org.

■ Inform applicant she has 30 days to submit the application. The due date is provided.

■ Tell applicant once her loan is approved, she will receive a promissory note. She and her co-signers must complete, sign and return the document to P.E.O. International.

TIP: Be sure the applicant’s email is personal, not a school email address.

Being intentional in all aspects of finding ELF and other P.E.O. project candidates reaps many benefits. These extend not only to the applicant but the school, greater community, your chapter and sisterhood. Be sure to keep in touch with your recipients. Many times ELF recipients become P.E.O.s!

RAVE RESULTS!
Chapter N sponsored 11 ELF applicants in 2019-2020. All were approved for loans! Much of Chapter N’s success can be attributed to the years of experience and passion for helping women that ELF chair Marjo Erickson and chapter president Donna Trado have brought to the process.

A LRU professor saw the ELF poster at his church. He took a photo and shared it with the female students in his class while announcing, “Who would like $15,000?” Chapter N got several applicants because of his efforts!
Read with Cottey—Online!

By Dr. Jann Weitzel, President, Cottey College

Cottey is excited to pilot its first online class designed specifically for P.E.O.s. In the fall, Denise Carrick Hedges, Cottey’s director of leadership development, will offer Read with Cottey, a course based on the non-fiction book "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann. The book details the disturbing and mysterious deaths of Osage Nation members in the 1920s and how the newly created FBI unraveled the mystery. This book was chosen as the common reader for all students entering Cottey in fall 2019 because it had the potential to guide the leaders, the socially responsible and the globally aware citizens that all Cottey students are destined to become.

What should you expect? Think of this class as an online book club. The class will begin on September 8 and run through September 29. Each week, you will be asked to read 3–4 chapters of the book, to respond to discussion questions created by Denise and to interact with your classmates by responding to their thoughts and questions. The class will be offered asynchronously, meaning that you will not be required to meet at any specific time, just when it is convenient for you—even from your couch in your jammies! And to answer a big question—no, you will not take tests or receive graded assignments! We want this class to be educational, thought-provoking and fun!

To participate, you will need to have basic technology skills, such as basic web navigation skills (going to a specific web address, performing a search and bookmarking a site), the ability to send and receive email and the knowledge to post and reply to a discussion board. Minimum hardware/software requirements include Windows 8, 10 or OSX operating systems, an Internet connection and Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari web browser. Please know, we can talk you through any questions you might have!

The cost for this class is just $250. In terms of materials, you will need to have a copy of the book. Online registration begins May 26. Just go to the Cottey website (cottey.edu) and look for "P.E.O." in the upper right hand corner.

Based on the interest in and success of this course, Cottey will seek to offer additional courses in the future. Come learn with us!
Three sisters from Zimbabwe have had their lives transformed through the power of P.E.O. and the combined influence of the International Peace Scholarship (IPS) and Cottey College.

Tatenda Ndambakuwa’s life changed forever when a guest speaker at her high school from the American embassy encouraged her to consider studying in the U.S. Growing up in a village without running water or electricity and no access to a computer or computer skills, completing the Common Application would have been impossible without intervention from the Embassy woman who allowed her to use a computer. Cottey College was among eight colleges and universities that accepted her application, and the one that offered the best financial support.

Tatenda was an IPS scholar in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, excelling at Cottey and every leadership opportunity offered, becoming the first recipient of the Serenbetz Institute’s leadership fellowship award. During her Cottey years, Tatenda learned that she had a network of P.E.O. members across the U.S. and Canada supporting her with encouraging notes, care packages and mentorship.

After earning her associate degree in 2015, she transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), completing a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics in 2018. While at VCU, she developed a mobile phone application called Shiri that provides a peer-to-peer communication platform for African farmers. She credits the leadership skills learned at Cottey in helping her to develop and market this product. Now with the assistance of an IPS award in 2019-2020, she is completing a master’s degree in data science at New York University. She says that throughout her journey, P.E.O. sisters have hosted her in their homes, and provided her with a “warm embrace.”

When Tatenda’s younger sister, Yustinah, considered studying in the U.S., she applied to Cottey as well as other women’s colleges. Cottey provided the most affordable option, and she already knew how her sister grew and excelled in her short time there. After completing a bachelor’s degree in biology, she plans to enroll in a master’s degree program in biostatistics in fall 2020. Yustinah says she would not have been able to follow in her sister’s footsteps without support from IPS in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, as well as from P.E.O. sisters. As she plans to move on to graduate school, she is grateful for the Cottey faculty and their encouragement that propelled her to continue her education.

The youngest Ndambakuwa sister, Wadzanai, is just beginning her Cottey journey. Receiving the IPS award for 2019-2020, she is studying health and biomedical sciences and taking advantage of every opportunity available to students—including travel with faculty to two national science conferences this year. She says she has learned to reach out to her professors (rather than her older sister) and has found them to be available and supportive.

The sisters agree that P.E.O. enriches their whole lives—with opportunities to study at an academically rigorous institution, to learn about other cultures from diverse faculty and classmates, and to experience the support and mentorship of nearly 250,000 “mothers” in the P.E.O. network. They say, “We hold the P.E.O organization close to our hearts and we hope one day to be P.E.O.s ourselves.” ★

IPS is designed for graduate studies for international students, though a small percentage of award funds are used to support international students in their undergraduate studies at Cottey College. For more information, go to www.peointernational.org.
Survive & Thrive

PCE Recipient

JOYCELYN SHIPE
RISES UP TO

by Beverly Prewitt, P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education Board of Trustees

The forces of circumstance have constantly challenged Joycelyn Shipe to reinvent herself and adapt to her surroundings. Life experience has molded her into the compassionate woman she is today and a dream to become a licensed vocational nurse is now within sight.

“I love being a mom and am so grateful to have been able to stay at home and raise our four children but with our eldest daughter starting college I need to earn more than private nursing jobs will allow.”

Joycelyn

Shipe

Thanks to Chapter FE, Sarasota, Florida, who sponsored Joycelyn for a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grant, Joycelyn will achieve her goal in June 2020. At the age of 44, going back to school has presented its challenges. With classmates in their 20s and half of the students already dropping out of the program, Joycelyn is defying the odds and thriving. When asked how she chose her career path she states, “That was easy, I was practically raised in a nursing home after age 14. It was the only way to spend time with my mom who worked double shifts.”

Looking back, Joycelyn shared that she was born in poverty in the Philippines. Her mom worked at the U.S. Embassy and saw a way to make a better life by assisting with immigration paperwork for her own parents and a sister to come to the United States. A few years later she acquired a work visa for herself and left for the U.S. in search of her dream. Five-year-old Joycelyn was left behind, first in the care of sisters at a convent then with several families paid to keep her. Nine years went by and memory of her family faded. Those caring for Joycelyn did not always treat her well, especially if the money sent from America did not arrive as expected. At the age of 14 Joycelyn finally received paperwork and a plane ticket to travel to San Francisco with only the clothes she was wearing and five dollars in her pocket. Her mom had kept a promise long forgotten. Citizenship soon followed but Joycelyn barely noticed as she struggled to learn English as a high school student and adapt to a foreign culture.

