LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

LOOK FOR THE P.E.O.S.
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Please join the Executive Board of International Chapter in extending a grateful thank you to Christine A Scheuneman, Chapter VA, Irvine, California, and Dr. Sandra J. Laney, a public trustee from Illinois, for their seven years of service on the Cottey College Board of Trustees from June 1, 2013, through June 1, 2020.

We welcome Joan F. Braddock, Past President, Alaska State Chapter, and Lydia R. Bangert, Past President, Michigan State Chapter, who have accepted an appointment to the Cottey College Board of Trustees for a seven-year term commencing June 1, 2020, and ending June 1, 2027.

Thank you for saying “Yes!”

Finding the Silver Lining...

I am an optimist; a glass-half-full type of person. Ever hopeful in the face of challenges, I look for the positive in every situation; the silver lining when the clouds are darkest.

Where, oh where, can we find a hint of a silver lining during this generational pandemic which has surrounded our families and friends?

We grieve the many losses we have experienced. The loss of our own normal stability. The loss of loved ones. The loss of those with so much more to give to our communities and our world.

Thankfully, the loss of our sisters has been kept incredibly low, perhaps less than 10, in comparison to initial calculations of several thousand entering Chapter Eternal due to this pandemic. Your efforts and work to follow our leadership’s decisions has decreased the number of precious lives lost.

In the president’s report to the 1919 Convention of Idaho Grand (State) Chapter, Eda Warner reflected on the trying year with many weeks of forbidden public gatherings. She stated, “Often our work was done with a heavy heart and eyes blinded with tears, but out of it all we not developed a heart culture that will radiate more love wherever we do.

Is not that ‘tie that binds’ stronger today than ever before?”

As state, provincial and district conventions and all P.E.O. gatherings were canceled this spring, that P.E.O. heart culture beat louder. We made a point to connect with each other—writing notes, making calls and helping our sisters become familiar with videoconference technology. State, provincial and district leaders put aside their loss and made sure our sisters were safe and sound.

Nelle Stadelman, journalist for Chapter Q, The Dalles, Oregon, wrote to The Record on May 8, 1919, “During the past winter we held only a few meetings owing to the fact that our town was twice closed on account of the terrible epidemic, Spanish influenza, which is now, we trust, a thing of the past. Our community suffered greatly, only a few families escaping. One of our members saw the need, in so many homes where all were down, of hot nourishing broth, so she made, and solicited all she could, and delivered it afternoons. Over three hundred quarts of broth thus found their way into homes, where nourishment was badly needed. All members of this chapter helped with this.”

Hints of a silver lining are continuing to emerge as our non-resident members connect with their home chapters and chapters in their area. P.E.O. sisters are reaching out to offer help to members of their local chapters and reciprocities; planting flowers and gardens, shopping for groceries and sewing protective face masks for those in need. Sisters are sharing knowledge willingly with each other; knowledge and how-to tips from teachers, health professionals, scientists, technologists, event planners, master gardeners, artists and makers, leadership and change management experts, as well as day care professionals and family chefs.

The Executive Board of International Chapter has appointed a Focus Group of more than 30 members throughout the United States and Canada to help work through the issues surrounding the re-opening of P.E.O. gatherings. Focus Group members are current and former leadership team members from state, provincial, district and local chapters with varied expertise.

We do not know when or how we will re-open P.E.O. gatherings, but we will. We will welcome new members again. We will continue our shared mission of philanthropy. We will hug each other in the future.

The bonds of sisterhood, that heart culture of P.E.O., is our silver lining legacy in this darkest cloud.

Stay safe. Reach out to your sisters.

My love to each of you.

Brenda

Brenda J. Atchison, President, International Chapter
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In January I had a vision pop into my mind regarding one of our P.E.O. sisters, Betty McCarty, who would be turning 105 on April 22... What if I collected 105 birthday cards from P.E.O.s all over the country? After sharing my idea with our chapter, Q, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, we eagerly set out to make this vision a reality. I submitted requests to several P.E.O. Facebook pages, contacted several chapter presidents in other states and e-mailed every chapter president in Michigan. The response to my request was overwhelming. Not only did we surpass 105 cards, but we received over 800 cards from all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Our chapter planned on having a birthday party at Betty’s house on her birthday, then COVID-19 hit. One of our members coordinated with Betty’s family and decided to instead have a “birthday parade.” We didn’t realize that Betty’s son was going to advertise it on the local radio station. So, on a cold and cloudy April 22, we met in our decorated cars at the local grocery store. It started out with a few cars, and they kept coming and coming. We ended up with a police escort of over 100 vehicles to Betty’s home. There were balloons, banners, large daisy flowers and lots of honking. Betty’s family made certain that she had the perfect view from the porch, and her smile said it all. She was overjoyed, and we definitely made her day.

Betty, her family, and our Chapter Q members thank all of YOU from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for bringing such joy into Betty’s life during this time of uncertainty.

— Tina Richardson, Q, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Rose Miller’s long-held vision of becoming a P.E.O. sister became a reality on February 17, 2020, when she was initiated into Chapter A, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Rose grew up in Washington state. The family moved frequently as her father, a Methodist pastor, was called to several different churches. Her mother, Myrtle Rose-Law, had been a member of seven P.E.O. chapters and deeply believed in its mission. When Rose learned there was a local P.E.O. chapter, and several friends in her retirement community were P.E.O.s, she told them of her hope to become a P.E.O. too. She is thrilled to be a member of Chapter A. Rose spreads warmth to everyone she encounters. Now her P.E.O. sisters will be the beneficiaries of her upbeat, positive spirit.

Rose will celebrate her 100th birthday in September.

— Alice Geiling, A, Hanover, New Hampshire

The stars aligned for Chapter IP, Sacramento, California, on January 25, 2020, when Mia Kagianis was initiated into the chapter.

Chapter IP helped Mia with her college expenses in 2016 and 2018. Mia graduated in 2019 from California State University in Sacramento. She had P.E.O. embroidered on her graduation stole and has said numerous times she couldn’t have done it without P.E.O. help.

In November 2019, Chapter IP was thrilled when Mia accepted their membership invitation. A chapter meeting was called for January 25, the morning of the Founder’s Day luncheon at which Brenda Atchison was going to be the featured speaker. We let Brenda know about the ceremony and were so excited when she called and asked if she might attend and participate in the initiation! Not many new sisters have the President of International Chapter at their initiation.

Now Mia is working in the education technology field supporting current and future students to access resources that will further their education, spreading the “star dust” of P.E.O. along the way.

— Michaela Crandley, IP, Sacramento, California

When the Stars Align

A P.E.O. 80 Years in the Making
As we age, each moment becomes more precious. The simple things become the things that make us happiest. We realize the battles that are worth fighting and the ones that are best surrendered. We make peace by letting go of things that do not serve us well.

Below are lessons for LEADing your best life:

**LIVE IN THE MOMENT.** Be present wherever you are and in whatever you are doing; it makes for a richer and more meaningful experience. Next time you feel yourself drifting from the present, try to bring yourself back to wherever you are. Realize that this moment is precious and never to be lived again, so be in it. As Horace the poet said in 23 BC, *carpe diem*—seize the day!

**EMBRACE THE BEAUTY AROUND YOU.** Many of us are always rushing to get to the next meeting, the next project, the next day, even the next season. As soon as the snow falls, we wish it were spring. As soon as it is spring, we wish it were fall. Never are we truly appreciating the beauty of this moment of this season of our life. This results in missing many of life’s sweetest moments. As Henry David Thoreau so eloquently said, “You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this.”

**APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF OTHERS.** Celebrate their successes as if they were your own. According to researcher Tom Rath at Gallup, the number one reason why people quit their jobs is lack of appreciation. Everyone wants to feel significant, to be recognized for what they do. A nineteenth-century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli said, “The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your ideas but to reveal to him his own.”

**DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO OTHERS.** It’s not about how much we get in life; it’s about how much we give. If you truly desire happiness, seek and serve others. Share knowledge and resources. Make introductions. Recognize the accomplishments of others. Volunteer your time. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” By helping others, you are leading yourself to success.

Here’s to appreciating and living every minute of your best life!
SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR SISTERS FROM HOME

by Annie Jenkins, Digital Communications Specialist, International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ONE THING HAS BEEN ILLUMINATED — THE NEED FOR HUMAN CONNECTION. As we are all doing our part by staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19, it’s important to keep in touch with our P.E.O. sisters.

The Executive Board of International Chapter has approved that local chapters be allowed to hold emergency meetings by teleconference or videoconference for specific items of business. You can get more details on requirements for holding an emergency meeting at https://members.peointernational.org/covid19. At the time of publication, no in-person P.E.O. gatherings are to be held prior to August 1, 2020. Regular business meetings should not be held for any other reason than what is approved as an emergency meeting; however, socializing with your sisters is always encouraged, even if we have to socialize virtually this summer!

A phone call, text or handwritten letter can do so much to brighten a friend’s day, and if you want even more interaction, we have some ideas and tips for you!

IDEAS FOR STAYING SOCIAL WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Book club: You can all coordinate to read the same book or keep it casual and have each participant talk for a few minutes about what she has been reading.

Record article discussion: Pick an article in The Record for everyone to discuss. A group leader can write a few discussion questions ahead of time to get the conversation started.

TV recommendations: Have each participant come prepared with a favorite TV show to recommend and details about where to watch it.

Sisterly dinner: Pick a time to log on and eat dinner together. You could even choose one recipe that everyone makes.

Cocktail party: Make an excuse to pull out a fancy outfit for this “party.” Dress up, grab a favorite beverage and see where the conversation goes.

P.E.O. trivia night: Ask a member who owns the “We Who Are Sisters” P.E.O. history book to write a few trivia questions to challenge the rest of your group.

HOW TO DO IT? SET UP A ZOOM CALL

Zoom is a cloud–based video conferencing service you can use to meet virtually with others using video. Although other video communication services are also available, Zoom is easy to use and offers basic services at no cost.

1. Anyone can sign up for a free account at Zoom.us. The call host needs an account, but those joining in on the call do not need one.

2. Once signed in, the call host should click Schedule and fill in the details in order to schedule a call.
   – After saving, they will see Join URL, which is the link participants will need to click on to join the meeting at the specified date and time.
   – Hosts will also see a link to copy the invitation. The host can then paste this into an email or a text to invite members to the call.

3. At the set date and time, participants join the video conference by clicking on the link sent by the host.

NOTES:
– Users will be prompted to download Zoom after clicking on the meeting link. Follow the prompts to download and continue.
– Users will need to allow Zoom access to their computer’s microphone and camera. Upgraded plans (which a user may choose to purchase) have options to call in to a Zoom meeting from a phone. Although this is a good option to allow members to join with just phone access, be aware of the added cost.
– With a free account, a Zoom meeting can last up to 40 minutes. If the time expires, the host can send a new link to continue the Zoom meeting for up to an additional 40 minutes.
– Remember your sisters who do not have the technology or technical expertise to join video conferencing. Consider calling those members and having them on speakerphone near a computer so they can participate in the meeting.

Remember, this is supposed to be fun! There will absolutely be hiccups the first few times, but as sisters we are all in this together. The main thing is finding new ways to connect while we cannot physically be in the same place. It’s also important to remember your sisters who don’t have the technology at home to join in. Make sure to keep calling, texting and writing to those sisters.★
Eloved children's television personality Fred Rogers recalled, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” These words, meant to comfort and reassure children, are often a source of hope for adults as well and, in many cases, encourage and remind people that it is up to those of us who are able, to be those helpers. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on our world, we have heard so many stories of P.E.O.s jumping in to be the helpers who Mr. Rogers told us to look for in times of tragedy. These are only a handful of the many stories of P.E.O.s stepping up to use their talents during this difficult time.

Catharyn Nosek
AL, Greensboro, North Carolina

U.S. Navy Lt. Catharyn Nosek works as a critical care nurse stationed at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia. During the month of April, she worked aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort, which was moored in New York Harbor, caring for critically ill patients suffering from COVID-19.

In an interview with the Navy Office of Community Outreach, distributed by the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, Catharyn said, “My job responsibility in the ICU is to provide care to the ICU patients that come aboard from New York City. That includes taking care of their medications, their ventilators, any other care that’s needed on the ship...This mission calls for a lot of teamwork and a lot of resiliency.

“When I get off work I try to decompress a little bit and reflect on what we saw during the shift and I’m letting my family and friends know that this is unlike anything we’ve ever seen before...these are sicker patients that are requiring a lot more care...we’re on our feet taking care of these sick patients, we’ve got patients lined up on ventilators that are very sick and need a lot of high quality care and, luckily, this is what we train for, and we’re absolutely ready for it.

“Staying motivated and staying positive is definitely a core part of what we’re doing right now, because you have to keep a positive attitude to keep going so we’re doing whatever we can to motivate each other, remind each other of the mission at hand—that we’re here for a greater good and that we are prepared for this...It’s very easy to get down and be exhausted. We’ve worked weeks and weeks without a day off and we’re all very tired but we know that we’re accomplishing good here and the overall mission is to help the people of New York and we’re absolutely happy to be here to do that and we’re happy to be a part of this mission.”

