Brenda J. Atchison
INSTALLED AS
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT

Complete Convention Report
★ Speeches
★ Voting results
★ Photo scrapbook
★ And more!
## OFFICERS OF International Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Brenda J. Atchison</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>Patricia L. Brolin-Ribi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>Cathy Moss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizer</td>
<td>Alix Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Kathryn S. Ebert</td>
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### Standing Appointments

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<tr>
<th>Administrative Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Jackie Matt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Finance/Treasurer</td>
<td>Kathy A. Soppe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Communications/Historian</td>
<td>Kate Westercamp</td>
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The administrative staff has offices at the P.E.O. Executive Office.

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

### Boards of Trustees and Standing Committees

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### To Reach P.E.O.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>515-255-3153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>515-255-3820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>peointernational.org (Go to Members Login, enter username and password, then click Contact Us.)</td>
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### To Reach Cottey College

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<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
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<td>Phone</td>
<td>417-667-8181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>417-667-8103</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peorelations@cottey.edu">peorelations@cottey.edu</a></td>
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<td>cottey.edu</td>
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### To Reach The P.E.O. Record or Submit Material

Becky Frazier, Editor

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
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Layout and design of The P.E.O. Record by Allison Vial
Fleeting P.E.O. Connection in a Rose Garden

I was walking through the Portland, Oregon, International Rose Test Garden carrying my P.E.O. bag from a California State Convention. A lady complimented me on the bag and I told her where it was from. She said, “Oh, I love the P.E.O.s! They gave me a scholarship to complete my education. I don’t think I ever thanked them sufficiently.” I said I would thank them on her behalf. Before I could get her name and snap a picture, the rest of her party caught up with her and she disappeared among the roses. Just another special moment from the P.E.O. Sisterhood!

— Harriet Ottaviano, X, Los Alamitos, California

Celebrating 4 Weddings in 1 Chapter!

Chapter NS, Naperville, Illinois, held a wedding shower for four young members getting married within a seven month period. All four sisters are 3rd generation P.E.O.s. It was a wonderful celebration!

— Julie Stokowski, NS, Naperville, Illinois

P.E.O. Playdate for Children, Grandchildren

Members of Chapter BP, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, held a “playdate” in July. Eight sisters brought their children or grandchildren for a picnic in the park. It allowed several of our sisters to attend even if they cannot always make chapter meetings. It was a great way to get together!

— Sandy Dehlinger, BP, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Appreciation for Evolution of The Record

I just wanted to write and tell you how great The P.E.O. Record is. I recently read through all my old magazines going back to 1991. It was fun seeing the changes in the format through the years and how nice and professional it all looks now. I look forward to receiving my copy and read it cover to cover. Keep up the good work!

— Dorothy Herfel, EW, Columbus, Ohio
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Submission of material to The P.E.O. Record is your consent to our right to edit and publish it, either all or in part, in any P.E.O. print or digital communication medium. The content matter may or may not reflect the opinions of the Sisterhood. Complete submission guidelines appear on the “Members Only” section of P.E.O.’s official website, peointernational.org. The P.E.O. Record welcomes members’ submissions to the address on the inside front cover.
“LET’S HAVE A SOCIETY OF OUR OWN!” This simple exclamation by Hattie Briggs to Franc Roads on that wintery Thursday in January 1869 was the beginning, the beginning of our Sisterhood. We should be very grateful that Franc was a visionary, for she was the first to agree with Hattie and insisted, “Let’s Go Find the Others!”

Luckily for the nearly half a million women who are passionate about helping women through a supportive environment and advancement through education, The Original Seven acted quickly. That very day, Hattie, Franc, Elia, Mary, Suela and the two named Alice bonded themselves together into this sisterhood they called P.E.O.

It can easily be said that it was because of family and friendship our Sisterhood grew beyond the seven Founders. While we don’t know who took the oath as the eighth member or even up to the first 16, history books do share that Cassie Allen, Mary’s sister, was visited by two of the seven to see if Cassie wanted to join. Her “yes” led to repeating the oath and being initiated right then and there in her own home.