Poverty and difficult circumstances continued as Joycelyn and her mom lived in one room of their home. All other space was rented out to make money. Ever resourceful, Joycelyn learned to speak English by watching TV and “hanging out with the good students at school.” She started working at age 15 at McDonalds where she continued to increase her language skills. Her hope was to save for a car since her mother never learned to drive. The immediate dream was dashed however when the housing market crashed and the duo became homeless. Ever the optimist, her mom said, “It’s going to get better, just don’t worry about it.” Eventually they ended up living in the garage of a house rented out to others. With no kitchen and an unbearably cold living space, Joycelyn would often take a city bus to the nursing home where her mom worked. She frequently spent the night riding the bus back to school the next morning. “If you really need to survive, you would be amazed at how much you can adapt,” explains Joycelyn. Her informal training as a nurse began working alongside her mom and learning to care for others. At the age of 18, Joycelyn was hired as a nursing assistant having learned the skills necessary to care for patients.

Today you will find Joycelyn working two jobs, studying for school, participating in clinicals and caring for her family. She is the ultimate survivor and proclaims, “There are no bad days.” ★
How to Recognize Stellar Scholars

by Terry Northcutt, P.E.O. Scholar Award Board of Trustees

Her scholarly experiences cover a range of activities. Applying and getting into a doctoral program is an accomplishment, but a Scholar goes the extra mile to attend other learning experiences to enhance her skills and breadth of knowledge. This includes activities from both her undergraduate time as well as graduate school. She may serve as a teaching assistant in college courses or volunteer in the community with a focus within her interests. She thinks globally, studying abroad, participating in international research efforts or interacting with international scholars. She takes time to reflect on how these experiences broaden her knowledge.

A Scholar has received recognition through monetary and merit scholarships and fellowships. She has been supported throughout her academic career with scholarships, grants, teaching assistantships or fellowships. She has competitive awards, some as prestigious as a National Institute of Health grant, but also significant university and undergraduate awards. In other words, universities and other institutions see her potential and are willing to support her. Others notice her outstanding work. A Scholar has been recognized by her university and others with honors. Graduating with an excellent grade point average leads to a designation of Summa or Magna Cum Laude. Honor societies such as Phi Beta Kappa or Sigma Theta Tau invite her to membership. She may be selected as best teaching assistant by her department or make the Dean’s List.

She is not only active within the university and community but assumes leadership positions. She is not satisfied with just being a member of an organization or committee but assumes an office or chairmanship. She is active in mentoring others within her field or within the community. She sometimes starts a new community project addressing a need or is elected to a position on a graduate school council. Whatever she does, she stands out as a leader with impact.

A Scholar shares her research through peer reviewed publications, International and Regional Conferences and other publications such as legal briefs, performances, abstracts or book reviews. By doing this she is becoming known in her field of expertise through networking with other scientists and professionals. This is important for her career development and area of study.

She is supported by her mentors, professors and leaders in her field who can attest to her excellence in academics and leadership. The three required recommendation letters highlight what these academics and others see as her strengths and potential. The P.E.O. Scholar Award Trustees also evaluate what they believe her potential to be based on all the information she has included in her application. The bottom line is, a stellar Scholar can provide evidence of her potential to make a difference in her field or even to make a difference on a larger scale.

Armed with these tips on how to spot a stellar Scholar, go find them! You can look at local universities, law and medical schools and even in your own families. There are outstanding women out there who are eager to reach for the stars and make a difference in the world.
They get us, and most, when asked, say that they would like to help us continue the work of our mission of educating women. Our STAR applicants are no exception!

Your chapter’s STAR chairman, and possibly a committee of trusted sisters, have interviewed your STAR candidate. Sometimes at these interviews the candidate brings along a family member or mentor, a person whom she trusts and with whom she shares her life. Many chapters have seen the impact these women can have on their chapter.

Carrie, a mother of a STAR candidate, was invited to join her daughter as she presented a program to a chapter. The chapter saw something special in Carrie and invited her to become a member, and they were so happy they did as Carrie has proven to be a valuable member of her chapter by serving on the projects committee.

Carrie is just one of many sisters who have come to know P.E.O. because of their connections with a STAR candidate. But what about the STAR candidate herself? You have already interviewed her, you know that she has the perfect ingredients to become a great chapter sister, so why not invite her to a chapter activity or to present a program?

Evié and Maggie are two sisters, both P.E.O. STAR Scholarship recipients, who were initiated into their mother Marti’s chapter, AC, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Evié’s mother tells us, “Evié has not had much opportunity yet to be involved. She was very involved in a sorority in college, went abroad as a Fulbright Scholar after graduation, and is now in her final semester of law school at Harvard. She has been able to attend only a few meetings since her initiation when she happened to be home on the right Tuesday.”

Evié’s chapter is there for her when she comes home. These women understand that she is busy, doesn’t live in the same town as their chapter and they are okay with this, they know that once Evié is settled in a career, she has the wonderful gift of P.E.O.

Evié’s younger sister Maggie’s experience is a little different. Marti says, “During college, Mags was a regular attendee at her ‘college chapter’ in Alma, Michigan. She has barely missed a meeting since her initiation, whether at college or now.” Maggie is a member of the chapter that initiated and sponsored her. Maggie’s mom, Marti, goes on to say, “Maggie is working full time as a preschool teacher and part time at a local YMCA. She has added youth and vitality to our chapter! She is finishing a two-year term as guard and was just elected as our new chaplain.”

So, take a chance! Get to know your STAR candidates and the special women in their lives. We never know unless we try the positive influence these women would have on our chapters.

Important Deadline Change

The deadline for submitting STAR candidate recommendations has changed effective immediately! Chapter recommendation forms for STAR candidates must be submitted online between AUGUST 15–OCTOBER 15.
New Presidents of State, Provincial and District (S/P/D) Chapters were installed 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 will serve as your S/P/D Chapter Presidents for the next year.

*Presidents from the blue highlighted areas are featured in this issue.
LINDA KOTTMeyer
Alabama
DARE!!! Build Alabama’s Legacy—Make P.E.O. History

Linda Wilkins Kottmeyer, AM, Birmingham, Alabama, is the legacy of her late mother, Thelma Crawford “T.C.” Wilkins, past president, Alabama State Chapter. Linda was initiated into Chapter N in 1972 and was a charter member of three Birmingham chapters—P, T and AM. She was the recipient of a P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF) and was featured in an article in The P.E.O. Record in October 1979.

Born and raised near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Linda’s family moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1961. She earned her B.S. from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, studying math, engineering and interior design. She launched her design career at Stavanger Steel, Norway and Germany.

With ELF help, she earned her M.S. and completed her Ph.D. coursework at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her broad-based clientele provided boundless opportunities to design, consult and teach across the U.S. and Canada; serve American Society of Interior Designers as Alabama State President and national board member; provide pro bono design and raise funds for Ronald McDonald House, St. Vincent’s Hospital, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Birmingham Symphony and Arlington Historical Association.

Married to BIL, John, since 2006, Linda still gets overwhelmed by the depth of love and support he has for her and P.E.O.

NEALA PIERCE
Alaska
Sisters by the Sea Promoting Unity

Neala Pierce was born and raised in Alaska. She spent her early years in Anchorage but the bulk of the time has been spent in Southeast Alaska. She attended Western Washington State College, returned to Juneau, married her college sweetheart and began her teaching career. She taught 27 years, all elementary grades, first through fifth, as well as served on many district level committees. One of the highlights of teaching was traveling with her students to historical sites in Southeast Alaska.

Neala was initiated into Chapter D, Juneau, in 2002 and transferred to Chapter N, Juneau, in 2010. She has served in various offices and was chairman of many committees. It has been an honor for her to be part of the first state board for the Alaska State Chapter.