My job responsibility in the ICU is to provide care to the ICU patients that come aboard from New York City. That includes taking care of their medications, their ventilators, any other care that’s needed on the ship...This mission calls for a lot of teamwork and a lot of resiliency.

continued on page 8...
“I am a clinical nurse manager in a critical care division at a hospital in New York City. I am originally from Colorado and am a 3rd generation P.E.O., initiated into Chapter JB in 2010.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been involved with managing nursing staff within the critical care division as well as working alongside my colleagues as a nurse caring for COVID positive ICU patients. Working the frontlines has been the most physically, mentally and emotionally demanding situation I have ever been through. It has been extremely difficult to be stretched thin as a nurse, working the hardest you can to try and heal an unknown disease, and then seeing patients who are sick and at the end of their life with no family and no friends around to be there with them. I have been extremely fortunate to be supported by P.E.O.’s whom I’ve known since I was a little girl and those I’ve never met before. My home chapter in Colorado was amazing and sent me encouraging and supportive cards that would give me the boost I needed on some really difficult days. I had saved many of the cards as I received them to open on days where I needed an extra word of positivity or support with the signature ‘Lovingly in P.E.O.’ at the end of every one. I now have my P.E.O. Card Corner in my kitchen to admire every day! In addition to these words of encouragement, the outpouring of support I’ve received from people I’ve never met before has been outstanding.

A P.E.O. from Roanoke, Virginia, Jan Sprow, whom I had never met, was connected to my mother via Facebook. Jan generously sewed many facemasks and scrub caps for my nursing staff at the hospital. At that point in time, the staff had no scrub hats to protect themselves and and Jan thoughtfully sewed buttons on the sides for us to hook our masks to so they wouldn’t breakdown our ears as much. It amazes me what the Sisterhood of P.E.O. can do! The silver lining of a horrible pandemic has been the support and outreach from friends and family and I wouldn’t have been able to get through it without all of them.”
Amy Bahn
AJ, Hendersonville, Tennessee

by Margaret Mullins, AJ, Tennessee

One only has to know Amy Bahn for a very short time before realizing that she has a heart for service. Most recently, she has been a part in her family’s decision to use their company to help during the COVID-19 crisis.

The company she and her husband own recently made and donated personal protective equipment (PPE) for local agencies needing this basic safety protection during the COVID-19 crisis. Amy and her husband, Stuart, moved their family and their company to Hendersonville, Tennessee, from southern California in 2005. Their company, Carrington Specialty Building Products, makes items for roofing. When Amy spoke with a nursing friend from California and learned of the issues concerning the shortage of protective face shields during what was quickly becoming a national crisis, she began to wonder if their own company might be able to make the needed PPE. She and Stuart checked into the moving parts of making the shields and realized their company not only could make them but they could also donate them to area health agencies. Their initial plan was to donate 10,000 of the shields but in the end, they donated 14,000.

They never advertised their plan for donating PPE but Amy mentioned it on Facebook, asking people if their hospital or health center needed some. Amy’s reach through Facebook was much wider than they planned, with requests coming in from all over the state as well as the northeast. Soon, they sent the first 500 face shields to Chattanooga Erlanger hospital then another 500 to Indianapolis, where Amy’s niece works in the Veterans hospital. The rest were distributed in the middle Tennessee area.

Since that first run of PPE, Amy and Stuart have committed their company to making the shields “as long as there is a need and they can get the raw materials.” They also agreed to work with the local Emergency Management Agency, realizing the agency knew who had the most critical need for the PPE. They did need to begin charging for the shields but currently do so at a price point just above the costs.

Both Amy and her husband were surprised to realize that the making and donating of the shields was also greatly benefitting their small company. They did not have to lay off workers, half of whom were working mothers who had no other source of income. Additionally, they were able to keep supply lines open by continuing to purchase raw materials.

Lori Landstrom
R, Seward, Alaska

by Nicole Lawrence, courtesy of The Seward Sun

Lori Landstrom is my COVID-19 community hero. She is a health professional who has taken this extra time to go above and beyond by helping out with personal protective equipment (PPE) in our community as well as other projects ...Lori has taken it upon herself to research the PPE needs of our community.

She found that Seward Fire Department, Moose Pass Fire Department, Bear Creek Fire Department, Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and the Seward Community Health Center, as well as other organizations were in need of PPE. She coordinated...to provide face shields to these organizations.

Lori also worked with AVTEC [Alaska Vocational Technical Center] to have their students use a 3D printer and make part of the face shield pieces that were needed. After working to get the face shields in place, Lori identified a need for disposable or reusable gowns for these organizations. She found a way to get...100 gowns into the community. Now that there are no more gowns available online, Lori has taken it upon herself to research the best materials for more gowns and is now coordinating a volunteer community sewing project...She said she is touched by how many people in the community stepped up to help sew these gowns once the materials come in.

During these hard times it is almost easier to stick your head in the sand or use quarantine as a reason to keep to yourself. In this time of crisis, Lori has really stepped up and brought together businesses, organizations and individuals in the community to address our needs. Besides the PPE projects, Lori has also volunteered her time with other needs in the community such as helping deliver meals to seniors as well as serving other roles. She is a true helper in a time of need and I am grateful for her energy, knowledge and passion!

Lori added, “I would also like to recognize my chapter sister Sue Magyar. I needed help coordinating cloth mask-making in our community. I ‘twisted the arm’ of Sue to be the mask coordinator. To date, the volunteers have made and distributed over 3,000 in our community.” ★
LET’S TALK Membership

by Alix Smith, Organizer, International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood

When you were initiated into P.E.O., you came to the meeting a friend and you left a sister. What did becoming a P.E.O. mean to you and how might your perception of P.E.O. change throughout the ensuing years of your membership?

As part of the Let’s Talk Survey, 5,620 respondents provided demographic information including the length of their P.E.O. membership and answered questions about their experiences in P.E.O. We appreciate each member that took the survey and are pleased that each state, provincial and district chapter and Hawaii are represented.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT P.E.O.?

- 45% of respondents learned of P.E.O. through friends followed closely by learning of P.E.O. from a family member at 39%.
- Only 2% of respondents attended Cottey College and 1% applied for a P.E.O. loan, grant or scholarship. These results indicate an immediate opportunity for every P.E.O. chapter to share the gift of membership with Cottey College students and alumnae as well as the women we recommend for loans, grants and scholarships through our philanthropic projects. These women already have knowledge about the financial support that P.E.O. provides and may benefit from the emotional support among P.E.O. sisters.

WHAT HAS KEPT YOU ENGAGED IN PARTICIPATING AS A LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBER?

- Leading the responses is “friendship and special connection with my chapter sisters” at 28%. This was consistently the highest selection regardless of years of membership with 35% of those initiated this year making this choice.
- The second highest reason was “shared values with other P.E.O.s” at 21% which was a consistent percentage across all years of membership.
- The third most popular was “sponsoring philanthropic candidates” at 16% which was consistent across all years of membership except for those initiated this year (10%). It is evident from these results that the connections and bonds we build as sisters is important in keeping our members engaged in P.E.O.

FROM 1 TO 10, WITH 10 BEING MOST LIKELY, HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND P.E.O. TO A FAMILY MEMBER (RESPONDENT AVERAGE OF 8.12) OR TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE (RESPONDENT AVERAGE OF 8.22)?

- From a percentage standpoint, members for 31–40 years averaged the highest intent to recommend in both categories with 51+ year members coming in a close second.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU PROPOSED A NAME FOR MEMBERSHIP?

- 67% of respondents have proposed at least one name for membership.
- When asked the reason for not proposing a name, concern about time commitment was the majority response.

P.E.O. is a voluntary activity and our success is based on each members’ ability to participate however she is able. There are seasons of membership where one can be more active, serve as an officer or on a committee and participate in fundraising events while at other times participation may be limited. As members, aim to maximize your impact for the time commitment you can give to P.E.O. while taking the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood with each chapter member regardless of your level of participation.

The results of the Let’s Talk Survey reaffirmed that the emotional support we give and receive as sisters is a defining factor in our organization regardless of the length of membership. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to P.E.O. and thank you for participating. ★
**How Did You Hear About P.E.O.?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family - Legacy member</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>From a work colleague</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attended Cottey College</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied for a P.E.O. loan, grant, scholarship or award</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>At a community event</td>
<td>0%</td>
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**What Has Kept You Engaged in P.E.O.?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumna or interest in Cottey College</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging chapter programs</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship and special connection with my chapter sisters</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fun in fundraising</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s all about the food at meetings</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared values with other P.E.O.s</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small interest groups</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsoring philanthropic candidates</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intent to Recommend for Membership (Scale 1-10)**

- **51+ year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.0
  - Family member: 8.4
- **41-50 year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.2
  - Family member: 8.6
- **31-40 year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.4
  - Family member: 8.2
- **21-30 year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.2
  - Family member: 8.0
- **11-20 year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.4
  - Family member: 8.2
- **1-10 year member**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.6
  - Family member: 8.0
- **Initiated this year**
  - Friend or colleague: 8.8
  - Family member: 8.4

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**“There are many wonderful facets to P.E.O. They all play a role but we need to emphasize the nature of our organization. We have devotions, but we are not a Bible study group. We have great programs, but we are not a study club. We have fantastic projects and while we enthusiastically support them, we are not just a service club. We are a sisterhood. Without the intimacy that come from sharing our lives as sisters, not just friends, P.E.O. will struggle to meet our goals. An early builder once said, ‘Of all the goals of P.E.O., this I think is the most important — the binding together and building up of a more intelligent, capable, ever increasing army of women — a sisterhood trying to live our principles. This is P.E.O. All else comes after this; all else is just P.E.O. in action.”**

Christine (Chris) Fredrickson, KK, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 50+ year member

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**Local Chapter Membership Toolbox**

The local chapter membership toolbox on the International website provides resources and ideas for strengthening the vitality and health of your chapter including:

- Local Chapter Membership Survey
- How to Care for Nonparticipating Members
- Membership Begins with ME
- Become a Membership Powerhouse
- Fostering Friendships Through P.E.O.
- How to Develop Small Interest Groups
A CENTURY OF STRUGGLE: The Women’s Suffrage Movement in the U.S. as Told Through the Stories of 12 Courageous Women

by Judith Stark, HX, Des Moines, Iowa

August 18, 2020, marks the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women citizens the right to vote nationwide. While this milestone is arguably one of the greatest civil rights achievements in our nation’s history, the persons engaged in the century-long struggle to enfranchise over 50 percent of adult citizens have long been overlooked in the writing of our nation’s history. And yet, the lives and stories of the thousands of women that lit the spark and kept the flame of progress burning through multiple generations is a legacy we stand on and benefit from even today. Here are stories and words of 12 “women of courage” who refused to give up or sit down in the face of enormous opposition to achieving a right we now often take for granted.

Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams served as an influential advisor to her husband, John Adams, throughout their marriage. Often left alone in Massachusetts to raise their family and run the family farm while her husband was crafting the institutions and documents that form the foundation of our democracy, Abigail and John exchanged more than 1,100 letters in which she expressed her opinions about topics domestic and political. In one letter she used pointed language to make her desires known about the plight of “the ladies”...

...in the new code of laws which I suppose... you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

In order to better understand Abigail’s intent, we need to remind ourselves of the second-class status of women in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

• Women were expected to restrict their sphere of interest to the home, family and limited charitable endeavors.
• Women were not encouraged to obtain a real education or allowed to pursue a professional career. Sunday school was often the only schooling white girls received.
• At the point of marriage women went from dependency on their fathers to femes coverts, meaning without legal identity apart from their husbands.
• Married women could not own property in their own names.
• If women earned money, it did not legally belong to them.
• Husbands had a legal claim to their labor and automatic custody of their children in the event of separation or divorce.
• Women could not serve on juries or volunteer for military duties.
• Women could not vote in elections at any level.

So given these circumstances, essentially no voice, no vote, no wallet...where does one start?

Sarah Grimke

For Sarah Grimke, it began with finding and using her voice. Sarah was the daughter of a prominent slave-holding Charleston, South Carolina, family. From a young age Sarah was educated by private tutors. Her father allowed Sarah to study geography, history and mathematics and to read his law books. Sarah developed a personal distaste for chattel slavery and secretly taught the young slave children in her household to read and do simple arithmetic. This came to an abrupt end when her father found out and threatened to have the children whipped.

At age 26, Sarah accompanied her father to Philadelphia. There she found an outlet that allowed her to use her voice to advocate for the abolition of slavery—the Quaker faith. After her father’s death she returned to South Carolina for a short period of time but found the environment incompatible with her anti-slavery beliefs. She returned to Philadelphia where she became active in the New England abolitionist movement. In a series of Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman (1837) she wrote: “I ask no favors for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren is that they will take their feet from off our necks and permit us to stand upright on the ground which God has designed us to occupy.”

These words were used by Ruth Bader Ginsberg in her first oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. While in Philadelphia, Sarah Grimke became a friend and collaborator with Lucretia Mott.
Lucretia Mott
Raised as a Quaker, a faith that believed men and women were equal in the eyes of God, Lucretia Mott was a fierce abolitionist and mother of six. In 1833 she founded the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society and hosted the second Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women, which brought together 175 black and white female abolitionists from 10 states.