In our newest history book, “We Who Are Sisters,” you are able to read more about the Original Seven and the early builders of P.E.O.; biological sisters, the Amblers, Bartletts, Brooks and Winans, as well as other early members, whose names we've heard before, such as Effie Hoffman, Lulu Corkhill Williams and Winona Evans Reeves. These P.E.O. sisters were the builders to move this organization forward when a simple “No!” might have blocked the growth of our Sisterhood and crushed the humble ideas that have become many of our beloved and honored traditions. Yet did these P.E.O.s set out to be Builders of our Sisterhood? Did they even think about the legacy they were building?

Most likely the answer would have been “No” as our sister Lulu expressed years after the founding that they were living each day not realizing “that small events may be the great things of tomorrow.” Living daily life and putting forth effort, small as it might have been, to keep a new organization growing and vital.
Small efforts, decisions and events that were to become the great things of tomorrow, such as the expansion into the second local chapter in Mount Pleasant sometime within the first year. There was no formal organization. The first Chapter B in Iowa just naturally came to be through the initiation into Original Chapter A of friends and family at the Belden’s Female Seminary.

Small decisions, such as the one made by Ollie Downing, a member of Chapter B at the Seminary, who decided to move in 1870 to the Jacksonville Female Academy in Jacksonville, Illinois. Ollie decided to organize Chapter C on January 21, 1871, making it the first local chapter outside of the state of Iowa. That’s just two years after our founding.

Small events, such as Chapter Original A deciding to hold the first convention of the organization on January 4, 1875. Convention delegates liked gathering together so much that they voted to hold an annual convention.

Small events that grew into this Convention of International Chapter honoring 150 years of our Sisterhood.

In the October 4, 2010 issue of The Onion, the caption read “97-Year-old Unaware of being a Violin Prodigy.” The Onion is an American satirical digital news source, which means you can’t always believe anything that is reported, or maybe more accurately, you shouldn’t believe anything they publish. Given the satirical nature of this particular article, it caught my attention. The article was paired with a picture of a cheerful older woman who went on to tell of the 97-year-old’s wonderful life including the facts of her career, her love of cooking and the generations of family members that were oblivious to the national treasure she would have become had she just simply picked up a violin…ever…even once.

An imaginary coworker recalled the woman’s humility at being promoted to the manager at the post office, a highlight of this women’s professional life, as opposed to performing a violin sonata at Carnegie Hall while the audience wept with joy. If only…if only she’d had P.E.O. sisters supporting what might have been.

James Allen, a British philosophical writer, came from a working-class family. His father was a factory knitter and his mother couldn’t read or write. At the age of 15, Allen was forced to quit school and found work as a private secretary and stationer in manufacturing firms. In 1895, at the age of 31, he married Lily Louisa Oram, an Irish author.

Eight years later in 1903, James Allen wrote his best-known work “As a Man Thinketh.” He passed away in 1912. It was his wife, Lily, living until 1952, who promoted Allen’s writings and continued to publish them. It was Lily who was primarily responsible for “As a Man Thinketh” a small 68-page book, being listed in 2012 as one of the top 10 self-help books of all time.

It was in the early 1980s, this book first influenced my life and specifically the written words “Dream Lofty Dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become.” Lily Allen summarized her husband’s writings by saying, “He wrote when he had a message, and it became a message only when he had lived it out in his own life and knew that it was good.”

When James Allen wrote his missives and his wife, Lily championed the work, which role was the more important? You could make the argument that the work of Lily made James’ writing more than just doodles in a notebook. Sometimes it’s the seemingly less prominent role that makes a team work well together. James was the founder of his words. Lily was the builder of the legacy. The Original Seven gave us our foundation, but it was the sisters that came after which built P.E.O. into what it is today.

It will be up to the sisters of today to continue to build P.E.O. into what we are destined to be tomorrow.