Neala and her husband had many adventures during their life together. They loved outdoor activities, boating the waters of Southeast, flying to small lakes and communities, traveling the lower 48 and Canada. She helped her husband with his commercial fishing activities plus his art gallery. For the past 20 years, they spent four months living off the grid, enjoying their special summer home in Petersburg, Alaska.

MONICA BROWN
Alberta–Saskatchewan
Everything Passes But Love

Monica Brown was born in Calgary, Alberta, where she lived until moving to Nevada, Missouri, to attend Cottey College. After graduating from Cottey College in 2005 Monica moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in political science and history in 2008. She has remained in Edmonton ever since and is a member of Chapter H there.

Monica works in land development and has worked for Melcor Developments Ltd. since 2008. She started off as the receptionist and within a year was promoted to lot administrator. Monica moved to a management position in 2015. She is currently Melcor’s project completion and site manager; in layman terms, she is responsible for keeping communities looking great and working with the local municipalities to get letter of credit released.

In her spare time Monica enjoys listening to her partner, Brian, play the guitar, reading, traveling, hiking, camping and most importantly giving any dog she meets some pats.
Women helping women reach for the stars

THE P.E.O. RECORD | May–June 2020

Jessica Milam
Arkansas

Sisters Serving Sisters

Jessica Milam, initiated into Chapter H, Harrison, Arkansas, in 2007, was thrilled to have her mother initiated in 2014 and her two daughters in 2018!

Jessica has been married to her best friend, Dr. Philip Milam, for 28 years. They share two daughters: Dr. Addie Milam Luff, a dentist in Kansas City, Missouri, and Brynn Milam, a graphic designer for Missouri State Parks. Jessica owned a Hallmark shop from 1995–2005.

Outside of P.E.O., Jessica is an active member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where she is currently serving as a deacon. She is a charter member of a women’s National Association of Investors Corporation Investment club and has been enjoying time with her “financial sisters” since 2002. Every Christmas you’ll find Jessica ringing bells for the Salvation Army and spending some time serving food to those in need. She loves traveling, reading and her two Labrador retrievers.

Jessica states, “The highlight of my board service, so far, was during my organizer year when I assisted 18 fantastic women as they formed Arkansas’ 117th chapter, Chapter DV.” Service on the state board has been a huge honor and an opportunity for personal growth.

Karen Kline
Florida

Dancing with the Stars... Changing Lives.

Karen Kline grew up in the Midwest. She lived in Marengo, Sterling, Macomb and Rochelle in Illinois, before moving to Davenport, Iowa. She then moved to Florida, living in Seminole, Jacksonville and Tallahassee, where she currently resides. She was initiated into Chapter FO, Clearwater, Florida, in 1987, and was a charter member of Chapter HK, Seminole, transferred to Chapter EO, in Jacksonville, before transferring to Chapter CL, in Tallahassee. Karen’s mother, Betty Mortonson, was also a P.E.O. in Chapter K, Macomb, Illinois, and Chapter N, Green Bay, Wisconsin, before entering Chapter Eternal in 2013.

Karen earned her bachelor and master’s degrees in music education from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.

She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Kevin, for 44 years. They have four sons, Eric, Adam (Emily), Aaron (Leigh) and Ryan (Kristin) and six grandchildren – Noah, Micah, Makayla, Addison, Ryan and Coraline.

Now retired, Karen taught piano privately, was a preschool director and church music director over her 36-year career. She served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA in Sterling, Illinois, and Rainbow Preschool in Seminole, Florida. She spent many years volunteering at church and school and now enjoys mentoring students, as well as gardening, traveling and spending time with family.

Sharon Morton
Georgia

Share the Magic of P.E.O.!

Sharon Morton was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She studied interior decorating at Patricia Stevens Career College in Tampa, Florida. While in Tampa, she met her future husband, Jim; they will celebrate 51 years of marriage in August. They have two married daughters and two grandchildren.

After moving to the Atlanta area, Sharon completed her college degree in early childhood education at University of West Georgia and began teaching in Douglas County. It was there, through a fellow teacher, Sharon was introduced to P.E.O. and was initiated into Chapter A, Atlanta, in 2004.

In 2007, Sharon became a charter member of Chapter BM, Douglasville, Georgia. Sharon's daughters are both members of Chapter BM, Douglasville.

In Douglasville for 36 years, Sharon was a Master Gardener, working in the greenhouse and at the Hydrangea Festival. She was active in her church and loved singing in the choir, serving on the altar guild and pastoral care.

Sharon and Jim moved to Blue Ridge, Georgia, in 2017 and have found many activities in the mountains, including singing in their new church, gardening and enjoying the many vineyards in the area.

When not working on P.E.O., Sharon enjoys hiking, gardening and traveling.
Karen Wiebe's P.E.O. journey began in 1986, when she was initiated into Chapter C, Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she remains an active member. Karen is a third generation P.E.O., and enjoys belonging to the same chapter as her mother, Olive Kurbis, past president, Manitoba-Northwest Ontario provincial chapter. Her grandmother, Lily Eyman, (Chapter Eternal) was a member of Chapter A, Selkirk, Manitoba.

Karen graduated from the Health Sciences Centre School of Nursing in 1985, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of Manitoba in 1994. Karen worked as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at the Victoria General Hospital until 1999, when she accepted a position as a nurse adjudicator for the federal government's Canada pension plan disability program. Since 2013, she has held the position of nurse educator for the disability program.

Karen and her husband, Peter, will celebrate 35 years of marriage in August 2020, and have three adult sons. David, a second-year law student at the University of Manitoba, is engaged to Courtney Cieszynski, P, Selkirk, Manitoba. Son Daniel is employed by Service Canada as a payment processing officer. Son Josh will graduate in the spring of 2020 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Winnipeg. Josh's partner is Natalia Françozo, from São Paulo, Brazil. Karen's spare time is spent traveling with Peter and a glass of wine (or two!)

Kathryn “Kat” Miller was initiated into Chapter T, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 2012. She has lived in the nearby community of Dalton, Massachusetts, for the past 17 years. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Kathryn lived on both coasts while serving as a nurse in the United States Air Force. Kat earned her BSN from Grand View College in Des Moines and a Master of Science in health services administration from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois.

Kat married Scott 28 years ago and they have two grown children, Kristina and Kyle. The family grew this past summer when Tina married her high school sweetheart, Joshua Morris.

Kat enjoys her career as a nurse and has held many different roles. One of the most memorable was at an air transportable hospital while serving during the “Operation Restore Hope” campaign to help Somalia. She has worked as a staff nurse, nurse manager, compliance officer and currently is a clinical documentation specialist.

In her spare time Kat enjoys time with her family, hiking in the Berkshires, crocheting for the prayer shawl ministry and attending an annual family retreat on Star Island, off the coast of New Hampshire. She also likes traveling to new and exciting places. When she completes her time on the Massachusetts state board, a trip to Disney World will not be far behind.

Regina Ueltschey earned her P.E.O. stripes during 24 years in Chapter H, Gulfport, where she was initiated in 1996 and has since served in myriad positions. She has served on the Mississippi State Board for three years and is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Regina’s career began with an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College in 1967. She worked in labor and delivery, maternity and the nursery at Jeff Anderson Hospital in Meridian. Regina worked as a doula and lactation nurse for a private practice in Pascagoula and became a certified childbirth instructor in the Lamaze method.