In 1840, she and her husband, James, were selected as Pennsylvania delegates to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London. When they arrived, they found that many of the male delegates refused to let female delegates into the convention.

Lucretia—along with fellow abolitionist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was attending the convention as a newlywed with her delegate husband—had had enough. The two conspired to work together to establish a meeting for Women’s Rights once they returned to the United States. However, it would take another eight years for their vow to be realized at the Seneca Falls Convention.

For Lucretia, abolitionism and women’s rights went hand in hand and she continued to fight fearlessly for both. Following passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, Lucretia became part of the Underground Railroad and was one of the founders of Swarthmore College in Philadelphia in 1864, one of the earliest co–educational institutes of higher learning in the U.S.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
The acknowledged philosopher of the suffrage movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in 1815 into a slaveholding, wealthy New York family. Well–educated in a coed environment until the age of 16, she was ineligible to be admitted to any college in America because she was a woman.

On July 19 and 20, 1848, Elizabeth and Lucretia Mott hosted what has come to be observed as the start of the organized woman’s rights movement in the U.S.—the Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. At the convention they wrote and presented, and the delegates adopted, a “Declaration of Sentiments,” a document modeled on the Declaration of Independence, which called for a range of women’s rights, including the right to equal education, equal treatment under the law and religion and the right to vote. Sixty-eight women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments.

Busy with the work of raising a rambunctious family Elizabeth nevertheless found time to write many of the early legislative petitions for expanded women’s rights and wrote many of the earliest speeches for Susan B. Anthony.

continued on page 14...

P.E.O. AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS
*excerpted from “We Who Are Sisters,” the P.E.O. history book

By the mid–1800s women were becoming increasingly conscious of their civil rights. Numerous supporters of women’s rights and civil rights, including Frederick Douglass, Bronson Alcott, Anna Dickinson and Amelia Bloomer, spoke in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the Founders’ hometown.

Such speakers found Mount Pleasant to be an extremely active center for state women suffrage matters. Iowa’s first state-wide Woman’s Suffrage Convention was held in Mount Pleasant in 1870. Alice Bird began lecturing on women’s suffrage that year. She later recalled: “We seven Founders received our first lessons in suffrage direct from the mouths of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Anna Dickinson. In our zeal, we had our hair cropped short, and made a vow that the Tyrant Man should never enter into our lives!”

Franc Roads Elliott was known for her work for suffrage... she became deeply involved in securing for women the right to a seat and a vote in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Canadian women obtained the federal vote in 1918, and two years later American women were granted the same right with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Winona (Evans Reeves) reminded readers (of the P.E.O. Record) that P.E.O.s should take an intelligent interest in every election, for “we do not want merely to double the number of votes cast, but to make a real contribution to national welfare.”

In 1922, continuing to encourage P.E.O.s to recognize their rights as women, Helen Harlan had this to say in an address written for the Illinois State Convention: “If a woman regards the Nineteenth Amendment merely as the right to vote, she may as well stay at home on election day as many ill-equipped men do. But the enfranchisement of women means vastly more than that. It means that women are eligible to any office in the United States...There is no door now closed to woman, politically or governmentally. She has become at least potentially, a dominating force.” ★

To learn more about P.E.O.’s involvement in the women’s suffrage movement and other U.S. history and world events, order “We Who Are Sisters,” the P.E.O. pictorial history book at www.peo150.org. The cost is $40 + shipping + applicable sales tax.
FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was raised in a Quaker family in Massachusetts and New York. She initially became a teacher but left to become a temperance lecturer. When she encountered vehement opposition to a woman speaking to mixed audiences, she turned her full-time attention to advocating for women's rights.

Over her career she averaged 75 to 100 speeches per year across the nation. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton she started the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) with the associated publication The Revolution.

In 1872 she, along with 14 of her relatives and friends, cast ballots in the presidential election, claiming that voting was a right of citizenship, and the term "citizen" did not refer only to males. She was arrested, summarily found guilty of illegally voting and fined. Thereafter Susan opened her many speeches with the line: "I stand before you as a convicted criminal."

Undaunted by their initial failure, she and her colleagues forged a two-pronged attack; the first being the slow process of persuading all-male state legislatures to change their constitutions and the second through the cumbersome process of amending the U.S. Constitution.

Susan, assisted by her suffrage sisters, tirelessly pursued both courses till the end of her life, always encouraging her young acolytes with her theme "FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE."

Sojourner Truth

The abolition of slavery was the introductory issue that led many women into an activist role, this was doubly true for the legendary Sojourner Truth. Born a slave, illiterate all her life, her master forbade her to marry the man she loved. She had to marry a man “approved” by her owner with whom she had 13 children, most of them sold into slavery.

In 1827, New York State freed its slaves and over time Sojourner found her voice as an abolitionist. In 1851 at a woman’s rights convention in Akron, Ohio, none of the women in attendance seemed able to answer an outburst of heckling from a clergyman who ridiculed the weakness and helplessness of women, who, he declared, should therefore not be entrusted with the vote. Sojourner rose and slowly made her way to the front amid hissing from the participants. After being recognized to speak she turned to the audience and delivered her now famous “Ain’t I A Woman?” speech. It exemplifies the courage and directness of many of the suffragists as well as the double prejudice women of color endured.

Lucy Stone

Lucy Stone worked non-stop for over a half a century to advance the cause of women’s rights. When her father refused to help her with college expenses, Lucy worked for nine years as a teacher, tutor and shoemaker to save the $70 needed for the first year’s room and tuition at Oberlin College in Ohio, one of the earliest co-ed, bi-racial colleges in the nation. After graduation she embarked on a profession of being an itinerant lecturer for the causes of anti-slavery and women’s rights.

With her husband, Lucy formed the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA), a competing organization to Susan B. Anthony’s NWSA. Both organizations worked on both state and national levels to promote suffrage, but the AWSA was more conservative and focused exclusively on suffrage while the NWSA fought for a broader portfolio of women’s rights such as the right to own property, right to divorce, etc.

It was a continual frustration to both groups that women themselves were often the most difficult opponents to convince of their cause. Conditioned to believe that they were weaker, less rational, and unfit for leadership, many women opposed suffrage, stating that their husbands, fathers and brothers well represented the public interests of women and children. Lucy used every speech and publication she wrote to repudiate these notions in both her words and actions.

Carrie Chapman Catt

Carrie Chapman Catt was raised and educated in Iowa and held the position of Superintendent of Schools in Mason City. She briefly moved to California with her husband, but when he died she returned to Iowa and eventually married a wealthy engineer named George Catt. Their marriage allowed her to spend a good part of each year on the road campaigning for women’s suffrage, a cause she had become involved in in Iowa in the late 1880s.

Over time she became a close colleague of Susan B. Anthony, who selected Carrie to succeed her as head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) (the merger of the formerly competing suffrage
organizations). Carrie led the movement over the next 20 years, struggling against great odds and many frustrating setbacks.

It was Carrie Chapman Catt who was invited to tea at the White House with President and Mrs. Wilson on the afternoon that the 19th Amendment was finally ratified and signed by the Secretary of State.

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**Ida B. Wells**

The story of the struggle for women’s suffrage would be incomplete without including some of the racist rhetoric and actions that often times accompanied the movement. Lucy Stone’s husband, Henry Blackwell, promoted suffrage in Southern states by explaining: “Your four millions of Southern white women will counterbalance your millions of Negro men and women and thus the political supremacy of your white race will remain unchanged.”

Ida B. Wells, a journalist, investigated some of the most horrific lynching crimes in America. When Ida, an African American, traveled to Washington D.C., to march with the Illinois delegation in the suffrage parade of 1913, the group’s leaders asked her to move to the back of the parade with the other black women. She ignored these instructions and took her place with the white marchers anyway.

Never one to back down, Ida organized black women into a political force in Chicago and, in 1913, led a delegation to successfully lobby the state legislature resulting in the desegregation of public transportation and allowing for interracial marriage.

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**Alice Paul**

While women were making some progress in the areas of co-education and employment opportunities during the years following the Civil War, the period from 1896 to 1910 came to be known among suffragists as “the doldrums.” Every state referendum held on the topic of suffrage was defeated. Women’s suffrage was completely ignored as an issue in both the House and Senate.

Onto this stage stepped Alice Paul, a Quaker and a social worker who had gone to England in 1907 to study and while there became a militant in the British suffragist movement. In 1910 she returned to the U.S. and joined the NAWSA bringing her militant views with her. She advocated for a change in focus from a state-by-state strategy to a national focus aimed at the party in power and the presidency. This difference in focus eventually led her to break with the NAWSA and form her own organization.

She organized a massive women’s march down Pennsylvania Avenue in 1913 the day before Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President. In 1917, unhappy with the pace of progress, the suffragists began a campaign of picketing the White House, setting bonfires on the national mall and staging hunger strikes in protest against being arrested. Her actions brought many young women into the movement while provoking violent opposition to their cause as well.

When the U.S. entered WWI in 1917 women took many of the positions previously held by male laborers throughout the U.S. Alice used this opportunity to publicly ask “Mr. Wilson, you say you will make the world safe for democracy. What are you doing for the women in America?” A year later President Wilson capitulated and admitted in an address to the Senate “we have made partners of women in this war, shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?”

On May 20, 1919, after 26 states passed legislation allowing women full suffrage, the House of Representatives approved the 19th Amendment on June 4, initiating the final process of getting 36 states to ratify the amendment in order for it to become the law of the entire nation.

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**Phoebe Ensminger Burn**

By the summer of 1920, 35 states had ratified the measure, bringing it one vote short of the required 36. In Tennessee, it was stalled in the House of Representatives, prompting thousands of pro- and anti-suffrage activists to descend upon Nashville. After weeks of intense lobbying and debate within the Tennessee legislature, a motion to table the amendment was defeated with a 48-48 tie.

The speaker called the measure to a ratification vote. Many suffragists packed into the capitol with their yellow roses, sashes and signs.

That morning, Harry Burn, the youngest legislator—who until that time had stood firmly in the anti-suffrage camp—received a note from his mother, Phoebe Ensminger Burn, known to her family and friends as Miss Febb. In it, she wrote,

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**Dear Son:**

Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don’t keep them in doubt. I notice some of the speeches against. They were bitter. I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet... Don’t forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt... put the “rat” in ratification, Ha!

With lots of love, Mama

Still sporting his red boutonniere signifying his opposition to ratification but clutching his mother’s letter, Burn said “aye” so quickly that it took his fellow legislators a few moments to register his unexpected response. With that single syllable he extended the vote to the women of America, culminating half a century of tireless campaigning by generations of suffragists.

The next day, Burn defended his reversal in a speech to the assembly. For the first time, he publicly expressed his personal support of universal suffrage, declaring, “I believe we had a moral and legal right to ratify.” But he also made no secret of Miss Febb’s influence—and her crucial role in the story of women’s rights in the United States. “I know that a mother’s advice is always safest for her boy to follow,” he explained, “and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification.”

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**19TH AMENDMENT**

**SECTION 1.** The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

**SECTION 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
CREATE A FLOWING PIPELINE OF CHAPTER LEADERS

by Debbie Kotecki, Leadership Development Committee

Does your chapter have a flowing pipeline of sisters willing to be officers and committee chairmen? Or is the flow of your leadership pipeline more of a trickle?

Wisdom tells us that we enable anything to flow better when we remove the obstacles in the way. Various seasons of life, family, health and career remain an ever-changing reality for each P.E.O. member and we do not have control over removing these types of obstacles. However, there are key areas where chapters can intentionally smooth out the path and set up a leadership culture where members actually look forward to becoming leaders.

CLARITY. Set the clear expectation that service is a meaningful and expected part of membership. Be sure everyone understands that we all SHARE the work and leadership of our organization. Give easy access to clear responsibilities and time commitments for all officer and committee chairmen positions by providing packets with “job” descriptions. Prune the excess tasks that may have crept into the job descriptions of your leadership positions over time and get back to the actual requirements of the office or committee. Allow sisters to develop personal clarity by setting aside time for each to express why she loves being a member of P.E.O.

OPPORTUNITY. Engage each member in service as soon as they enter your chapter. Working on a committee, reporting at a meeting and being responsible for a task right from the earliest days on her P.E.O. path all prepare a sister to be ready to say “YES” when she is asked to be an officer or committee chairman. Give time at a meeting for current leaders to share the positive gifts and growth opportunities they have received from serving in their positions.

SUPPORT. Sisters need to see evidence that officers are not expected to come into their jobs already knowing what to do, but instead, that they receive ongoing training, guidance and assistance throughout their term. Refer to your officers as your “Chapter Leadership Team” to establish that those who agree to serve are not in it alone.

APPRECIATION. Recognize chapter leaders’ contributions throughout the year to let all members know that service in your chapter is appreciated. Show gratitude and celebrate sisters who are positive models of leadership. Recognize excellence and achievements during gatherings, in newsletters and on P.E.O. social media.