My family owns a small log faced cabin on the side of Hebgen Lake outside of Yellowstone National Park. This little cabin was built in 1927 on a foundation of local rocks. Inside is simple wood framing, tongue and groove pine paneling and wood flooring. Originally there was only one bedroom, a sleeping porch and no inside water or utilities. In the 1940s, my grandparents purchased this little cabin...all 580 square feet.

Through the years, this little cabin has been through a lot. A tragedy for the first owners; the 1959 earthquake that knocked it off its original rock foundation while the second owners, my grandparents, were sleeping; building on a new kitchen and inside bathroom in 1961; expanding the living room into the sleeping porch and stabilizing the foundation in the 1980s; while adding in a self-cleaning oven and a microwave. That was my mom’s idea.

Each member in the family plays a role in caring for this little cabin, some hammer, saw and nail; some paint; some make curtains and some chop wood…but everyone in the family has a role to play and all the roles are important. This little cabin wasn’t built in a single day, nor by a single generation.

This little cabin has witnessed three generations of grandparents playing with their grandchildren beside the lake, puzzles being put together on the game table; the building of a library of mystery and western books and the flipping of hot pancakes on a cold morning on the 1920s Globe Slowmaid wood stove.

Weddings and anniversaries are celebrated at this little cabin and saying goodbye to loved ones, with the beating of pots and pans as they drove away or the sprinkling of ashes into the lake. And still this little historic cabin stands... because of the care taken by the original contractor and the family builders that have made sure it’s standing for the next generation. Small efforts and decisions that make great things tomorrow.
In 2012 the International Executive Board developed a multi-year Strategic Plan ending at the 2019 Convention of International Chapter. Once put into action, that strategic plan was reviewed quarterly and updated with new tactics each biennium.

We confirmed that we have a singular and shared mission for the organization—Promoting educational opportunities for women. We agreed that P.E.O. is not a religious organization, but one founded on faith-based principles which are universal to all faiths. We continued to seek to be a diverse sisterhood that welcomes women of all races, religions and backgrounds; that all women could know the love of P.E.O.

We championed our Enduring Bonds of Friendship which The Original Seven patterned for us. “Once a P.E.O., Always a P.E.O.!” continues to create a bond for our Sisterhood and provide women the chance to develop the deepest and most lasting friendships of their lives. We care for each other for we are sisters. We worked to ensure that we are Women helping women reach for the stars!

We focused on Let’s Go Find the Others through the organization of new chapters and the initiation of two new members per local chapter each year; from family friends, project recipients, Cottey alumnae, and like-minded women.

We promoted There’s No Place Like P.E.O.! and developed multi-generational tools to help in the retention or reinstatement of all members; keeping our elderly members participating while attracting and engaging our younger members. We were always aware of the concerns of our sisters and finding balance between the valued traditions and heritage of our Sisterhood while adapting to changing lifestyles.

As noted in the 2017-2019 Membership Report, our Sisterhood welcomed 30 new chapters the past two years and our local chapters initiated over 16,000 new members.

Yet we P.E.O. optimists are always a little disappointed. In the 2007-2009 biennium, just 10 years ago, 76 new chapters were organized.

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Last year, one-third of our local chapters didn’t initiate. Not one new member.

A Chinese Proverb states, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today.”

Some of you know that I call myself a “genetic” P.E.O. I am a fourth-generation member on both my mother’s and father’s side of our family tree. My mother made sure that her daughters were welcomed into the Sisterhood. Just as my grandmothers and great-grandmothers had done for the generations to follow.

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opportunities for growth and what are you concerned about which threatens the existence of P.E.O. Starting today, go to https://members.peointernational.org/letstalk and take the survey. Tell us about your lofty dreams for this sisterhood. We are listening and this survey is a place to share what you are thinking, what you love about our Sisterhood and those things you wish might be different.

Yes! We will read your answers and comments…all of them.

What else can each of us do to help build the future for this amazing organization?

I recently had dinner with a lifelong family friend whose mother was a chapter sister of my mother in Chapter AA, Idaho Falls, Idaho. I asked my friend why she never became a P.E.O. Her response was a bit disheartening as she explained that her mother had made the decision for her, not thinking her daughter would be a very good member.