A son, Chip, was born in 1972, daughter Claire was born in 1977 and son Lee in 1980. Regina continued work in a variety of nursing disciplines, including head nurse in the maternity unit at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula.

After the family moved to Gulfport, Regina switched careers in 1990. She bought Imperial Cleaners, a dry cleaning and laundry business that she operated until her retirement in 2015. She is a past president of the Louisiana and Mississippi Dry Cleaning and Laundry Association and served on the board of directors of the Southwest Dry Cleaning Association.
Helen Wolfmeyer
New Jersey

The Power of P.E.O.—Embrace It – Share It – Love It

Helen Wolfmeyer was born in north central Iowa, and raised on a farm near Newton. Helen graduated from Iowa State University (ISU), Ames, Iowa, with a B.S. degree in home economics. It was at ISU where she met her BIL, Paul. They have three adult children and enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Paul and Helen moved around the Midwest and the East Coast with AT&T before settling in Mendham, New Jersey, in 1980. It was in New Jersey where Helen was introduced to P.E.O. She was initiated into Chapter AO, Chester, in 1988 and transferred to her current chapter, AU, Randolph, an evening chapter, when she went back to work full-time.

Helen has worked with a variety of non-profits serving special needs populations. She retired from county government work in 2007 where she administered federal funds assisting in the building of affordable housing and the development of lifestyle programs for low to moderate income households.

After retirement, as an avid reader, Helen started working a few hours each week at her local library. Both Helen and Paul are active in their Lutheran church. They have several antique cars which they enjoy driving locally and in regional and national car tours. Helen also enjoys yoga, walking/hiking and cooking/baking for family and friends.

Becky Isaacson
New Mexico

Working Together Toward a Shared Goal

Becky Isaacson was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and grew up in Farmington, New Mexico. She graduated from Farmington High School in 1974. She married her high school sweetheart, Lynn, in 1975. They moved to Gallup, New Mexico, in 1981. They have three children, Meghan, married to Jerry Pearce (Samantha Rae due May 27), Bryant, married to Ashley (Kira and Colin), and Christian, married to Sheena (Koda and Addilynn). Becky is grateful to her family for all of their love and encouragement.

Becky is financial secretary at Trinity Lutheran Church and works as an online billing clerk at her husband’s law firm. She takes care of her three-year-old granddaughter, Addi, during the day. Becky received the gift of P.E.O. through Chapter C, Gallup, New Mexico, in 2003, where she has served as corresponding secretary, treasurer, recording secretary and president. Becky would like to thank her chapter for their loving support.

Becky considers it a blessing to be a part of P.E.O., where she has grown beyond measure, with the loving support of her sisters. Becky firmly believes that working together to help women reach their potential, changes the world for the better.

Jan Simpson
Tennessee

The Heart of P.E.O. United in Commitment, Love, Purpose

Jan Simpson was initiated into Chapter BQ, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1991. She is now a member of Chapter AC, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Her children, Melissa Martinez and Greg Tronson, a son-in-law, Steve Martinez, and a granddaughter, Elizabeth Martinez live in Denver. Melissa was recently initiated into Jan’s P.E.O. chapter in Knoxville.

Jan and her husband, Don, have been married since 1988. They have lived in Knoxville for 25 years. They love to travel and have visited all of the continents.

Jan graduated from the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical therapy in 1977. She had a private pediatric practice in Denver for many years during the time her children were growing up. She and Don lived in Saudi Arabia for six years where she helped set up a school for children with developmental difficulties. They moved to Knoxville in 1995 where she was the manager of physical and occupational therapy at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital until her retirement in 2014.

Since retirement Jan has served on the Knoxville Opera Guild Board.
Jill Tatum  
Texas  
*Sisters – The Heart and Spirit of P.E.O.*  

Jill Tatum was initiated into Chapter EB, Clear Lake, Texas, and is still in that same chapter today. Her sister, Jewelie McMullan, HX, The Woodlands, Texas, and her grandmother, Evelyn Borngrebe, JS, Laguna Beach, California, (now Chapter Eternal) have been her role models for P.E.O. One of her daughters, Allison Reese, HH, Houston, Texas, has also followed in the family footsteps.

Jill grew up in Placentia, California, where she received her degree in sociology from Cal State Fullerton. After graduation, she moved to Texas and worked at Rohm and Haas Texas where she met her husband, Jim. Between them, they have nine adult children with 10 grandchildren.

Jill enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, card-making and camping. She is active at University Baptist Church in Clear Lake serving as a deacon and leads the Angel Tree initiative every year.

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Cynthia Schofield  
Utah  
*A Daisy Dream: P.E.O.’s Bright Future*  

Cynthia Schofield was born in Denver, Colorado, and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1982, Cynthia was initiated into Chapter Z, Provo, Utah. Her mother, Dorothy Brand, was initiated by Chapter Y, Salt Lake City, Utah, the same year. Cynthia transferred her membership to Chapter Y in 2009 after moving to Salt Lake City.

Cynthia and her BIL, Ted, married in 1976 and moved to northern California. They moved to Provo in 1978, where they ran a family business that specialized in hand knitting yarns and needlework supplies. Their children include daughter Tenley, a patent attorney who is completing a degree in electrical engineering in Ningbo, China, and Brett, a college professor of biochemistry living in Lincoln, Nebraska, with his wife, Kate Hanley Schofield.

Cynthia earned a master’s degree in international relations in 2001 from the University of Utah. In 2015, she retired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the Salt Lake City International Airport, where she was an immigration officer. She relishes retirement.

Cynthia enjoys reading, traveling, meditation and knitting, as well as walking and hiking in Utah’s beautiful and varied landscape. Ted and Cynthia look forward to the time when they can explore the country in their 1973 GMC motorhome, better known as “Ted’s Baby.”

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Katy Harper Montgomery  
West Virginia  
*P.E.O., Where Dreams Take Flight*  

Katy Harper Montgomery was born and raised in West Plains, Missouri. She now lives in Lewisburg, West Virginia, and is a member of Chapter V where she was initiated in 1987.

Katy graduated with a B.A. in English and an endorsement in early childhood education from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Following graduation she came to Lewisburg, West Virginia, to teach. It was here she met and married her husband, Herbert. Katy earned a M.S. in language and literacy from Marshall University and is a National Board Certified Teacher, Early Childhood Generalist. She taught kindergarten and first grade in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, for many years as she and Herbert raised their five children.

Katy is active as a substitute teacher, is the President of the Greenbrier County Child Youth and Advocacy Center, is on the Greenbrier County Board of Read Aloud WV, is a university supervisor of student teachers for Concord University and is a tutor for the STAIR program as well as tutoring students at her home. She is also an active member of Old Stone Presbyterian Church, the Greenbrier County Historical Society and attends the Shepherd Center programs with enthusiasm!

Katy’s other interests include lots of time with the grandchildren, reading, gardening and canning and lots of travel! ★

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Chapter OA of Humboldt, Iowa, was formed in the spring of 1984 when some members of Chapter BV preferred to attend day time meetings instead of evening meetings. One of the original members of OA wrote a brief history of the new chapter with elegant words and artistic penmanship. The history was entitled “The Beginning.” That precious document was the start of record keeping for Chapter OA. Over the years, OA has been blessed with dedicated historians who have preserved and filled scrapbooks with pictures, newspaper articles, photos of initiates, community projects, social events, fundraisers, P.E.O. project recipients, every yearbook and much more. For the past several years, one sister has used her gift of writing poetry to capture each year’s events in verse. All of these memorabilia are kept in precious scrapbooks—four so far! They offer an opportunity for new and veteran sisters to learn and reminisce.