These four keys help chapters release obstacles and create a positive leadership culture. Maintaining this culture over time results in chapters with sisters who are prepared and willing to serve. This is the best environment for a strong and ongoing flow of the chapter’s leadership pipeline! ★

LEADERSHIP TIP

Learn how to incorporate a successful system for assistant officers and find other practical ideas in the video “Create a Flowing Pipeline of Chapter Leaders,” found under Leadership Development on the P.E.O. international website. A similar resource called, “Create a Flowing S/P/D Leadership Pipeline” is available in the State/Provincial/District Officers toolbox.
Meet Your State, Provincial & District Presidents

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. The Record is pleased to share the biographies of 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.
Ellen Busby

British Columbia

P.E.O. Share the ride!

Ellen Busby was introduced to the P.E.O. Sisterhood when she received a P.E.O. Scholar Award (PSA). Shortly after presenting her doctoral research at the British Columbia P.E.O. 2001 Convention, she was invited to become a P.E.O. sister by Chapter AR, Victoria, British Columbia, where she is still a member. Ellen completed her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Victoria (UVic) in 2002, continued with post-doctoral research for a few years and now teaches 2nd and 4th year microbiology and biochemistry labs at UVic. Over the years, Ellen has served in local chapter offices, provincial committees, the provincial board and has enjoyed a myriad of P.E.O. fundraisers and events. Ellen loves the outdoors and has fun hiking, camping, gardening and biking with Ian (her BIL of 25 years) and her two amazing teenage daughters, Abigail and Amelia.

Ellen is passionate about inviting PSA nominees to join her chapter – one way she continues to share the gift of P.E.O. Ellen is looking forward to the next year of P.E.O. adventures as president of the British Columbia board.

Isabelle Dubois Wattles

California

Building a Legacy of Love

Isabelle Dubois Wattles is a third generation P.E.O. and was initiated into Chapter UC, Idyllwild, in 1985. She was elected to the California Executive Board in 2000 and served two years, resigning from the board in 2002 when she married her high school sweetheart and moved to join him in Washington, D.C. She transferred to Chapter S, District of Columbia. She was elected to the D.C. Executive Board in 2006, and served as president 2012–13.

In 2014 Isabelle and her husband returned to California to spend more time with her father, who was living on his own at age 97. She transferred to Chapter VX, Imperial. In 2019 she was appointed to the California Executive Board to fill a vacancy in the office of vice president.

Isabelle has three daughters, all P.E.O.s, and six grandchildren ranging in age from 21 to four. She owned and actively managed a production pottery business in Idyllwild for over 25 years, and then used her management and financial skills as finance director of an independent IT sales company based in the D.C. area. She retired from full-time employment in 2017. Isabelle is happy to finally have time to travel with her husband, enjoy yoga, try to play pickle ball and avoid cooking.

Shari L. Fox

Colorado

Knit Together in Sisterly Love to Promote Educational Opportunities

Having been initiated into her mother/grandmother/aunts and great aunts’ chapter, Shari Fox is a third generation P.E.O. She has had the vision for P.E.O. for many years and as a 1984 graduate of Cottey College, shares this love with sister, Jennifer and niece Sarah, also P.E.O.s. She has been married for 32 years to Jonathan. They have three children and two grandchildren. Her two daughters are fourth generation P.E.O.s and are a wonderful addition to the Sisterhood.

Shari has been a special education teacher and a DestiNation ImagiNation team manager. She has served as a volunteer Vacation Bible School director and teacher, children’s teacher for Bible Study Fellowship and children’s director for Community Bible Study.

She holds three degrees: A.A. from Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri, (1984); B.A. in special education from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, (1986); M.A. in special education (UNC-1989).

A Colorado native, Shari lives in a very small town and is only 50 miles from her hometown of Las Animas, Colorado. She is a member of Chapter AT, Ordway. She enjoys knitting, reading, biking and long walks. The family business is banking and has been in her husband’s family for 100 years.
Pam Collins
Connecticut

Love is in the Stars

Raised in the Indiana Dunes, Pam Collins graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in economics in 1979. Upon graduation, she was given the gift of P.E.O. when she was initiated into her mother’s chapter, CS, Ogden Dunes, Indiana. She earned her M.B.A. from the University of Rochester, where she met her husband, Kevin. They moved to Chicago, Dallas, L.A. and finally Connecticut.

In 1990, she transferred to Chapter N, New Canaan, Connecticut. Pam helped organize Chapter AC, New Canaan, Connecticut, in 1995, and became a charter member of Chapter F-AC, New Canaan, in 2013. Pam has held almost every chapter office, served on the state A & R committee, was convention site liaison, general chair of Connecticut State Convention and served as a delegate to Convention of International Chapter.

After the birth of their first daughter, Kylie, Pam became a full-time parent. When daughter Molly was born, the family moved to Westport, Connecticut, where they have resided for 25 years. Pam was active on the Westport PTA, Staples Tuition Grants (awards need-based college scholarships to Westport high school seniors) and National Charity League.

Pam stays active and enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, sailing, kayaking, Qigong, reading and travel. Pam is thrilled that Molly became a P.E.O. in 2019.

Margaret Lliteras
District of Columbia

Find Your Star Pose

Margaret Lliteras is a member of Chapter Y, Washington, D.C. Before joining Chapter Y, Margaret was initiated in 1979 into Chapter H, Boise, Idaho, the chapter of her mother, grandmother, great aunt and sister-in-law. She joined Chapter Y in 1980, where she has served as president, vice president, treasurer and recording secretary. While president of Chapter Y she gave birth to her daughter, Melissa Kuyumjian, who became a Chapter Y sister 18 years later and will graduate from the University of Maryland a week after her mom becomes president of D.C. P.E.O. At the state level, Margaret served on the Finance and Educational Recognition Award Committees and was Roundtable treasurer. In 1999 she was the assistant treasurer for the Convention of International Chapter in Baltimore.

Margaret loves yoga and seeks balance in all aspects of life. She is active in the D.C. Metro Delta Delta alumni chapter, her church and the Interior Department Credit Union Board. Margaret retired in May 2015.

Phyllis Howard
Idaho

I Hope You Dance

Phyllis Howard was born and raised in Glenburn, a small town of approximately 300 residents in northern North Dakota. She attended Glenburn High School, graduating in 1965. After graduation she moved to Minot, North Dakota, where she met her future husband, William (Bill). They were married June 24, 1967, 53 wonderful years ago!

Phyllis and Bill have one son and two grandchildren. Son Shawn and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Michigan. Grandson, Shae Purdin, and his spouse, Corrin Himle, live in Utah and granddaughter, Scotti Howard, is currently enrolled in a master’s degree program at Cleveland State University in clinical psychology.

Phyllis was initiated in her mother-in-law’s chapter, M, Ogden, Utah, in April of 2000. When Dillard’s promoted her to Idaho Falls in 2003, she transferred to Chapter BG, Idaho, where she is still a member. She served eight years as an officer in Chapter BG and served three years on the Idaho State Projects Committee during its inception. In 2011, she chaired the Idaho State Convention.

Phyllis’s career in retail management spans 40 plus years, 10 years with Bon Marche as a buyer, 12 years with Pykettes as a district manager of stores and 22 years with Dillard’s as a sales manager in Utah and the last 12 years as the assistant store manager, Dillard’s, Idaho Falls. She retired in May 2015.
Women helping women reach for the stars

The P.E.O. Record | July–August 2020

**Elisa Wolfe**

*Illinois*

*Share the P.E.O. Sunshine – Inspiring Generations of Women to Shine*

Elisa Wolfe grew up in Englewood, Colorado, and earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology at Colorado State University and a Masters in social work from University of Denver.

She and her BIL, Randy, met as very young children in Japan where both of their fathers were Air Force physicians. Re-united many years later by a strange coincidence, Elisa and Randy married in 1987, settled in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, and soon began their family. Her social work career took a back seat to the most blessed job imaginable, raising the couple's three children—Nicholas, Jessica and Jason.

Marrying into the Wolfe family meant that Elisa was destined to be a P.E.O. Mother-in-law, Ruth Wolfe, past president, California State Chapter, attended Elisa's initiation into Chapter MO, Lake Zurich, Illinois, in 1995. Elisa's California sisters-in-law include Bernee Breen Wolfe, NE, San Rafael, and Lori Wolfe and daughter, Morgan Wolfe, both of WF, Danville.

Now a member of Chapter NS, Naperville, Elisa had the pleasure of initiating her daughter, Jessica into NS, and then, the honor of organizing Chapter ON, Chicago, while serving as Illinois organizer. Elisa's mother, Virginia Benvenuti and sister, Beth Asbury are both members of Colorado Chapter ED, Aurora.

Travel, reading, hiking and walking the family dachshund, Ollie, are passions Elisa looks forward to restarting when her board service is complete.

**Marti Ramsey**

*Indiana*

*Let Your Star Sparkle and Shine*

Marti Ramsey, a third generation P.E.O., was initiated in 1971, into her mother's chapter, AH, Whiting, while a college student. She transferred to Chapter AQ, Greenwood, shortly after her graduation from college and is currently a member of Chapter BS, Franklin. Marti has held many chapter offices and served on many state chapter committees. A highlight was serving as treasurer for the 2015 Convention of International Chapter.

Marti met her husband, Mike, at Purdue University. They are the parents of two P.E.O. daughters, Kate and Kari. Frequent trips to L.A. are needed to visit their three granddaughters and sons-in-law.

Marti has lived in Franklin for 36 years where she has been active in Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, currently serving as treasurer, Tri Kappa and as a member of the choral group “The Voices.”

P.E.O has been a part of Marti’s life for many years. A prized-possession is the 1922 receipt for her grandmother’s local chapter dues. Marti has had the honor of acting as president at the initiations of both her daughters and her niece.

Now retired after 36 years of teaching elementary physical education, Marti enjoys playing golf, reading and planning their next trip to California.

**Sue Aanes**

*Iowa*

*Radiate All Light Possible*

Sue Aanes is the daughter, granddaughter and possibly great-granddaughter of P.E.O.s. Throw in aunts, mother-in-law and daughter to the mix, and it’s easy to understand her involvement in P.E.O. Initiated into Chapter EV, New London, Iowa, in 1978, serving on committees and filling officer positions, she was a delegate to International Convention in Seattle, until an opportunity to serve at the state level presented itself. She served as Hostess Chair for the 2007 Iowa State Convention and moved on to the Membership Committee for six years before accepting a nomination for the state board.

Sue is a graduate of the University of Iowa, met her pharmacist husband at the university, and after graduation moved to New London. Her first job was the secretary at New London High School, a job that lasted 20 years. Not intending to retire, she became the secretary and jack-of-all trades at the funeral home. Twenty-four years later, she is still working there part-time.

Sue and Steve have two children—Scott, a fireman in West Des Moines and Sarah, a social worker at University of Iowa Hospitals. She has four grandchildren, Gavin (21), Lily (15), Beckett (14), Cooper (10).

Sue enjoys traveling, snorkeling in Bonaire and the British Virgin Islands, Iowa football and basketball and spending time with her grandchildren.

GALLERY OF PRESIDENTS
Susan Smith was initiated into her mother’s chapter, E, Westfield, New Jersey, in 1978. She transferred to Chapter GR, Olathe, Kansas, in 1981. The next year Susan secured consent from her chapter to select a charter list for Chapter IN, Olathe, and became IN’s first president. Between 1983 and 2007, she transferred to Chapter DJ, Dallas, Texas, back to Chapter IN, then to Chapter IC, Kansas City, Missouri, and finally back to Chapter IN where she is currently a member. Susan’s mother, daughter, two sisters, two nieces and sister-in-law are P.E.O.s in Kansas, California, Colorado and Florida.

Susan attended Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, earning a B.A. in sociology, she also earned her M.A. in counseling from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri. Susan met her husband, Kelly, while at Baker. They have two children, Rachel and Tyler, who both live in the Kansas City area.

Susan retired in 2016 after working for 12 years as a paraprofessional in a local school district. Prior to working for the school district she was a stay-at-home mom. Susan has served on the House Corporation Board for Lambda Chapter of Delta Delta Delta since 2010.

She enjoys reading, family time, exercising and looking for new adventures to share with family and friends.

Growing up, Lana Kington attended eight schools in as many years across southern Indiana and Illinois. After settling in Evansville, Indiana, Lana earned a B.S. degree in chemistry with mathematics and physics minors from the University of Southern Indiana and an M.B.A. from the University of Evansville.

When Lana moved to Michigan, she was welcomed by her soon-to-be P.E.O. sisters who had been notified by her mother-in-law. She was initiated into Chapter DF, Holland, Michigan, in 1989 and, always up for a challenge, the first office she held was president from 1992–94. Lana is now a member of Chapter W, Madisonville, Kentucky.

After a 34-year career in quality, supply chain and research and development, Lana retired from a global pediatric nutrition company. In addition to professional organizations, she served as a Girl Scout leader, United Way board member and in children’s ministry.

Lana has two daughters who are P.E.O. sisters, a son-in-law, a stepson, three grandsons and a grand dog. She shares her old Kentucky home with a menagerie that includes an African Gray parrot who tells her when it’s bedtime. Besides animals, Lana enjoys singing with the church choir, playing bowed psaltery and mountain dulcimer, traveling, yoga and weaving baskets.