I had asked my friend this same question some years ago, but rather than give up with that response, she and I decided that now was a good time to take a fresh look at becoming a P.E.O. Her response was a bit disheartening as she explained that her mother had made the decision for her, not thinking her daughter would be a very good member.

I had asked my friend this same question some years ago, but rather than give up with that response, she and I decided that now was a good time to take a fresh look at becoming a sister. Small efforts...ask again. The introduction form has already been submitted to the Portland, Oregon, area chapters. What are you waiting for? Who are you waiting for? They are waiting for you.
Some of you know that I call myself a “genetic” P.E.O. I am a fourth-generation member on both my mother and father’s sides of our family tree. My mother made sure that her daughters were welcomed into the Sisterhood. Just as my grandmothers and great-grandmothers had done for the generations to follow.

You’re thinking, “But there are only sons in my family.” My mom also made sure all in-laws and outlaws were welcomed too. She taught me to think that my grandsons are BILs in waiting. We only half-jokingly talk about our granddaughter following in the footsteps of her own mother and aunt and being in the Cottey Class of 2040. Create a culture where your friends and family become part of your legacy. They are the trees planted today that we’ll celebrate 50 years from now. Think about it…an initiate in 2019 could be celebrated as a Golden Girl at our Bicentennial in 2069.

When I raised my hand in 1987 to volunteer to be a chapter delegate for a California state convention planning board, I had no idea where the path would lead me. My chapter was so supportive, as they always had been, and continue to be. I think they would have been supportive if I’d chosen to play the violin. We support each other whether our fiddle is in tune or not quite there. Being supportive of sisters through good times and bad is an important role in our legacy.

Each chapter has sisters who raise their hands to volunteer; some find new members or project recipients; while some quietly sit next to you in friendship and support. There are sisters who bake casseroles, that one dish wonder of the 1950s, and make chicken salads to build a local chapter’s philanthropic funds. Yes! Who knew that casseroles could help build a legacy?

We have our finders and we have our makers, those do-it-yourselfers that wow us with their creativity. They sew, decorate, crochet, garden, paint and yes, some even knit. You want it, they can make it! One of my current chapter sisters is a phenomenal quiller. Not quilter, although you want it, they can make it! One of my current chapter sisters is a phenomenal quiller. Not quilter, although you may think that your effort is insignificant, that the log you have to place is too small or has a flaw…but remember what our builder Lulu Corkhill Williams said, that they were living each day not realizing our legacy.

Every effort you make going forward continues to build our colorful, increasingly diverse and meaningful legacy of service to women. You may think that your effort is insignificant, that the log you have to place is too small or has a flaw…but remember what our builder Lulu Corkhill Williams said, that they were living each day not realizing that small events may be the great things of tomorrow.

The builders toward this sesquicentennial have given us the wonderful gift of P.E.O. they have given to me to share with you. History tells us that there are at least two future presidents of International Chapter in this room today as delegates representing local chapters…right now…you don’t know who you are and neither do I…but you’re here, just as Patti and I were in the delegation in 1991 in Omaha. There’s a time and a place and you might be in it. The tree is being planted. Great things are waiting to happen. One day your great-granddaughter might be standing right here. Every day, I thank my great-grandmothers on both sides of my family tree for the wonderful gift of P.E.O. they have given to me to share with you.

The Original Seven started with the star as our emblem and friendship to bond together the foundation of our Sisterhood. The early builders placed logs upon logs and built what we have today. Every small effort and event was important.

Every effort you make going forward continues to build our colorful, increasingly diverse and meaningful legacy of service to women. You may think that your effort is insignificant, that the log you have to place is too small or has a flaw…but remember what our builder Lulu Corkhill Williams said, that they were living each day not realizing that small events may be the great things of tomorrow.

The builders toward this sesquicentennial have given us blessed and honored traditions; continued focus on our shared mission; virtues of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth we share as individual women and as a sisterhood; and our rich and colorful diversity of sisters.

All of us have contributions to make…all of us are builders of the next 150 years.