Chapter GZ, Littleton, Colorado, recently worked with great zeal to plan its seventh annual “Bridge to Education” fundraiser. In the fall of 2019 Chapter GZ held a Bridge/Mahjong party with a catered chef’s luncheon and fabulous marketplace. The silent auction marketplace featured beautiful baskets donated by generous members. Contents of the baskets were creative—one sister donated two home-cooked Cajun dinner parties for eight people each. Another sister donated a handmade child’s quilt that was purchased by a BIL (for a lucky granddaughter)!

The event involved dedication from chapter sisters and BILs too. All had so much fun working in small groups to plan the event. BILs joined in to set up the church with card tables, set the dining tables and move chairs then returned the next day for the festivities—playing cards with friends and enjoying a catered lunch.

The royally-gowned Queen of Hearts and her assistant greeted each guest as they entered the church for the party. One sister displayed a P.E.O. poster showing what P.E.O. is all about to spread the good news of P.E.O. Several sisters worked hours making card tablecloths that were sold at the silent auction.

In the past nine years, Chapter GZ has raised a total of $43,200 for P.E.O. projects. One proud local scholarship recipient is attending Cottey College this year and just sent a note saying she immediately fell in love with the Cottey environment, people and most importantly, her classes. She asked that GZ keep inspiring young people.

As sisters of Chapter S, Saint Albert, Alberta, prepared to host a Founders’ Day celebration for chapters in northern Alberta in 2019, they thought it would be fun to generate publicity by requesting that the mayor of Saint Albert proclaim October 26, 2019, “P.E.O. Sisterhood Day.” At the Founders’ Day event, Mayor Cathy Heron spoke about how P.E.O. projects have benefited local recipients, declared October 26, 2019, “P.E.O. Sisterhood Day” and presented the chapter with an official proclamation. The chapter’s innovation, enthusiasm and hard work created wonderful coverage for the Sisterhood.
Chapter BI, Oak Park, Illinois, celebrated their 100th birthday in January 2020 by gathering in the Oak Park home where the very first meeting of Chapter BI was held one century earlier. Chapter BI was organized on January 30, 1920. Three of P.E.O.’s Founders, Alice Bird Babb, Franc Rhodes Elliott and Mary Allen Stafford, vouched for Chapter BI’s first president, Mary D. Stafford, daughter–in–law of Founder Mary Allen Stafford.

BI member Cheryl King, a former neighbor of the home’s current owners, collaborated with chapter historian Kim Garnett to allow current chapter members a once-in-a-lifetime experience: reading letters of remembrance from Chapter BI’s very first members while sitting in the space those pioneering women had once occupied. Since P.E.O. is about connection—caring for each other as sisters and caring for women around the world by making education a more attainable goal—Chapter BI members said it was quite powerful to sit in that historic home and feel connected to women who had aspired toward those same ideals for the last century.

Chapter BI will also celebrate their centennial birthday with a significant commemorative gift to the P.E.O. projects.

The Beads of Courage program started as a way to help seriously-ill, hospitalized children celebrate small victories. When these kids undergo a treatment or procedure, they “earn” a handmade, decorative bead as a visual reminder of another step taken toward recovery. Some children have earned so many beads that their strings measure in feet.

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The Beads of Courage’s director presented a program to Chapter AN, Tucson, Arizona, and the members were so impressed they chose to support their cause.

You can find a group of Chapter AN sisters at the Beads of Courage studio the third Monday of the month, shaping polymer clay beads into whimsical animal designs which they hope will put a smile on a young patient’s face.

About the time that Beads of Courage approached the chapter, the president suggested that sisters get to know each other better and have fun doing it. That is when they launched several fun groups: a hiking group, a sewing and craft group and a breakfast group, in addition to Beads of Courage.

Chapter AN sisters who meet at Beads of Courage enjoy the fellowship of working together and marveling at each other’s creativity in the colors and styles of the animals created. These have included roosters, monkeys, snails, even an octopus! Oohs and aahs accompany each bead placed in the tray headed to the kiln for firing.

Sisters of Chapter AN are grateful that our support of this organization will enable more children to see these beads as symbols of strength, courage and hope during their times of trouble.
NEW chapters

CHAPTER BN
Lafayette, Louisiana

ORGANIZED: January 4, 2020

First row, from the left: Crystal Yoes, Jennifer Schaefer, Abigail Goss, Kathy Gary, Nikki Blanchard, Andrea Cormier, Aubree Dugas, Heather Hennigan
Second row: Rachel Guidroz, Callie Gallet, Jennifer Beasley, Missy Gary, Hannah Foreman, Julie Overby, Lana Blanchard

CHAPTER BO
Gonzales, Louisiana

ORGANIZED: January 18, 2020

First row, from the left: Linda Walton, Kate Bratton, Cheryl Whitting, Rebecca Gambino, Sandy Riley, Shelley Tolson, Bonnita Matsuda, Lynne Logan, Janina Fuller
Second row: Kathleen Thompson, Christine Crow, Ashley Lee, Julie Folse, Elizabeth Hickman, Suzanne Harris

CHAPTER AR
Crestview Hills, Kentucky

ORGANIZED: January 25, 2020

First row, from the left: Donna Duvall, Lisa Kuhn, LeeAnn Foltz, Susan Perry-Lindel, Rhonda Hanneken, Janet Snyder, Stephanie Potter
Second row: Linda Allen, Hillery Banawitz, Charlotte Reed, Tricia Marteney, Anne Storey, Margaret Maddox, Nancy Garriott, Christa Carter, Cheryl Sheets

CHAPTER JW
Oak Point, Texas

ORGANIZED: February 8, 2020

First row, from the left: Joan Pyne, Stella Hunt, Taylor M. Hitt, Karen Boothe, Charlene Miller, Annamarie Torrey, Rene Beard, Karen Steinman
Second row: SusanLee Torrey, Jodean Earney, Margaret Hankins, Nancy Ross, Barbara Wolken, Allison High, Lora Moberly, Ruth Veley, Susan Bricker
CHAPTER JI
The Villages, Florida

ORGANIZED: February 8, 2020

First row, from the left: Beth Braun, Karen Mooty, Ida Watson, Mary Hamilton, Lyn Corbett, Joyce Christie, Linda Klamut, Carol Placek, Lorna Etchison
Second row: Pat Hunt, Sally Lawrence, Donna Hunnicutt, Saunie Olvey, Marion McClarin, Sharon Palansky, Jean Fyffe

CHAPTER FW
Okemos, Michigan

ORGANIZED: February 8, 2020

First row, from the left: Angie Washburn, Juli Snyder, Stephanie Hall, Karen Fraser, Amy Moore, Sarah Lundy, Claire Lundy, Stefanie Kennedy
Second row: Michelle Smith, Samantha McGaughy, Suzi McGaughy, Rebekah Darnell, Kristi Mathers, Beth Lundy, Jennifer Krzak, Kate Roberts

CHAPTER JX
Cedar Park, Texas

ORGANIZED: February 15, 2020

First row, from the left: Wendy Moore, Sheryl McNichol, Leslie Bridendolph, Melinda Orr, Karen Boothe, Susan Vardaman, Rachel Nichols, Rachael Filor
Second row: Melinda Longford, Michelle Flatt, Danielle Sinha, Becky Insall, Emily Huffman, Vanessa Gross, Julie Baxley, Taylor Filipowicz, Andrea Britton, Shannon Hutchins, Pat Widner