Arleen Mayeux was born and raised on a farm in central Texas. She later lived in Maryland and Oklahoma, following her husband’s career. In 2000 she became a P.E.O., joining Chapter M, El Reno, Oklahoma. She and her husband, Herman, and their wiener dog, Roux, now live in Natchez, Louisiana, and Arleen is in Chapter AU, Natchitoches.

Since 2007, Arleen has been an active volunteer with the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. She was a member of the Service League of Natchitoches from 2010–2018.

Arleen’s career history includes working as a lab tech for United States Department of Agricultural–Agricultural Research Service (USDA–ARS) for more than 10 years, owning her own catering and cake baking business and owning a bed and breakfast.

Arleen is now enjoying her retirement and spends her free time cooking, gardening, fishing and anything outdoors.
Michelle Paschal's P.E.O. journey began in 2008 when she was initiated into Chapter AE, Salisbury, Maryland. Michelle was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, until a job moved her to Maryland in 1985. Michelle holds a B.S.B.A. degree from Robert Morris University having graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1983. Michelle completed her M.B.A. degree at Salisbury University in 1991. Michelle’s career began in finance but when an opportunity to work in international sales came along, she jumped at the chance. She is currently a supply chain manager for one of the largest food processors in the United States. Michelle will celebrate her 20th wedding anniversary in October with her husband, Tim, returning to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of their wedding. Michelle, her parents and BIL have traveled extensively to many destinations in the U.S. and around the globe. Her love of travel comes from her parents who travel more than they are home. Michelle and Tim are proud owners of a Field Trial Champion Labrador and are currently training their new Lab for future competitions. Reading is a daily activity while gardening and cooking are used for relaxation.

Lisa Cooley was born in Michigan and returned to Michigan in retirement. Vivian, her mother, was president of Chapter AM, Grand Rapids, when Lisa became a second generation P.E.O. after graduating from Purdue University in 1979. Vivian cried during the ceremony while Lisa laughed when finally learning the meaning of P.E.O. Vivian knew that Lisa needed P.E.O. sisters surrounding her as life unfolded. Lisa lived in five countries, six states and 17 cities. She has belonged to chapters BR, Lockport, New York; EG, Cincinnati, Ohio; MP, Los Angeles, California, and currently, EB, Elk Rapids, Michigan. Her family includes Elcie (Springer Spaniel), Jaci (sister-in-law), Beth and Leslie (nieces), aunt/uncle and cousins. Professionally, Lisa earned an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan and was in purchasing at P&G. Traveling began early in life when Lisa was an AFS exchange student to Tatuí, Brazil. She has visited all 50 states, most of the Canadian provinces, parts of Asia, Europe, South/Central America and Mexico. Learnings through these adventures are that people and experiences are forever, relationships are what matter, one learns a lot from different cultures/people and to embrace where you are. Other interests involve Stephen Ministry, music, cross-stitching, musicals, entertaining to achieve a house full of laughter, technology and always time with Elcie!

Kristi Harlan was born in New Mexico and raised throughout the western United States. She earned her A.A. from Cotette College and her B.S. from the University of Colorado. She was initiated into her mother’s chapter, HH, Littleton, Colorado, in 1994. She transferred to Chapter IF, Colorado, in 2001 and then again to Chapter FP, Shakopee, Minnesota, in 2014 where she still enjoys active participation. Kristi is married to Lee Fimmen. They have three married children, one step-grandchild and six grandchildren, ages one month to four years. She is especially delighted that daughter Sarah joined Chapter FP in 2019. After taking a break from the corporate world as a software development product/project manager, Kristi became an active volunteer. She has raised three assistance dog puppies and served on the puppy raiser board for KSDS, INC. She served on the board of Safe Harbor, working on behalf of survivors of the sex trade. She is active in her church and Newcomers group. Kristi enjoys being with family and friends and loves the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and hiking. She also enjoys bridge, knitting, reading and traveling.
Mary Eldridge

Nevada

Let Love Be Your Guide

Mary Eldridge was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, and initiated into Chapter AD, joining her great aunt, sister and mother, who hand-delivered her invitation. She transferred to Chapter C in Ely, Nevada.

Mary’s education began at Cottey College before moving to Nevada. She worked as a substitute teacher and bus driver before being employed at the local Head Start program; first as a family services manager, following with 24 years as executive director. During this time Mary completed her education at Upper Iowa University. After retiring in 2015, Mary has continued to work as a part-time consultant at the federal level of Head Start.

While working on the family’s ranch, Mary and her husband, Dennis, raised two children. Their daughter is a member of Chapter A, Phoenix, Arizona, and a P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient.

Mary has served on the Nevada and Region IX Head Start Association boards, Nevada Welfare Board, White Pine Cattelwomen’s Association and been a 4–H leader. Mary is currently volunteering for Committee Against Child Hunger, a food backpack program.

Mary enjoys traveling, needlework and puzzles. She looks forward to book recommendations from friends. Mary enjoys making toffee from a family recipe for her chapter’s annual fundraiser.

Pauline Carter

North Carolina

Live Laugh Love through P.E.O.

Pauline Carter became a third generation P.E.O. when she was initiated as a charter member into Chapter CS, Tucson, Arizona, in 1983. Her mother, paternal grandmother, aunts and cousins were all initiated into Chapter V, Colorado, and her great aunt, Martha Jean Corlett, was instrumental in guiding chapter members to save the Great Sand Dunes of Colorado in the early 1930s.

Pauline earned a B.S. in industrial engineering and worked for five years as a manufacturing engineer in the defense electronics industry in Dallas, Texas, where she met her husband, Steve. After moving to South Carolina and then North Carolina, she spent the next 15 years volunteering in numerous school- and church-related capacities as she and Steve raised two daughters, Willow and Dory Ann. Pauline returned to full-time work in 2005, working as a teacher’s assistant and then as the student registrar, at a North Carolina public charter school until she left in 2016 upon being installed as a member of the North Carolina State Board.

Pauline has also been a member of Chapter FA, Plano, Texas, and Chapter D, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and is currently a member of Chapter BR, Davidson, North Carolina. She recently experienced the joy of watching her youngest daughter, Dory Ann, initiated into the chapter.

Phyllis Dvorak

North Dakota

Step Out with the Stars to Celebrate P.E.O.

Phyllis Dvorak grew up in Dickinson, North Dakota. In 1994 she and her family relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado. She later moved to Topeka, Kansas, where three special friends invited her to join Chapter GJ, Topeka, Kansas, in 2005. Phyllis and her husband moved back to Bismarck, North Dakota, in 2013 to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Her lifelong dear friend asked her to transfer into Chapter AJ, Bismarck, North Dakota, where she presently is a member.

Phyllis graduated from Dickinson State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She received the Outstanding Young Woman award in 1990 from Dickinson State University. Phyllis taught kindergarten in Dickinson, North Dakota, and both kindergarten and first grade in Colorado Springs, Colorado. While in Topeka, Kansas, she was employed as event coordinator for the Capper Foundation.

While in North Dakota and Kansas, Phyllis volunteered for charitable organizations and community events. She served as a board member of Dickinson State University Alumni Board, Dickinson, North Dakota, Mulvane Art Museum, Topeka, Kansas and, currently, Creative Community Options, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Phyllis has been married to her husband, Alvin, for 47 years and they have three married children and seven grandchildren. She cherishes her time spent with family.
Laura Cunningham Firkey
Northeast District

Welcome Home: You’re Going to Love it Here!

Laura Cunningham Firkey lives in Essex Junction, Vermont, with husband, Pete, and daughters Emily and Eva. Laura had P.E.O. grandmothers and other “sister” aunts and cousins including her aunt Missy and her cousin Kristin who both served as president of Connecticut state chapter. Laura belongs to Chapter F, Burlington, Vermont. She serves as secretary in the school counseling office in the high school from which she, her husband and their daughters graduated. She loves to sing and play guitar, mostly in church.

Laura worked for Ben & Jerry’s for about 10 years. She started in the scoop shops, then worked third shift in the quality assurance lab where she had to taste ice cream as a part of her job. Rough! Then she coordinated ice cream donations for non-profits all over the country before leaving the company in 2001 when her second daughter was born.

Laura studied French at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. Her best college memory is a solo bike trip around Scotland for two weeks on a bike she bought in Paris during her semester abroad. She still rides the bike, and when the weather’s good and she has the time you’ll likely find her on the road.

Nancy Shelton
Ohio

Dream and Take Flight

Nancy Shelton was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. She attended Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, where she earned bachelor’s degrees in speech pathology and audiology and deaf education. She went on to teach hearing impaired students for five years and worked as a speech pathologist for four years.

Nancy became a member of Chapter AN, Dayton, Ohio, in 1996 and has remained in that chapter ever since. She has been a member of Junior League for 41 years, served on Women’s Board of Dayton Children’s Medical Center, chaired an opera elementary school program and serves as president of a local literary club.

Nancy is currently assistant manager of an outdoor tennis club and co-owns a home-based company with her husband. In her free time she enjoys playing tennis, traveling, reading, Sudoku and spending time with her family, which includes her husband, three children and five grandchildren.

Katharine Barnes
Ontario–Quebec

Untap The Power of Sisterhood

Katharine Barnes was given the gift of P.E.O. by her mother, Wilma Gummow, initiated into Chapter M, London–Ontario, in 1989. Born in Toronto, Katharine has lived in Key West, Florida; Vancouver and Toronto. She settled in London and now lives in Komoka with her husband of 35 years, Rick.

Katharine has had many careers including banking and nursing. She graduated from Ryerson University in Toronto and became a registered nurse. She returned to Saint Lawrence College for her Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing and attained the distinction of Certified Occupational Health Nurse (Canada). She worked in hospitals and community health before starting her own business teaching small to mid-size employers how to care for their injured workers. Katharine continues to work part time overseeing the health and safety of their employees and managing the finance department.

Katharine and Rick’s adult children, their partners and five grandchildren live nearby. They love spending time together at their weekend home on the Saint Clair River. Katharine has always loved to travel, first as a hitchhiker and now in a car, airplane or on her Harley. She also enjoys scuba diving, hiking, boating and reading.
Mary Stickney was born into a Navy family, the youngest of three girls. Her sister, a member of Chapter IF, Saint Louis, Missouri, introduced Mary to P.E.O. Mary was initiated into Chapter N, Arlington, Virginia, in September 2011. Three days later, she volunteered and worked alongside Chapter IF sisters at the Convention of International Chapter in Saint Louis. Seeing the impact P.E.O. makes at the international level rooted Mary’s passion for our P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Mary is an ardent supporter of Cottey College and regular Vacation College attendee. Visiting the College strengthens her confidence in its value to young women and her respect for its amazing, dedicated faculty.

Mary received her undergraduate degree from Texas Christian University and her M.P.A. from Golden Gate University. She had a rewarding career at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, where she managed the Federal Judiciary’s Electronic Public Access Program and served as the Associate Director of the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system, which facilitates the remote access to court electronic records for litigants and the general public.

Mary is married to Tom Stickney, has one son, Michael, and two Labs – Joy and Carter. Mary is an avid traveler and loves to read, to golf and to sit on the shore of Conesus Lake, New York.

Cassandra Lake was initiated into Chapter HQ, Kennewick, Washington, in 2006. Her employer (a BIL) suggested that it was “time to join P.E.O.” enabling her to join a daytime chapter.

Cassandra attended the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington. Being a “teacher’s kid,” education has always been a focal point and P.E.O. is the perfect vehicle to affect the education of others.

From the rainy and wet west side of Washington, Cassandra relocated to the high desert in Eastern Washington and settled into her life’s occupation in the accounting field. She has been employed as the controller for a privately-owned business in Kennewick for the past 31 years. During her tenure, she has been given the opportunity to learn more about servant leadership and to be involved in community service.

Cassandra and her husband, Jim, married in 1980 and share two grown children, JoAnna and Scott as well as two beautiful daughters-in-law. Their Havanese, Lucy, has been her constant companion during her board service. She enjoys sewing/quilting and knitting and is looking forward to spending time learning to weave on the looms she and her best friend gifted each other several years ago.

P.E.O. has been a part of Vicki Frea’s life since being initiated into her mother’s chapter, AN, Galesburg, Illinois, in 1968. Since then she has been a member of four chapters and is currently a member of Chapter DI, Brookfield, Wisconsin, which she joined in 1983.

Sister Stephanie Jenkins is a past president of Arkansas State Chapter; sister Tina Knief-Wynn is a member of Chapter AB, Santa Anna, California; and niece Judy Jenkins is also a P.E.O. and a past Scholar Award recipient; mother Betty Gunther was a 50–plus–year member and is now in Chapter Eternal.

Since graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois, with a degree in nursing and completing her graduate degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, she has taught nursing and practiced for over 40 years, specializing in pediatrics, medical surgical and hospice and palliative care until she retired in 2010.

Time is cherished with her husband of 42 years, Ron, and their son Rob! Outside of P.E.O. she has enjoyed serving as a Stephen Minister; being a Bible Study Fellowship leader for adults and children over the past eight years and loves to fish, read, cook and work jigsaw puzzles.
Wood Sculptor Annie Meyer Pursues New Creative Heights

ELF Loan Helps Fund her MFA

by Laurel Andrew, P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund Board of Trustees

From an early age, Annie Meyer preferred art, painting and “creative, outdoorsy things” to other childhood activities. It wasn’t until high school that Annie realized art could be more than a hobby and that she could have a fulfilling career doing what she loved as a professional artist.

At Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, Annie earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in industrial design, a degree geared toward production and manufacturing. She also took courses in woodworking at the North Bennet Street School in Boston. Part-way through college, woodworking “clicked,” and Annie knew she had found her artistic calling.

After college, Annie was an active designer, furniture maker and educator. She ran her own business designing and building custom pieces and showed her work in museums and galleries across New England. As an adjunct faculty member at MassArt, Annie taught courses in furniture design and taught woodworking courses and workshops at The Elliot School of Fine and Applied Arts, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and the Fuller Craft museum.

In 2019, Annie decided to pursue a master’s degree in 3-D design. Though Annie received a scholarship for her studies in the Master of Fine Art program at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, she needed additional financial resources to cover her expenses. With the support of her mother’s P.E.O. chapter, F, Damariscotta, Maine, Annie applied for and received a loan from the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF).

Cranbrook was the perfect choice for Annie. According to the Cranbrook website, “the 3D Design department is an experimental laboratory to explore human needs as expressed in the furniture and products we live with.”

Annie’s Cranbrook credential will give her the platform to open the door to women who seek to enter the field of woodworking. She says, “one of my career objectives is to push myself forward in the historically male-dominated field of product design, working toward breaking down barriers to entry and shaping the field into a more inclusive space for future generations to take part in.”

Ultimately, Annie plans to return to the classroom. With her MFA degree in hand, Annie intends to seek a professorship in art and design so she can “work with undergraduate students as they begin to understand the power they have to shape culture with properly honed design skills.” Annie will also lead her students by example and produce her own design objects, seeking gallery representation for the fine art objects she creates and manufacturers for the production objects she designs. As Chapter F stated in their support of Annie’s ELF application, “Given all that Annie has accomplished with her current degree, an MFA in 3-D design will equip her to rise to new heights in both teaching and creativity.”

The world will surely see more of Annie’s work in museums, galleries and stores in the future as she hones her skills in design and woodworking and shares her love of sculpting objects out of wood with her students. ★
Have you ever had that conversation... "Where were you when... happened"? I remember being in music class when our principal announced that JFK had been shot; sitting at my friend Kathy’s house when Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the moon; and huddling with a group of students in a Humanities tutoring lab anxiously listening to the special news reports on September 11, 2001.

In the same way, I imagine that many will look back and ask “How were you affected by the coronavirus?”

When Cottey students left with a single suitcase of personal items for spring break on March 6, little did any of us know that, mid-break, it would become necessary to inform them that based on the current status of COVID-19, they would be completing their courses through alternative methods. Students who were studying abroad were encouraged to return to the United States, and international students anxiously listened to world news reports for updates on their homes and families.

What did this pandemic mean for the College?

The first step was to address the educational needs of our students. Faculty jumped right into re-designing their courses to be taught virtually, either through online structures, Zoom, use of videos for science labs and dance classes and/or by the use of one-on-one virtual sessions, such as with music lessons.

It became necessary to send students educational materials left in their rooms. Based on instructions provided by students, Cottey staff boxed up and mailed to them books, notes, projects, etc. needed to complete their courses.

Academic staff set up online tutoring and writing center options for students. Library personnel expanded their online materials and were available virtually to assist students and faculty. Counseling staff reached out to clients to either continue sessions online or to establish alternative options. Plans were made to present senior capstone presentations via Zoom.

Additionally, while most students continued their terms from home, Cottey offered residence to 28 students who were either unable to return to their homes or who did not have the necessary technology at home to successfully complete their courses. Thus, dining services, security and housekeeping continued serving students on campus.

Although campus became eerily quiet, all offices continued in operation. Most faculty and staff worked from home; however, office personnel were available to answer mail, process gifts, etc.

And of course, recruitment for the fall 2020 class continued. At the time of this report, deposited students for August were ahead of those for fall 2019.

What else? Meetings across campus were held online, including the planning of Cottey’s first virtual commencement!

Cottey, like most other colleges, created plans to reimburse room and board for displaced students for half of the spring term. We also worked to create plans to distribute federal stimulus dollars to current students, according to federal compliance regulations.

And we began to look forward to life after the pandemic. Work on Cottey’s stock trading lab and esports arena as well as a redesign of the main floor of the library, all made possible through the generosity of our amazing P.E.O.s, is moving forward. Fundraising for the chapel/student center continued, allowing us to “move dirt” in July in order to celebrate the grand opening in March 2021.

Please know how much the many cards, calls and emails asking about Cottey and our students meant to all of us... including the boxes of fudge from Alaska that were shared with our on-campus students. Your loving concern and continued gifts to the Student Aid Emergency Fund and the chapel/student center initiative mean so much. Through this uncharted time, P.E.O. and Cottey are together creating incredible futures!
Do you remember your first trip on an airplane? Did you pull out the airline’s magazine and look in wonder at the map of the world and all the lines connecting the globe through travel? With the recent global outbreak of COVID-19, the maps we’re seeing now show red lines indicating how this virus managed to travel silently around the world, infecting so many and testing each country’s resolve. If ever there was any doubt of our global connections and inter-dependence on each other, this is no longer a question. We are globally intertwined in ways that many had not even realized.

Imagine now, those same red lines replaced with blue, representing the impact that the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund (IPS) has had in our 71-year history. P.E.O.s in the United States and Canada have supported 6,270 women from 178 countries with financial support totaling nearly $40 million. Additionally, the emotional support provided to IPS students continues to be just as important as the financial piece. Now, more than ever, our students need that support as they deal with this crisis so far from their homes. Thank you to all the P.E.O. sisters and chapters who have provided encouragement to IPS students who may be the only students left on campus, and to those who have returned home, worried about the safety of their families while continuing their studies remotely.

Each class of IPS students shows a remarkable range of talents and interests with the desire to improve the educational rights and opportunities for women while focusing on specific areas of post-graduate study. Students continue to impress with areas of study in business, conflict resolution, education, economic and environmental development, epidemiology, engineering, health care, international development, journalism, law, psychology, public administration, sociology, technology, arts and sciences. Student involvement in cutting-edge research has the potential to bring power to remote areas of the world through mini solar-grids, to improve food security through enhanced genetics in protein-dense crops and to improve the seismic integrity of buildings using locally-sourced materials, just to name a few of their projects. Something as simple as providing reusable sanitary pads which allow girls to continue their studies uninterrupted or finding ways for women to become self-sufficient through training and micro-loans have tremendous potential to improve the future for many.

As the world struggles to find a “new normal” during the COVID-19 pandemic, one envisions our IPS blue lines of connectedness ballooning into circles of influence globally; all while Fostering Peace Through Education. ★
Completing the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) online recommendation is not the final step in the application process for Chapter F, Bismarck, North Dakota. It is the beginning of a long relationship with women seeking a brighter tomorrow. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of PCE chairman, Gerrie Hase, 20 women have received grants since 2005. She reaches out to each student during the application process, as they progress through school and maintains contact with the recipients today. Georgia, an RN clinical educator, said, “Gerrie was my contact for P.E.O. She has been very supportive and helpful throughout. She has taken me to a P.E.O. dinner. I really enjoy meeting everyone and finding out more about P.E.O.” It is the sincere hope of Chapter F that some of the former and current PCE recipients will someday soon join P.E.O. as members.

Gerrie finds qualified PCE applicants from all walks of life. She contacts the admission counselors at the local college, goes to local outreach organizations such as Head Start, drug and alcohol rehab centers and women’s shelters and she relies on her friends, neighbors, local churches and her P.E.O. sisters for recommendations.

Once the grant has been awarded, Gerrie’s love for PCE and the student shines. She hosts a coffee party for each recipient where the chapter president presents the check. Once a month she offers words of encouragement with calls and notes. Yearly, she takes the recipients to lunch. And, of course, she presents reports about the recipient’s progress to Chapter F at each meeting.

After the graduation Gerrie continues the lunches, emails, texts and prayers. She invites past recipients to chapter socials. Gerrie accomplishes all of this through her own generosity. Brittney, a licensed social worker, said “Gerrie’s kind heart and passion to help others were apparent. Hearing the excitement in her voice when she called me to tell me I was awarded the grant and celebrating with Gerrie and the wonderful women of the chapter are memories I will always cherish. With the grant and Gerrie’s support, I was able to successfully complete my degree, while being the sole provider for my family.” Since graduating, Brittney went on to work with homeless, runaway, trafficked and at-risk youth and their families.

Gerrie’s enthusiasm for PCE has spread throughout Chapter F. Two past presidents commented, “As our chapter has grown, it seems that there is an even stronger attitude from the newer and younger members. They belong to P.E.O. because we support women’s education...our recipients’ stories are so poignant, their need so great, that we as P.E.O.s, feel good about our organization that makes this possible.”

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Melissa, who is now pursuing a master’s degree as a family nurse practitioner wrote, “My success and achievements all started with the support of Gerrie and the Chapter F. Their generous financial support towards my higher education allowed me to concentrate on what is essential for me and my family. It allowed me to be one step closer to my goals and has inspired me to help others by giving back. Thank you for all your organization does and your influential presence in women’s lives.”

Members of Chapter F, Bismarck, North Dakota, make a point to form long-lasting relationships with the women they recommend for PCE grants.
ALL A–TWITTER for the P.E.O. Scholar Award!

by Rebecca Daniel, P.E.O. Scholar Awards Board of Trustees

Spring traditionally brings the sound of birds singing their joy in trees and across the sky, but in the technological world of social media another joyful spring sound is that of P.E.O. Scholar Award (PSA) recipients all “a–Twitter” in celebration of this financial boost for their doctoral education. Listen below to the sounds of joy shared over the past few months:

From the University of Arkansas (UARK) we hear congratulations to Hillary Fischer, president of the UARK Entomology Club: “This award is the result of Hillary’s strong initiative, follow-through and creativity,” says her professor, and the Club tweets: “Many more are bragging on our amazing president for her recent P.E.O. Scholar Award.”

Moving north we hear two congratulatory tweets from the University of Minnesota: “PhD candidate Lana Peterson receives competitive P.E.O. Scholar Award” and from the other recipient herself (Brie M. Reid): “Grateful to receive a Scholar Award from the P.E.O. Sisterhood this week to support my dissertation research next year. PSA to women #PhD students, I highly recommend connecting with your local chapter!”

And east to Boston University School of Public Health: “Congrats to @BUSPH EPI doc student @Takara Stanley for her P.E.O. award. A true scholar she is!”

Allison Gilmour, now at Temple University, was a 2016 Scholar who now recommends this award to others: “Are you a woman within two years of completing your doctoral degree? Apply to the P.E.O. Scholar Award. This award helped decrease my financial stress during the transition from student to faculty member—you can also use it to fund research.”

Sophia Mavroudas (anthropology) “won a @PEOSisterhood Award that recognizes and encourages academic excellence and achievement by women in doctoral-level programs. Mavroudas is the first Texas State University recipient of a P.E.O. Scholar Award!”

Stephanie Dudzinski at Vanderbilt University celebrates the select company in which this award places her: “I’m incredibly grateful for this blessed week! It’s an honor to be named a P.E.O. Scholar and follow in the footsteps of some amazing mentors @KimrynRathmell and friends @ACSunsmann @LillianJuttuck @Vanderbilt MSTP.”

And across the border, Canadians also are tweeting with joy. At Carleton University in Ottawa: “PhD Student wins prestigious award. Andrea Reid, who is taking a scientific and indigenous knowledge approach to studying Pacific salmon, has been awarded a P.E.O. Scholar Award.”

And on the eastern side of Canada: “Congratulations to University of Toronto Scarborough PhD student Megan Sheremata! She won a P.E.O. Scholar Award for her research on #Inuit knowledge of environmental change.” Megan adds: “I am so honoured to receive such recognition and support, particularly from an organization that has committed itself to the pursuit of the ideal of women helping women to succeed.”

And gratitude for that award is not a fleeting thing. Note this tweet as evidence of the long-term effect of being a Scholar: Anna Stirr: “@PEOSisterhood I just wanted to say thank you for the 2007-8 P.E.O. Scholar Award that helped me do the research for my book, Singing Across Divides. The book just won the Bernard S. Cohn prize for first books on South Asia.”

IF YOU OR YOUR CHAPTER KNOW A RECIPIENT, SPREAD THE WORD: P.E.O.s are all “a–Twitter” for our remarkable scholars!
Helping Your Student

REACH FOR THE STARS

by Janet Miller Steury, Jayme Resnik and Sheri Bailey, P.E.O. STAR Scholarship Board of Trustees

Each year over 2,000 students apply to be considered for a STAR Scholarship. The STAR Trustees read each application carefully and look for well written answers to the many questions on the online form.

The chapter needs to work with the student to make sure that she understands the importance of each section. The STAR information on the website includes frequently asked questions written for both the student and the chapter. One of the most important things to remember: Family members should neither write a recommendation nor the chapter portion of the application!

The old adage “be prepared” is true in this process. The STAR Trustees want to share some recommendations for your student and for your chapter. Please discuss and share!