It’s not a matter of who, what or if, but simply when. The best time to work on a little cabin is now. The best time to plant that tree is today. Now is the best time to build your legacy and make history!
We extend grateful appreciation to these appointees and re-appointees who are serving on P.E.O.’s boards and committees.

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JULIE CARUCCI
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Committee

LOU IRELAND
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Florida State Chapter
Nominating Committee

MARGARET
“PEGGY” ROSE
Past President,
Florida State Chapter
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Kansas State Chapter
Nominating Committee

MARY LOU RUUD
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PEGGY BOTTORF
Past President,
California State Chapter
Nominating Committee

MARY ELLIOTT
Past President,
Kentucky State Chapter
Nominating Committee

JEANNETTE MOONEY
Past President,
Kansas State Chapter
Nominating Committee

MARY ELLIOTT
Past President,
Kentucky State Chapter
Nominating Committee
Currently a member of Chapter TE in Grass Valley, California, Brenda Atchison was initiated into Chapter AI in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1974. Brenda was elected to the P.E.O. Executive Board of California State Chapter in 1994, serving as president from 2000-2001. Brenda was appointed to the board of trustees for the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund in 2001 and served as chairman of the board from 2005-2007. Brenda has served as general chairman of both a California state convention (1994) and the Convention of International Chapter in San Diego, California (2009).

Brenda and her husband, Jim, have two daughters, Sarah and Katy, both of whom are fifth-generation P.E.O.s and Cottey College alumnae. Brenda’s mother, Betty Bonnett, served as president of P.E.O.’s Idaho State Chapter.

Graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music in vocal music education from the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, Brenda graduated from Dominican University of California with a Master of Business Administration in strategic leadership. Brenda owns a personnel firm with an emphasis on recruiting healthcare and medical information management technology professionals nationwide.

In her spare time, Brenda plies her craft as an accomplished knitter.

**AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ATCHISON FAMILY...**

**Q: What’s the message you feel that your mom brings to P.E.O.?**

**KATY:** You matter; the work you do matters. Small wins, big wins, small donations or big donations...it’s all part of your own legacy within P.E.O. Each thing we contribute is an essential building block towards a much bigger goal.

**SARAH:** That each of us plays an important part in the organization and that we all have a part to play. That our legacy, whether it is as a BIL or P.E.O., influences all aspects of this organization.

**Q: Are you surprised by Brenda’s dedication to serving others?**

**KATY:** She leads with “yes,” always ready to serve and help out however she can. I can name several times that Mom got involved in school projects despite her busy schedule. I can name several more times she would ask “Team Atchison” to help her on multiple volunteer projects. Sarah and I have gotten really good at stuffing envelopes.

**JIM:** I can still remember her being asked to play in the handbell choir and me talking with the pastor...he wanted to ask Brenda if she would direct the bell team...I told him she would be honored if he asked but would probably say “no”...I apparently didn’t get the memo...she said yes and directed the team for seven years. She looked at the position as her gift to the church. Serving others started with Girl Scouts!

**Q: Have you seen a change in your mom through the years? Did it happen all of a sudden or gradually?**

**KATY:** When my mom joined Chapter RI in San Anselmo, I was four years old...throughout the years, as I grew, she grew, too! With grace, some real drive and ambition. Her work with P.E.O. taught me how important it is to have something important outside of work that you can sink your heart into.

**SARAH:** I have seen a change in Mom’s confidence throughout the years. She was never a shy woman but as the years have gone on, she would take on more complicated projects, as if they were stepping stones. These stepping stones truly helped her become the woman she is today, for her to be the leader she is today.★

To read the complete Atchison family interview, visit

[https://members.peointernational.org/MeetBrenda](https://members.peointernational.org/MeetBrenda)
State of the Sisterhood

By Sue Baker, President of International Chapter, 2017–2019

The 2017-2019 sesquicentennial biennium has been epic as members endeavored to Lead Forward – with Gratitude and Grace. P.E.O.s throughout the United States and Canada have graciously accepted the challenges before them in making the best contribution they each could offer to our beloved Sisterhood.