CHAPTER BT
Cumming, Georgia

ORGANIZED: February 23, 2020

First row, from the left: Jane Vanderhorst, Cathy Matson, Sheryl Morriss, Karen Willis, Babs Bohrer Leutz, Carol Johnson, Barbara Jones
Second row: Jan Van Keuren, Barbara Springer, Jeanie T. Jones, Myralyn Hartsfield, Mary A. Morris, Bettie Fore, Anne Williams, Jan Norman
Third row: Merle Lutes Rinehart, Rebekah Hitch, Dee Beckstrom, Carly Fenster, Marilyn Kruszka ★
CHAPTER FJ ★ DAVENPORT, IOWA

ORGANIZED: May 15, 1919
CELEBRATED: May 15, 2019

First row, from the left: Gwen Korn, Mary Ellen Evans, Eloise Smit, Connie Agnitsch, Celene Easson, Mary Agnes Liebscher, Nancy Beenck, Pat Fisher
Third row: Kay Hall, Elaine Olsen, Jan McCabe, Kathy Emorey, Cynthia Freidhof, Patty Johannesen, Heather Gosma, Molly Carroll
Fourth row: Bonnie Moeller, Carole Kucharo, Wynne Schafer, Jeannine Crockett, Kay Runge, Mary Lu Johnson, Beth Holod

CHAPTER BI ★ OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

ORGANIZED: January 30, 1920
CELEBRATED: January 26, 2020

First row, from the left: Diane Moses, Nancy Wohlford, Jan Peters, Mary Sullivan, Marilyn Pratt, Ann Baker, Beverly Lueking, Meghan Hickey

CHAPTER DG ★ POPULAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

ORGANIZED: January 23, 1920
CELEBRATED: January 19, 2020

First row, from the left: Karen Miller, Kathy Sanders, Joan Cannon, Patty Peters, Mary Ann Allen, Nell Pritchett, Belinda Bailey, Maryrose Stricker
Second row: Ann Kneibert, Sue Szostak, Becky Brooks, Charlotte Craig, Lisa Bateman, Emily Wolpers, Gale Spencer, Ann Cotrell

CHAPTER AN ★ PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

ORGANIZED: May 24, 1920
CELEBRATED: May 8, 2020

First row, from the left: Phyllis Costanti, Carol Morrison, Dorothy Hunt, Phyllis Brand, Dorinda Jenkins, Carol Cole, Betty Hogan, Cherry Vallone, Debbie Larson, Sue Adamson
Second row: Margol Tucci, Bette Hays, Robyn Cressman, Patty Barnett, Donna Helgesen, Edna Kelso, Lani Campbell, Helen Anderson, Patti Elvins
Third row: Carol McCarthy, Pat Carney, Shirley Kemman, Bev Strodtz, Sandy Goelzer, Susan Dahl, Kathy Spence, Julie Zanner
Fourth row: Laura Day, Sue Johnson, Linda Gutmann, Nancy Dees, Michele Hilderbrand, Gretchen Dille, Jane Nielsen, Roann Milligan
**P.E.O. authors**

***Beth Kelsey***

Beth Kelsey, BP, Blacksburg, Virginia, wrote and illustrated “Mr. Drowsy Bee and the Coffee Shop.” Mr. Drowsy Bee thinks up all kinds of fun and interesting things for his neighbors in the garden to do. Too bad he is sleepy all the time! His friends and neighbors are ready to help out and make his plan to build a coffee shop in the garden happen. This picture book shows how ideas, friendship and work make dreams come true.

A member of P.E.O. since 2007, Beth graduated from Virginia Tech. She is a lifelong resident of southwest Virginia. She has worked in libraries, taught preschool and is a licensed massage therapist. Beth loves thinking up stories and visiting elaborate gardens. Spending time outside and the many artists in her family inspire her to create nature-themed pictures. Beth enjoys public speaking and teaching, being outdoors with her dogs, and spending time and laughing with her husband and children.

***Pam Lord***

Pam Lord, CG, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, wrote “Furry Tales,” a story of special friendships and adventure. Pam had the idea for this story as she was riding in a car looking up at the trees in late fall wondering how some of nature’s creatures deal with bad weather. The story takes place in a land of imagination, full of possibilities, doubts, courage and danger. There are moments of shear wonder, bravery and inclusion. The furry friends share their eagerness for excitement and challenges which gets them into trouble. They take chances to help and protect one another.

Pam is an artist of sorts and a wife of a retired army officer. Mother of two, a daughter and a son, she is also a grandmother to two wonderful individuals. Pam enjoys nature and is always aware of the beauty around her and cares deeply about the environment.

***Katherine (Katie) Wasson***

Katherine (Katie) Wasson, CO, Oak Park, Illinois, co-wrote “An Ethics Casebook for Hospitals” with colleagues Mark G. Kuczewski and Rosa Lynn B. Pinkus. This textbook includes 26 cases with commentary and bibliographic resources designed especially for medical students and training ethics consultants. The cases focus on fundamental problems that are pervasive in basic healthcare delivery in the United States. Even though the book is designed for professionals, it can easily be read and related to by lay people.

Katie is an associate professor and bioethicist at the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy at Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. She is an educator, researcher and clinical ethics consultant and the principal investigator for the Assessing Clinical Ethics Skills project. She has been a P.E.O. since 2009.

***Jacqueline Eller***

Jacqueline Eller, CY, Sarasota, Florida, wrote “Utter Rubbish,” a light-hearted selection of experiences and observations, poems and illustrations. Jacqueline was born in Northamptonshire, England, and has been writing poems “forever,” inspired by her own mother’s daily poetry doodles.

After living and working in several countries, she retired to Sarasota with her husband. She continues to send poems and illustrations to her children and grandchildren, who often respond with a poem of their own. Jacqueline says, “Really observing the world around me is the key and a guarantee that there will never be a shortage of material to work with.”

***Kathy Crofton***

Kathy Crofton, DL, Madison, Indiana, and her husband, Dale, wrote “One Family’s Journey toward Wisdom: An Ethical Will.” Kathy and Dale wanted to leave behind an ethical will, outlining what they value and how they applied these values to their lives. Their book delves into what they believe and guides readers to decide what they will leave behind.

Kathy received her bachelor and master's degrees from Indiana University—Bloomington. She is a retired elementary teacher of 33 years. She loves to spend time with her grandchildren. Kathy is an avid golfer, loves being outside, follows several sports teams and enjoys practicing yoga. P.E.O. is one of the many activities with which she is actively involved.

***Nancy Julien Kopp***

Nancy Julien Kopp, DE, Manhattan, Kansas, started writing in her mid-50s. In that 20 plus years, she has been published in 22 “Chicken Soup for the Soul!” books, three of them in the past year. She writes creative nonfiction, memoir, personal essays, poetry, children’s fiction and articles on writing. Her work has been published in many anthologies, internet ezines, magazines, newspapers and internet radio. Her blog, Writer Granny’s World, gives tips and encouragement to writers. She was selected Prose Writer of the Year at a Kansas Authors Convention. Nancy has been a P.E.O. since 1996.