FOR YOUR STUDENT:

Tips on choosing those to be reference writers for you.

The references selected should know you very well and project who you are in real life—your character, your talents, your promise for the future. Encourage references to personalize their thoughts rather than simply cut and paste a college recommendation. Choose someone who has been a cheerleader for you in the past. Select two people who can sing your praises and tell of any challenges that you have overcome. Make sure that your recommenders understand your application deadline. Contact them in advance of your 30-day window so that they will have the time to thoughtfully write on your behalf. Rushing through their responses to the text box questions will not give the trustees a complete picture of your abilities.

FOR THE CHAPTER AND THE STUDENT:

“I Wish You Could Meet Her.”

The essay is how the STAR Trustees “meet” your STAR candidate. Spelling and grammar provide that all-important first impression. The content of the essay is like an interview...Does she answer the question with confidence? Does her personality come through? Does she expand on information provided in the other areas of her application, or simply repeat what has already been stated? She is given 700 words to promote herself and the sponsoring chapter can help her with that self-promotion. Help her prepare for the “interview with the STAR Trustees” by offering to proofread her essay. When you met your STAR candidate, you saw something special. A well-written and engaging essay can separate an application from the more than 2,000 applications that are read. STAR trustees look forward to “meeting” your candidate through her well-written essay.

FOR THE CHAPTER AND THE STUDENT:

Make the 30 days count!

By sharing the website information with your applicant and giving her enough time to prepare for the process, her chance for success is much greater. Advance preparation should include making lists of leadership experience, community service hours, extra-curricular activities and honors and awards. Waiting until the last minute of the last day to complete this application is not advisable. It is also important for the student to know what time it is at her home when it is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time! Because the application is done completely online, the student needs to allow plenty of time to avoid last minute computer issues. Sadly, a missed deadline is a missed chance to be considered.

THE NEW APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATES ARE AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2020!

You never get a second chance to make a first impression!
Women helping women reach for the stars

THE P.E.O. RECORD | July–August 2020

P.E.O. FOUNDATION

Marcia McNelley and her husband, Michael, formed the McNelley Music Scholarship in the P.E.O. Foundation

Have you wondered who sets up a fund in the P.E.O. Foundation? What prompts them to do so? Let us share this story with you for a peek into one sister’s motivations. Remember, YOU are a philanthropist!

In 2009, Marcia McNelley went to International Convention in San Diego. There she had a conversation with a fellow P.E.O. who discussed the P.E.O. Foundation. Armed with some basic knowledge, Marcia went back to Chapter UV, Poway, California, and the discussion started about establishing their own fund in the P.E.O. Foundation. They thought it would afford permanent support for their choice projects, Cottey College and the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, well into the future and would supplement their annual giving. Chapter UV set up a Transfer Fund in the P.E.O. Foundation in 2010, with the earnings automatically transferred to these two projects annually.

In 2013, Marcia thought back on setting up the chapter fund and how easy the process was. With that in mind, Marcia and her husband, Michael, decided to form their own scholarship in the P.E.O. Foundation, the McNelley Music Scholarship. The couple put conditions on their scholarship to align with the things about which they were passionate. Their son, a graduate of Indiana University, was a music educator and the couple realized that this is one of the first things removed from a school system during budget cuts. So, they geared the scholarship to full-time students majoring in instrumental or choral music. Marcia also thought back to her education at the Michigan State University and wanted to help future generations within that conference. Therefore, the recipient also is required to be a student attending a Big Ten Conference university. Although this fund was established in 2013, the couple continues to fund it. They are looking at options to direct transfer some IRA money into the scholarship fund, and their estate plan also has a provision for the fund.

Two very different funds with the same purpose: to help educate future generations to come. Chapter UV, California, and Marcia and Michael McNelley are realizing their missions of philanthropy through P.E.O. and the P.E.O. Foundation.★
NEW | chapters

**CHAPTER KA**
Olathe, Kansas

**ORGANIZED:** May 4, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Julie Byrne, Sue Sager, Brooke Burkett, Rebekah Groebe, Diane Kron, Christa Morrison, Stephanie Nicholson

*Second row:* Sarah Johnson, Trina Gibson, Toni Johnson, Barbara McCall

*Third row:* Deanna Campbell, Janet Roush, Lisa Miller, Darcy Morrison

*Fourth row:* Cindy Stout, Elizabeth MacDonald, Laura Sengchan

**CHAPTER BT**
Cumming, Georgia

**ORGANIZED:** February 23, 2020

*First row, from the left:* Jane Vanderhorst, Cathy Matson, Sheryl Morris, 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 OO**
Frankfort, Illinois

**ORGANIZED:** March 7, 2020

*First row, from the left:* Ann Podoba, Virginia (Ginny) Griffin, Alicia Tocwish, Susie Jasurda, Autumn Faris, Sarah Spearing, Anu Prising, Angie Mistina

*Second row:* Gretchen Groen, Kristine Bonebreak, Susan Lynch, Mary Schade, Beth Darin, Lynne Lamparski, Elizabeth (Betsy) Youdris, Ramelle Sarna, Carol Vollrath

**CHAPTER AP**
Mesquite, Nevada

**ORGANIZED:** March 14, 2020

*First row, from the left:* Karen Sonnenberg, Barbara Russell, Carol Livingston, MeLisa Garcia, Nancy Henrichsen, Stephanie Ellis, Sharon Blackmore, Linda Reid

*Second row:* Cindy Howa, Sydney Rimpau, Sharon Turano, Marilyn Fruit, Sue Compton, Karen English, Kendra Kirkpatrick, Sandra Rose, Dale Graham ★
CHAPTER BF ★ SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

ОРГАНИЗОВАНО: January 24, 1920
ПРОДОЛЖАЕТСЯ: January 23, 2020


CHAPTER AR ★ PAULS VALLEY, OKLAHOMA

ОРГАНИЗОВАНО: March 11, 1920
ПРОДОЛЖАЕТСЯ: March 8, 2020

Впервые, с левой стороны: Kathleen Carlton, Ann Ruster, Erin Babcock, Bonnie Meisel, Mary Ann Agee, Cathy Agee, Candace Blalock, Suzanne Blake Вторая строка: Cindy Standridge, Donna Vaughn, Valerie Beck, Barbara Beckham, Susan Jones, Shea Thompson, Jennifer Sanford, Helen Watts, Simon Hart, Connie Upton, Donna Looney

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International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood

CENTENNIAL | chapters
WE HAVE ALL HAD OUR LIVES TURNED UPSIDE DOWN DURING THIS TIME OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS.

More than ever we need to keep our Sisterhood connection strong and active to provide help and support to every one of our sisters.

As with any adverse situation, we need to look for the positives—they are ALWAYS there if you look hard enough. You know, turn lemons into lemonade. This unusual situation provides an opportunity to connect with your sisters in ways you may not have thought of before.

Reach out to your nonparticipating members in a new way. Consider those who haven’t been able to attend because of health issues, family obligations or other issues. Now is a perfect opportunity to engage each of them in a virtual get-together with your chapter. Here are some ways to do that:

• **Set up a virtual get-together through Zoom or Skype.** Make sure every member is contacted by email or a phone call to see what day and time is best for this meeting. It doesn’t necessarily need to be at your regular meeting time.

• **If everyone cannot participate at the same time, set up more than one get-together to accommodate different schedules.** You might end up discovering that your chapter would have better attendance if you had different meeting days and times.

• **Be sure to include your nonresident members in these get-togethers, as well as inactive and prospective members.**

Many of us are spending more time on our computers because of this social distancing. Consider using this time to get acquainted with some of the resources available to you in the Local Chapter Membership Toolbox on the International website at [members.peointernational.org/membership](http://members.peointernational.org/membership).

One resource that would be especially useful now is “How to Develop Small Interest Groups.” This resource will show you how to set up these small groups, and it can be done through email and Zoom or Skype. Here are some ideas, and you may have even better ones of your own.

• **Book club** – share ideas about books to read, then come together with a virtual meeting to discuss them.

• **Scrapbooking, stamping, crafts or handmade greeting cards** – share your creativity and show the results in a virtual get-together.

• **Play Scrabble, Yahtzee or other games** using video technology.

Invite potential members and friends to your small interest groups. Consider having a virtual get-together using “Know Your Core Why.” This is another resource in the Local Chapter Membership Toolbox. Take turns sharing why P.E.O. is an important part of your life. Knowing the “why” of your sisters will deepen your relationship with them.

Make an extra effort to set up virtual get-togethers that meet the needs and interests of your chapter. And remember, since there will be no business conducted, all of these socials can include non-P.E.O.s who might be interested in membership and those who have accepted your invitation to membership but haven’t had a chance to be initiated yet. Reaching out to your inactive members during this time is a great way to show the loving concern of our Sisterhood and might even lead them to reinstate their membership.

Another useful resource found on the International website is the Hot Spot. This monthly newsletter is full of ideas on how to make connections with your chapter sisters and build your relationships. It’s very important not to lose that very important aspect of P.E.O. during our time apart.

When you have time, take a look around the red Local Chapter Membership Toolbox and see what other resources might be helpful to your chapter. It is essential that we keep our chapters strong during this period of no face-to-face meetings and stay connected to our sisters. We must be intentional about making sure every one of our sisters knows she is a Very Important P.E.O. and by doing so we can have an even stronger bond when we are able to meet again face to face.

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**STAYING CONNECTED No Matter What**

*by Jan Loftin, Chairman, International Membership Committee*
Award-Winning Ideas

Normally Award Winning Ideas is where we showcase successful fundraisers, community outreach projects, fun social meetings or interesting program ideas. As we are all doing our part by staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19 and following the guidelines from International Chapter that no in-person P.E.O. gatherings are to be held prior to August 1, 2020, sisters are finding other ways to stay in touch and connect. We’re happy to use this space to showcase some of the various ways P.E.O.s have found to keep the spirit of loving concern for one another alive during this difficult time.

Even though P.E.O. gatherings are suspended due to COVID-19, Chapter EQ, Hudson, Wisconsin, delivered a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) grant award to recipient Paula Richard. PCE chair Jeanne Green, delivered Paula’s check in this unique manner, while observing rules of physical distancing.

Whittier California Reciprocity recently held their first Zoom meeting. President of Whittier Reciprocity Ginny Ball, IR, Whittier, worked with each representative for the week before and practiced—most had never done a Zoom meeting before. It was a great way to connect with one another.

The 2019–2020 South Carolina State Board connected on a Zoom call and posed with their colorful umbrellas.

Susan Klusmann, HI, Austin, Texas, has been home taking care of her husband as he recovers from hip replacement surgery and battles other health issues. Not wanting to risk bringing any germs home to him, she has remained home-bound as well. Members of Chapter HI gathered outside Susan’s home with signs and this message of love. Chapter member Jane Dewane, says, “Being a part of P.E.O. has never meant more to all of us. I’ve heard it expressed over and over.”
Chapter R, Austin, Texas, has found fun and creative ways to stay connected. Sister Nikki Faulkner invited members to send her pictures of themselves in protective face masks. A few weeks later, everyone received these pictures, along with instructions for how to play a guessing game of “Who’s That Masked Sister?” It even came with a slide show set to the song “We Are Family” by Sister Sledge. Other fun activities that the chapter has done “together” are online yoga classes and birdwatching apps.

Staying connected to others in the community is important to Chapter EZ, Anita, Iowa. The activities director at the local skilled care facility reached out to P.E.O. member Jody Rudolph to see if she had any ideas how to cheer up the residents. Many of them have had to stay in their rooms during the COVID-19 crisis. Jody reached out to members of her chapter for help. Using recycled wood, five ladies decorated signs to place outside the residents’ windows. What a great way to brighten their day!
WHERE AT HOME

Show us where you’re been reading the latest issue of The P.E.O. Record! 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.
Women helping women reach for the stars

**CHRISTINE STEVENS MILLS**

Christine Stevens Mills, AH, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, wrote “Two Thumbs Up: Understanding and Treatment of Thumb Sucking,” taking an in-depth look at the complexity of thumb sucking, complications and ramifications related to the orofacial structures and beyond. “Two Thumbs Up” provides information on the complexity of thumb sucking and guidelines and guidance to achieve successful thumb sucking elimination.

Christine began her professional career opening a private practice devoted exclusively to the treatment of orofacial myofunctional disorders (OMD). She expanded her expertise to include teaching an OMD course at the University of Detroit Mercy orthodontic department for 18 years and later teaching a COM® (Certified Orofacial Myologist) Certification Track Course.

Christine joined her mother’s P.E.O. Chapter, CK, Birmingham, Michigan, in 1973. She retired her private practice four years ago, moving with her husband, Galen, to Myrtle Beach. She continues teaching COM courses.

**SHERRI MITCHELL**

Sherri Mitchell, DB, Salem, Indiana, writing as Magdalena Scott, wrote the ninth novella in her small town, sweet romance series. “Home for Christmas (The McClains of Legend, ‘Tennessee’)” is the tale of a man and woman who must overcome a loss of trust to create a loving home for a baby girl.