The dedication of our members at every level of service is a true inspiration and creates the spirit of P.E.O. that is rich in kindness, patience and the pursuit of excellence. P.E.O. remains strong and vital as we reflect on our past and thoughtfully envision our future.

I don’t know about you, but I feel closer than ever to our Founding sisters at this time in the history of P.E.O. The empowerment gained from the focus on our rich legacy and the sense of pride beaming in this room is heartwarming. We have honored our Founders by strengthening the heart of P.E.O. and we have done that through gratitude, grace, generosity and goodwill.

**GRATITUDE** is a way of seeing the world. P.E.O. is a humble organization, with kind and selfless women sharing a journey.

**GRACE** is defined as “the nature to benefit and serve others”. Grace makes us “take pause” and consider what is really important; adjusting priorities as we look around to determine what we can do to positively affect another life. It aligns with loving concern; active participation and engagement in the human power of love.

**GENEROSITY** – By service and outreach to others we demonstrate that generosity has a grace all its own. Generosity of money, but more importantly, generosity of the heart! They go hand–in–hand in P.E.O. One of the greatest assets of this organization is the loving concern expressed to our sisters and the incredible support given to our philanthropic projects and recipients.

P.E.O.s are generous in so many ways; generous with their resources of time, energy and/or finances. Every member is valued for what she has to offer. Our philanthropic giving to our financial assistance programs once again increased this biennium.

The 150 Fund has been an extraordinary success bringing pride to participating chapters and individual donors. Ninety point four percent of all local chapters have made a contribution of at least $150 for a total of $1,124,925. The campaign continues until January 2020 so there is still time to join the effort.

Generosity leads to **GOODWILL** – There is a lot of goodwill in P.E.O. and it was at its finest this biennium as stories poured in exemplifying outreach beyond measure. Stories compiled from our rich history—it is who we are and have always been. That is what has made P.E.O. so strong for 150 years and ensures our next 150 years will carry forward. Goodwill in action brings peace. Acts of goodwill abound in this organization.

Our strategic plan for this biennium has been an expansion of the plan started in 2012 to guide P.E.O. through this convention and the Sesquicentennial Celebration. That long-range plan has served us well. The initiatives this biennium focused on the five key areas: Chapter Vitality, Philanthropic Vitality, Brand Communications, Leadership and Training and Finance and Operations.

It is proven that Chapter and Philanthropic Vitality will strengthen local chapters by providing positive energy, leadership, growth and outreach. Goals toward membership, philanthropy and vitality have been realized as local chapters engaged to “Strengthen the Heart of P.E.O.” in preparation for our 150-year celebration.
Chapter Vitality: “2-0-1-9”

- 2 Initiates per chapter each year; even better—each one, bring one
- 0 New inactive members and zero newly disbanded chapters
- 1 New chapter in each S/P/D this biennium and one in progress or organizing
- 9 Gratitude, grace, generosity

Since 1869, we have initiated 667,000 women into P.E.O. Imagine the gifts shared with all of these women over the past 150 years.

While we did not increase our overall membership this biennium, we are making strides, with initiations, reinstatements and new chapters all trending higher in the second year of the biennium.

We welcomed 16,000 new initiates this biennium. And almost 3,000 inactive members back into active membership by reinstatement.

We organized 38 new chapters this biennium and developed the online version of an Introduction of a Woman Who is Not a P.E.O. form. Over 1,571 women have been introduced and over 291 of them have been initiated. Take the time to get to know these women and invite them into P.E.O.

Even with the positive trends, we still have too many chapters disbanding and too many members either unintentionally or choosing to go inactive. These choices hurt P.E.O.

The beautiful state of Hawaii is our only subordinate territory at this time. It is thrilling to share that Hawaii is discussing the possibility of becoming a state chapter! Task groups of Hawaii sisters have completed their work on a feasibility study and we know that Hawaii is blessed to have strong leadership. P.E.O. has been in Hawaii since 1930 and they are being encouraged to take that next step. We believe our sisters in Hawaii will enjoy greater benefits and a more enriched P.E.O. experience by becoming a state chapter. There is also a strong interest in organizing a new chapter on the island of Kauai. If you know someone that lives on Kauai or is moving there, who might be interested in P.E.O., please let one of the officers know.