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THE P.E.O. RECORD | May–June 2020

Women helping women reach for the stars

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Debbie Sayre, AQ, Phoenix, Arizona, wrote “DATE SMART Not Stupid” to help people who are dating have fun, be safe and marry right. This book is packed with personal stories, tips for meeting people and staying safe, ideas for dynamite dates, interesting conversation starters, significant things to notice, key questions to ask and topics to discuss. You can’t choose your parents, siblings or children, but you can choose your spouse and you can be prepared to make the right choice for you.

Debbie graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in journalism and worked as a human-interest reporter. Her book is based on personal experience, observing others and extensive research. Debbie has been happily married for 45 years. She and her husband, Jerry, have two happily married daughters and two darling grandchildren.

Marilyn “Marty” Van Voorhis Wendler, AY, Toledo, Ohio, wrote “Historic Maumee Through Time,” about Maumee, Ohio, from the beginning through the present day. Maumee, Ohio, was once a major transportation artery between West and East then became a major shipping and shipbuilding center during the 1820s to the 1850s. Larger ships and the advent of the railroad soon dashed speculative hopes and Maumee settled into a sleepy village while still retaining many of the homes of early entrepreneurs, ordinary citizens, churches and historical sites.

Marty is the author of numerous articles and books on Ohio and local history. She formerly taught history at the University of Toledo, served as director curator of the Wolcott Heritage Center and is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Historical Society and the Maumee Valley Historical Society.

DATE SMART Not Stupid

Pat Byrd Shamrock, C, Eustis, Florida, wrote a book of poetry titled “In the Stillness of Christmas.” In this collection, Pat shares her thoughts in verse and poetry. The illustrations, which are photos that she has taken, help to bring the message of Christmas alive.

This is Pat’s 11th book. She has written poetry since college, saving every little scrap of paper, until her family convinced her to begin putting them into a book. Pat is a native Floridian, and attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. She has taught school, was organist and youth choir pianist, worked in her family’s development business, and has been active in many civic and philanthropic organizations. She has been a P.E.O. since 1976.

Pat Byrd Shamrock, AY, Eustis, Florida, wrote “In the Stillness of Christmas.”

Paula “Polly” Cox Bowers, AU, Friendsville, Tennessee, wrote “Echoes from the Hilltop,” the story of Margaret Eliza Henry, the first scholarship secretary in the early 1900s at Maryville College in Tennessee. For 13 years, Margaret traveled throughout the Northeast raising money for scholarships for children from the Southern Appalachians. Her letters paint a vivid picture of the South in the early 20th century, giving readers a glimpse into the way the world was in her day. Margaret died tragically young, but her contributions to Maryville College will live forever.

Polly is a graduate of Maryville College. In 2006, Polly was part of a small group of volunteers who began reading and organizing the letters of Margaret Henry. Recognizing the treasure they had found, she decided to continue working regularly on Margaret’s correspondence.

Paula “Polly” Cox Bowers

Betty Hutchinson Rousseau, X, Vernon, Connecticut, wrote her memoir, “Family Matters – A Slice of Life from Both Sides Now.” Born in 1927, Betty grew up in a loving, blended family. Both her mother and her grandmother “Nama,” taught Betty to search out the positive and look for the bright side in every situation, lessons which were invaluable in Betty’s life when her daughter died and later, her oldest son was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

With a family to care for, Betty’s educational plans were put on hold. Then, in 1980 at 53, she enrolled as a part-time student at University of Connecticut, graduating five years later with a bachelor’s degree in human services. Her first job after graduation was as an activities director in a senior living facility. Later, she became a National Alliance on Mental Illness member and facilitator. Betty was initiated into P.E.O. in 1982.

Betty Hutchinson Rousseau

Christine McAllister, U, Louisville, Kentucky, wrote “The Income Replacement Formula: 7 Simple Steps to Doing What You Love & Making 6 Figures From Anywhere,” in which she shares the simple seven-step formula that helped her overcome her own personal tragedy and then realize her dreams of discovering and building a business around her unique gifts. This is the same formula she uses with her high-level clients every day, to help them live their own dreams of freedom and fulfillment.

Christine is an author, business coach and the founder of Life With Passion. She helps high-achievers all over the world build businesses out of their passions.

Christine McAllister

PLEASE NOTE: Author submissions received after April 1, 2020, will be published in The Record in a new format that will include only the name of the author, her chapter information and the name of her book.

WWW.PEOINTERNATIONAL.ORG May–June 2020 | THE P.E.O. RECORD 39
WHERE IN THE WORLD

Janet Kennedy, CE, Scottsdale, AZ; Jennifer Wittert, NK, Sherman Oaks, CA; Barb Shropshire, BC, Kansas City, KS, in Scottsdale, Arizona

Cathy Westwood and Judy von Seldeneck, BR, Harrisonburg, VA, at the Continental Divide near Silver City, New Mexico

Betty Thomas, past president, Texas State Chapter, in Cancun, Mexico

Caroline Swift and Cathi Swift, EH, Grand Island, NE, on Hamoa Beach, Maui

Teresa Habsburg, FU, Brighton, MI, in Saint Maarten, Dutch side

Ellen Welch and Pam Forton, EB, Elk Rapids, MI, and Martha Scarborough, EH, Traverse City, MI, in Riviera Nayarit, Mexico

Virginia Brown, CB, Southport, NC, in Namibia

Jennifer Wittert, NK, Sherman Oaks, CA; Barb Shropshire, BC, Kansas City, KS, in Scottsdale, Arizona

Karin Condon, EP, Verona, WI, in Antarctica

Sally Brock, BM, Douglasville, GA, in Antigua, Guatemala

Heather Brisby, AX, Flemington, NJ, on Grand Cayman Island in the British West Indies

Alma Aaron, X, Frederick, MD, on Easter Island

Virginia Brown, CB, Southport, NC, in Namibia

Where in the World
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. Visit our Facebook page to see a gallery of more submissions.

Send photos to mediamanager@peodsm.org.

or while you shelter in place!

Paula Durham, Sandi Eversmeyer and Judy Ward, FC, Muscatine, IA; Ginny Swarm and Sarah Feltman–Hegar, Original A, Mt. Pleasant, IA; Barb Walker and Sally Black, JR, Muscatine, IA; Melody Rowe, OC, Washington, IA, in Jerusalem, Israel

Wisti Nelson, G, Atlanta, GA, on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa

Marie Young, DD, Menomonie, WI, at Victoria Falls, Zambia

Ariel Delaney, HW, Snohomish, WA, in Johannesburg, South Africa

Shirley Leung, LT, Danville, IL, in Angkor Thom, Cambodia

Stephanie Adams, JA, Colorado Springs, CO, on the island of Bali, Indonesia

Diane Conklin, AW, Alpharetta, GA, on the Pacific coast of New Zealand

Jenelle Graber and Mary Anne Elmore, KO, Liberty, MO, off the coast of Cairns, Australia
Seven women had a vision in eighteen sixty-nine
Sewing threads of friendship throughout the hands of time

Each daughter of the Master had a dream to share
Could it be a dream come true – should they even dare

They found it wasn’t easy to lay the stepping stones
Yet seven women had the dream – their efforts tightly sewn

The Sisterhood had purpose to go those extra miles
To educate where ere the need and aid financial trials

A scholarship, a loan or grant has shown the vision true
From women through the ages who saw and followed through

The Philanthropic Mission, to advance a women’s dream
Dances sweet in truth and love and glistening purity

The Sisterhood of fellowship still binds the women’s souls
Where sisters hold together and stand for P.E.O.