Sherri has been a P.E.O. since 1986. She is a full-time author, currently working on a new trilogy, and a minimalist who downsized from a 3,000 square foot home to a studio apartment after her husband’s death, in order to follow her writing dream.

**MARY DIERKER**

Mary Dierker, KS, Peoria, Illinois, wrote “These Hands of Mine: Reflections of a Retired Sugar Peddler on Life Fulfilled.” The book features Mary’s experiences as a retired sugar peddler (aka professional baker) evolved from a thriving restaurateur and community advocate to a midlife athlete, certified health coach, local food advocate and yoga instructor on her esoteric quest to experience life with fulfillment. Each chapter includes a recipe, along with baking tips, from the author’s professional baking experience. Chapter themes connect to a correlating recipe for the reader to gain an understanding of personal meaning found in a loving relationship with food. In addition, each chapter lists reflection exercises for the reader to further personal exploration for living fulfilled. Each chapter is anecdotal using personal relationships with food, nature and shared experience with others woven throughout. Mary studied with the Institute for Integrative Nutrition and shares what she learned.

**PAULA CLINEDINST**

Paula Clinedinst, GQ, Lakewood, Colorado, wrote “Fetch!” This children’s book tells a story about Crandall, a farm dog living in the Rocky Mountains, who just can’t seem to stay out of trouble. Crandall gets to be a hero in the end, thanks to wise farmers who love him and his love of playing fetch. The book is illustrated by Paula’s friend Lucy Dirksen.

Paula is a 1990 graduate of Cottey College and became a P.E.O. in Maryland that same year. She was initiated into Chapter U, Oxon Hill, and spent a few years in Chapter P, Bowie, before moving to Denver in 2013.

**THELMA GIOMI**

Thelma Giomi, V, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wrote “Shatter My Heart,” the story of four unique and gifted individuals who find that to live fully they must be willing to be wounded by life’s blessings. Surviving life’s most daunting ordeals, they find that these events break their hearts, leaving them able to become the heroes of their own lives.

Thelma lives with chronic illness. In spite of her physical limitations and never being able to write on a schedule, she remained creative to complete the book. She hopes the story she tells conveys the struggles of having an invisible illness and its impact on individuals, their families and friends.

Thelma grew up in Albuquerque and has been a P.E.O. since 2016. As a therapist and caregiver, and someone living with chronic illness herself, her particular passion is helping people with chronic illness.

**KAREN VALENCIA AND HILDE WEINTRAUB**

Karen Valencia and Hilde Weintraub, DB, Lompac, California, created “A Tribute to the Founding Sisters of P.E.O.” The book brings Hilde’s period-authentic dolls to life with detailed histories of the seven P.E.O. Founders. Each of the founding sisters are represented separately, starting with pictures of Hilde’s detailed dolls. The book includes the story of each of their lives, before and after P.E.O.

Within the book is a biography of Hilde and step-by-step pictures, procedures and techniques she used in the development and creation of the dolls and their many garments. Also included are ideas for Founders’ Day programs and games.
Julie A. Winrich, aka J.A. Winrich, DA, Green Valley, Arizona, has written her third psychological thriller, “Birthmark Killer.” When Samantha “Sam” Volarie catches the biggest shark in a fishing contest in Cabo, Mexico, she finds inside pieces of human skin that have a duck birthmark on one piece. She’s determined to discover who her shark ate. Back home in Sandpoint, Idaho, bizarre happenings take place, including two other deaths. Would the person responsible kill her also before she discovered who her shark ate? Could one of Sam’s friends or any of the men contestants from the contest have something to do with the pieces of human flesh found inside her fish? 

Julie grew up in Northern California on a ranch that produced grapes, pears, prunes and hay. As a member of P.E.O. she serves as recording secretary for her chapter. She’s married and has one adult son and an adult step-daughter and has seven grandchildren, whose ages range from 13-22. She loves to travel, play tennis, read and write.

Rebecca Farnbach

Rebecca Farnbach, FE, Murrieta, California, wrote “Dancing With Prayers in My Feet.” The title was chosen from a refrain in her multi-award-winning poem Dancing Louisa that is featured in the book, telling the true story of a woman named Louise who learned her Native American culture’s way of mindfully dancing and praying.

Rebecca was the third and youngest red-haired child born to red-haired parents in Marshalltown, Iowa. The San Diego Christian Writers Guild named Rebecca “Writer of the Year” in 2006 and she has received numerous poetry awards. Rebecca often gives inspirational presentations to P.E.O. chapters and reciprocity groups and teaches P.E.O. sisters and other groups how to write and how to publish their work. She is involved in all things historical, whether it is family genealogy or local historic preservation concerns.

Sue Swavely

Sue Swavely, AL, Greensboro, North Carolina, wrote, “Freedom Within Limits, The ABCs For Raising Happy, Successful Children,” as a guide for parents, preschool teachers and adults who spend time with our youngest children. Children deserve a positive, encouraging beginning in life. They want and need boundaries to feel safe and these boundaries must be consistent in order for them to feel secure. It is within this security that children will want to explore their environment. This book gives simple, easy to implement ideas for connecting with the young children in your life. All of us are wired for connection, and it is these first connections that our young children learn to build on with the other people in their world.

Sue is an experienced parent, preschool teacher and swim instructor. She believes that adults should view children through the veil of their potential.

Judith Marion Burtner

Judith Marion Burtner, C, Anchorage, Alaska, wrote “Robinson Family Governess: Letters from Kaua’i and Ni’ihau, 1911-1913” using her grandmother’s letters home while she was governess for the Aubrey Robinson family on their large sugar plantation/ranch. The vivid letters are woven together with historical narration by Judith Burtner. The life there among the plantation elite is a snapshot of the “Island Edwardian” era and a young woman’s coming of age on a remote island.

Judith Burtner lives in Alaska where she has been a teacher, small business owner and commercial salmon fisherman. She majored in history and has always enjoyed the stories that flesh out the facts and dates.

Mary Schwaner

Mary Schwaner, Al, Lincoln, Nebraska, wrote “Courage in a White Coat,” a biographical novel that embraces the remarkable life of Colorado native Dorothy Kinney Chambers, MD. In 1928, wishing to practice obstetrics and having been denied that opportunity by prevailing prejudices, she took herself to India as a medical missionary. There, she performed surgeries by the light of a Coleman lantern in an open hut. Within 10 years she had built the clinic into a fully functioning hospital complete with electricity and running water. And then she fell in love. In 1939, assigned to a mission post in the Philippine Islands, Dorothy, Fred, and their two small children were swept into a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Manila. For the next three years they nearly starved, while Dorothy took care of the 400 children imprisoned there. Every step of the way her courage and faith were tested, but Dorothy did not lose a single child in their three years of imprisonment.

In February of 1945, General MacArthur mounted a daring raid and liberated the prisoners at Santo Tomás—just 24 hours before the Japanese Imperial Army would fulfill an order to execute the entire camp. “Courage in a White Coat” won the 2019 Illumination Award Silver Medal for Best eBook with a Christian world view.

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.
P.E.O.s IN THE spotlight

LAURA J. CLARK

In April, **Laura J. Clark, E, Louisville, Kentucky**, was included on the Forbes Magazine 2020 Top Women Wealth Advisors list, ranked #4 in her state and #504 nationwide.

The research company that compiles the list received 32,000 nominations of advisors who met certain thresholds, invited just over 14,000 to complete an online survey before conducting close to 12,000 telephone interviews. The goal being to identify “advisors that are leading the way in offering best practices and providing a high-quality experience for clients.”

Laura has been a financial advisor since 2000, serving at both national and regional firms before founding Reliant Wealth Planning in January 2017. She oversees client service with the goal of providing clients with a feeling of comfort regarding their planning and the management of their financial resources.

In addition, Laura is currently president of Chapter E, Louisville. Being part of an organization of “Women helping women reach for the stars” is something about which Laura is passionate. She is proud that during her Forbes interview she was able to share her P.E.O. story and is confident her involvement with the group is one of the reasons she made the list.

BRENDA SMITH

**Brenda Smith, AC, Kamloops, British Columbia**, a librarian at Thompson Rivers University (TRU), recently received the BCcampus Award for Excellence in Open Education. BCcampus is a recognized world leader in Open Education. The BCcampus Award recognizes “significant leadership, Open Education Resource development, research or advocacy by faculty, students, support staff or administrators at post-secondary institutions in B.C.” Open Education seeks to eliminate barriers of cost, learning challenges and physical access for everyone who desires a high-quality educational experience by offering learning and research materials in a variety of media, online or in print.

Brenda lives in Kamloops with her husband, Bill Greene, and Chihuahua, Diggie.

KAREN WEEDE

**Karen Weede, MK, Quincy, Illinois**, is serving on the National Alzheimer’s Association’s Early-Stage Advisory Group. Members of the advisory group are the face of Alzheimer’s—they speak to groups, are interviewed for media, advocate for legislation that affects people with dementia/Alzheimer’s and are open about their diagnoses in order to reduce the stigma of an early-state diagnosis.

Karen is a 50-year member of P.E.O. She was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment in 2017 at age 71. As an Alzheimer’s Association National Early-Stage Advisor, Karen encourages people to get educated about dementia and learn about the community support and assistance available from the Alzheimer’s Association.

Karen and her husband, Jim, live in Quincy, Illinois. They take delight in their nine grandchildren and love to travel, work in their yard, exercise and read.

C. SUSAN JOHNSON

**C. Susan Johnson, BZ, Fort Wayne, Indiana**, has been inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in Washington, D.C. Academy Fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice and research. Sue is nationally recognized for her expertise in continuing education and professional development. She is the author of four books and an advocate for nursing education and certification. Sue has served as P.E.O. chapter and reciprocity president and currently is the International Peace Scholarship chair for Indiana. ★

★ Content note: The asterisk indicates a reference or citation for the statement about Sue Johnson’s role as an Academy Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.
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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.”

—SUSAN ARNOTT  
D, WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

“...In this chaotic world where change is inevitable but not always for the better, it is affirming to be a part of something so solidly rooted in positive values, in mutual respect and support, in community service, in investing in the future.”

—ANDREA LEVY  
J, BLAINE, WASHINGTON
P.E.O. Director of Membership Search
The search for a P.E.O. Director of Membership is in progress. A job description is available for viewing on the P.E.O. public website at www.peointernational.org/careers. Please forward this information to anyone you feel is qualified for the position, located in Des Moines, Iowa.

Uplifting Weekly Messages on Official P.E.O. International Facebook Page
P.E.O.s and P.E.O. supporters across the United States and Canada are “radiating all light possible” by sharing messages on Sundays via the official P.E.O. International Facebook page. Be sure to follow the official page to like, comment and share these posts with your friends and family. The resources in their entirety are available on the P.E.O. International website by visiting https://www.peointernational.org/positive. If you would like to submit a message for consideration, please email it to mediamanager@peodsm.org.

Every Sister is a VIP—Especially Now!
Now more than ever, it’s important to remember that Every Sister is a VIP! Invite a nonparticipating member to a virtual lunch. Drop off a sweet treat and card at the home of a sister you don’t know well. Use videoconferencing to introduce prospective members to your chapter. If everyone cannot attend the first one, plan several at different days and times. Make a special effort to accommodate your nonparticipating members.

Connect with your Project Recipients
Project recipients tell us time and time again that, in addition to P.E.O.’s financial assistance that helps them continue their education, they are also extraordinarily grateful for the encouragement and support they receive from local chapters. Your cards, check-ins and support mean the world to them. During this time, as their educational experience has changed, reach out and let them know you are thinking of them. Perhaps invite them to join a Zoom social with your chapter to hear an update of their progress—it can be as inspiring for you as it is encouraging for them.

Hawaii – Kauai Potential New Chapter
If you have a friend or relative on the island of Kauai who would be interested in P.E.O., please send her contact information to Alix Smith, alixsmithaz@gmail.com.

P.E.O. Visit Day
Plan a visit to see your college. P.E.O. Visit Day is Cottey’s annual premier visit event for P.E.O.s. This wonderful opportunity includes a campus tour led by students, an update from the President of the College, and participation in question-and-answer sessions with students, faculty or staff. Go to cottey.edu/peovisitday and send in your registration form today! The date for this event has been changed from October to Saturday, April 10, 2021.

P.E.O. Project Impact Numbers
The annual impact P.E.O. is having through its philanthropic projects on women reaching their educational goals is on back cover of the May-June 2020 issue of The P.E.O. Record. The information is also available on the P.E.O. member website https://members.peointernational.org/resource/peo-project-statistics. As a P.E.O., you should be proud and inspired by helping women reach for the stars!★
IN APRIL 2020, THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP (IPS) FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDED $2,211,000 TO 212 RECIPIENTS FROM 74 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

During the 2020–2021 academic year, these exceptional women will be studying toward graduate degrees at 108 different colleges and universities in 33 states and seven Canadian provinces. Excluding current awards, IPS has paid scholarships to 6,270 women from 178 different countries, totaling over $39.8 million since 1949. Of the 2020–2021 recipients, 60 are from Africa, 43 from South America, 55 from Asia, 29 from Europe, 6 from the Middle East, 10 from North and Central America, 2 from Australia/Oceania, and 7 from the West Indies.

Fostering Peace Through Education