Membership growth, engagement and retention is a critical component in making sure the P.E.O. Sisterhood remains strong and vibrant for generations to come. With a strategic focus on membership development, a new position for director of membership was created. Using a collaborative and multi-departmental approach to the daily work of P.E.O., a strong membership focus has been integrated into the work of all departments at the executive office.

Philanthropic Vitality

- 100 percent chapter participation
  - “150 Fund” with a gift of at least $150 per local chapter
  - Strengthen the intent for the Pyramid of Giving with the largest portion of chapter gifts given to our P.E.O. International Projects

Our members’ generosity this biennium was significant. The increase in total giving was 28.4 percent, which is amazing and does not even include contributions to the 150 Fund or Cottey College! This combined generosity enabled P.E.O. to provide financial assistance to more than 7,600 women this biennium. The philanthropic support of P.E.O.s and their families is deeply appreciated.
Brand Communication

Two main goals in this category:

• **150th Anniversary**
  - Create a once-in-a-lifetime experience by increasing overall awareness of P.E.O. internationally.
  - Communications team, events team and Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee have taken this assignment to a whole new level this biennium. With a true sense of pride, our stellar team worked tirelessly to bring this monumental experience to our attendees.

• **Better local chapter member understanding of P.E.O. with consistent messaging and improved communication channels**
  - Social media was a significant contributor for our goal of member engagement this biennium. Through these social media channels, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, International Chapter has been able to connect with more of our members.
  - Public relations firm Comm Oddities was hired to assist in getting national recognition for our remarkable organization. National “earned” media means we did not pay for it—it is not the same as advertising. It simply means that they like what we do and believe in our story. In our collection of amazing stories, it became evident that “telling the P.E.O. story” is easy through media outreach. It was decided that with this opportunity to celebrate 150 years of sisterhood we could easily generate awareness about P.E.O.

Talking about P.E.O. provides the opportunity to learn of women who may benefit from our financial assistance and provides opportunities to connect with women interested in our Sisterhood. Our membership process continues to give us the assurance that women we invite to membership share the values we hold so true to our hearts—Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth. Media resources were developed and made available to all members on our website. These resources enable us to have consistent messaging about our Sisterhood. It has helped our members generate awareness for P.E.O. through news releases and even TV interviews in their communities.

Another vital means of communications to our members is The P.E.O. Record. The stories in this bimonthly magazine share our member’s achievements and highlight our project recipients and Cottey students. There was a strong focus on the history of our Sisterhood and specific educational assistance projects, including Cottey College, throughout this biennium which was well-received by our readers.

Our members’ generosity this biennium was significant. The **increase in total giving** was **28.4 percent**, which is amazing and **does not even include contributions to the 150 Fund or Cottey College!** This combined generosity enabled P.E.O. to provide financial assistance to **more than 7,600 women this biennium**. The philanthropic support of P.E.O.s and their families is deeply appreciated.

Leadership and Training

• **Provide support for local chapters to ensure leadership engagement and success**

We wanted to leverage the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) for greatest member impact. Developed framework and began work with our state, provincial, district and International Chapter levels of leadership to make certain we had the strongest programming. This biennium the focus was placed on local chapter officers and individual resource tools. We want to strengthen our volunteer leadership within P.E.O. and enable all members to become stronger, more confident leaders.
Finance and Operations

In addition to our members being strong philanthropists, those whom you have elected and those who have been appointed have been good stewards of our funds and our dues. Both our Sisterhood and the college we own are financially strong.

P.E.O. and Cottey College have healthy endowments and remain debt-free. The Sisterhood and Cottey each ended the biennium with surplus budgets due to the conscientious stewardship of funds and expenditures.