Melodee Jayne Crull wrote this poem and read it to Chapter NX, Sacramento, California, on the day of her initiation, December 14, 2019.

As a brand new member of P.E.O., she has already bonded with the Sisterhood. She explained, “The writing came to me after attending several P.E.O. socials and reading cover to cover, ‘We Who Are Sisters,’ the exciting beginnings of how the Sisterhood evolved from beginning in 1869 to our current day in time. A wonderful read, and in my opinion, surely a required read by all new sisters.

“In the short journey of attending P.E.O., my feet have marched to socials, discovered a new trusted friend, heard of the generosity women through the years have given to help educate thousands of women to follow their dreams. P.E.O. is where my heart is. The soul of where God wants me and the reason the writing ‘P.E.O. Sisterhood’ came to be.” ★
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Members may view all items for sale at
https://members.peointernational.org/fundraisingmarketplace
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P.E.O.’s mission is to 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.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a nonprofit organization that has helped more than 113,000 women* pursue educational goals by providing over $366 million* in educational assistance, making a difference in women’s lives through six philanthropies and a foundation:

P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF) A revolving loan fund established in 1907 to lend money to qualified women students to assist them in securing a higher education. Has loaned $221 million.*

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) A fund established in 1949 to provide scholarships for international women students to pursue graduate study in the U.S. and Canada. Has provided $42.1 million in scholarships.*

P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) Established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the U.S. and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families. Has given $62.4 million in grants.*

P.E.O. Scholar Awards (PSA) Established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women of the U.S. and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university. Has awarded $28.2 million in scholarships.*

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship (STAR) Established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional high school senior women to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year. Has given $12.8 million in scholarships.*

Cottey College A nationally ranked, fully accredited, independent, liberal arts/sciences college for women located in Nevada, Missouri, has been owned/supported by P.E.O. since 1927 and offers baccalaureate and associate degrees in a variety of majors. Cottey College, a debt-free institution, welcomes women from around the world.

THE P.E.O. FOUNDATION is a nonprofit corporation established in 1961 to encourage tax-deductible giving to the educational and charitable projects of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. It is a service to the Sisterhood.

Individual donors may make tax-deductible gifts to the projects or through the P.E.O. Foundation. Visit www.peointernational.org. Look for the “Giving Opportunities” link on the home page.★

*As of April 2020

“P.E.O. has been a wonderful part of my life for more than 50 years. This sisterhood has brought friendships I cherish all over the U.S. There could be no comparable place to have learned organizational and leadership skills from such kind and understanding mentors, to have enjoyed the warmth of hospitable homes of P.E.O. sisters in seven states, to count as my sisters so many outstanding and talented women of culture and wisdom at all stages of life, to have been comforted in times of sorrow while far from extended family and to have shared my talents with such gracious and appreciative sisters.”

—GAIL ARNOTT
D, WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

“I could tell you what a grant means to my family financially. I could thank you for your financial support and commitment to women like me, who are trying to do something beyond what we’ve ever been told we are capable of accomplishing. But I think I have something much more meaningful to thank you for. Thank you for believing in me, and for seeing something I don’t always see in myself. Thank you for setting an example of what women can do and who we can be.”

—DANA S.G. MYERS
P.E.O. PROGRAM FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT RECIPIENT
Listen to The P.E.O. Record
on your smartphone or computer
Since the late 1970s, Chapter DO, Kansas City, Missouri, has recorded an abridged audio version of The Record for visually impaired sisters. Recent technology advances have allowed Chapter DO to produce digital (MP3) files for all sisters to stream or download on their phone or computer. More information is available on the P.E.O. International Member Website, The P.E.O. Record web page, https://members.peointernational.org/news-events/peo-record.

Every sister is a Very Important P.E.O!
The VIP campaign (Every sister is a Very Important P.E.O) provides ready-to-use ideas to help your chapter find ways to reach out to all sisters. Did you know your nonresident sister is an unaffiliate where she lives now? Are you doing all you can to help her find a new chapter? Here are some things to do after your corresponding secretary has sent in her Change in Membership form and made sure her contact information is correct. Give her a contact list of chapter presidents in the area where she has moved. Encourage her to reach out and let them know she is interested in visiting. Send a “Notice of a Woman in Your Area” form to EACH of the chapter presidents in the area where she has moved or to the reciprocity contact.

P.E.O. Leadership Development Committee new resources
The Leadership Development Committee continues to develop resources specifically for local chapter members and officers. New modules you can find online are “Chapter Decision Making,” “Creating a Flowing Pipeline of Chapter Leaders” and “Proactive Leadership.” The Leadership Development Committee also helped to create a video on “Leading Efficient Chapter Meetings.” Good leadership is not an option, but a necessity. The future of P.E.O. is dependent on the strength and talent of our leaders. These new offerings, and many more, are available at www.peoleadership.org.

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.

P.E.O. Projects Updates
Please see page 18 of this issue to learn more about important recent and upcoming policy changes for P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE), P.E.O. Scholar Awards and P.E.O. STAR Scholarship. On page 19, read about the a new way to support the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF) and PCE through their Legacy Chapter (ELF) and Brighter Tomorrow (PCE) chapter designations.

P.E.O. EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND
Starting with loans processed February 10, 2020, a six-month grace period is provided following the borrower’s stated graduation date, with no interest or payments required.

P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP
The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) continues Fostering Peace Through Education worldwide by supporting women who are pursuing graduate-level degrees in the United States and Canada. These women have signed a pledge to return to their home countries or a position outside the U.S. and Canada in order to improve the lives of their fellow countrymen. Often, the focus is aimed toward improving the lives of women and the girl-child, who may have no rights in their country, through improved healthcare, policy reform or educational systems.
This year 12 Named Awards were given to deserving women. Each donation of $12,500 shows true commitment to our pledge.
The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship is grateful to the 991 Partners in Peace Chapters and, of those, 178 chapters who have consistently donated at least $500 to IPS for five years or longer. Partners in Peace chapters are matched with an IPS recipient with whom they can establish a special relationship and will receive certificates of recognition. Recipients appreciate the personal connection with P.E.O. sisters and often say it is as impactful as the financial contribution they have received.

Cottey College Adds Stock Trading Lab
Cottey is excited to be the first women’s college in the nation to have a stock trading lab. This learning lab will replicate a stock exchange trading room and will be used in business courses designed to provide students with exposure to investment theory and practice. The trading lab will feature state-of-the-art terminals and a LED ticker tape display with scrolling stock quotes to follow market trends. Through this program, students will learn the skill sets that professionals must have in the money management business.
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 $366 million in financial assistance through ELF, IPS, PCE, PSA and STAR projects to more than 113,000 women to pursue their educational goals.
- P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund loans are $221 million and 49,500 women have received loans since 1907.
- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarships are $42.1 million and 6,420 women have received scholarships since 1949.
- P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grants are $62.4 million and 49,667 women have received grants since 1973.
- P.E.O. Scholar Awards are $28.2 million and 2,527 women have received awards since 1991.
- P.E.O. STAR Scholarships are $12.8 million and 5,142 women have received scholarships 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 2019–20, 70% of Cottey’s students were enrolled in a 4-year program, and fall 2020 will open with a new stock trading room and an esports arena and team. Work will also begin on the renovation of the lower level of the Cottey Chapel into a campus center. Cottey College and P.E.O., together, are Creators of Incredible Futures!

*As of April 2020