In addition to the routine maintenance of executive office building and grounds, significant renovation was completed in preparation for the Sesquicentennial Celebration in Des Moines per a master plan adopted by the executive board. Interior renovations to create more efficient use of space were completed by July 2018.

A Founders’ walk was created in the lawn area in front of the building leading up to the magnificent commemorative sculpture in celebration of our 150th anniversary since the founding of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The sculpture by artist Tom Stancliff was unveiled during the LEAD conference in July 2018 with many special guests attending.

Technology

I am pleased to report that the majority of technology operations have been moved from an outside vendor to the executive office. This has resulted in significant savings to the Sisterhood, thanks for the careful guidance of the executive director and director of information technology. Technology has strategically become an integral necessity of the business operations of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and a comprehensive focus towards data integrity, security and disaster recovery was implemented.

Another important goal was to use new technology to improve the local chapter project application process, which has been completed with the move to Community Force programming.

As we have reflected on the legacy of our past in preparation for this Sesquicentennial Celebration, we are reminded of the words of our Founder, Franc Roads Elliot, “P.E.O.s should ever keep their eyes forward, to note the possibilities of the future rather than to dwell on the achievements of the past.” While we certainly have done a magnificent job of preserving our rich history, our intent must be to focus forward allowing us to envision the bright future of P.E.O. for the next 150 years, because we are history in the making.

The success of this biennium has been an expression of deep gratitude for all that we have and the blessing of celebration for this precious sisterhood in which WE have the privilege to serve. We have honored our Founders by strengthening the heart of P.E.O. and we have done that through gratitude, grace, generosity and goodwill – Generation to Generation – as we continue to lead forward.★
The CONVENTION CONNECTION page on the P.E.O. International member website is the place to start when you’re looking for resources, videos or voting results from the 2019 Convention of International Chapter! Visit https://members.peointernational.org/conventionconnection to view the page that is available to all P.E.O. sisters.

The 2019 Convention of International Chapter Report Outline Complete is a great resource for specific details and includes descriptions of each seminar, details about the project displays, a summary of opening night and more.

You’ll also find a videos section with each video played at Convention, including the full Projects Night presentation. These videos are available to watch on the website or to download and save on your own devices.

Make sure to check back in January when the official proceedings from Convention will be posted. ★

https://members.peointernational.org/ConventionConnection
There is still time for chapters to give to the 150 Fund to help us reach the goal of 100% local chapter participation!

Of course individual donations are welcome too!

Contributions to the 150 Fund, in celebration of P.E.O.’s 150th anniversary, will be accepted until January 21, 2020. The 150 Fund supports International Chapter’s philanthropic projects, a lasting tribute at the P.E.O. Executive Office in Des Moines, Iowa, and the preservation of the birthplace of P.E.O. in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

More information, including how to donate, is available at www.peo150.org. Reminder: Local chapter gifts should be forwarded to the s/p/d treasurer or paid assistant.

Order “We Who Are Sisters”

Own this beautiful piece of P.E.O. history! This attractive hard-cover coffee table book is 9” x 12” and features:

- More than 300 photos
- Fascinating facts
- Origins of P.E.O. projects
- State, provincial, district histories
- And more!

“We Who Are Sisters” is an invaluable resource—information in the book will inspire great program ideas! Consider purchasing a copy for your chapter or for a special sister.

Books are $40 plus tax and shipping. Copies are limited; order today!

Visit www.peointernational.org/150 or www.peo150.org and click through to purchase the book.
2019 CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER P.E.O. SISTERHOOD
AMENDMENT VOTING RESULTS

37 Amendments were voted upon and 11 were adopted
Refer to the March–April 2019 issue of The P.E.O. Record for the wording of the amendments

Amendments B5-10 and F4 are effective with the publishing of this issue of The P.E.O. Record. Amendment D1–2 will be implemented when the revised materials and/or instructions are received in the 2020 winter mailing. Amendment H–1 took effect at the time of vote at convention.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED

Amendments B–5, B–6, B–7, B–8, B–9 & B–10 were considered as a whole with a single vote

SUBMITTED BY THE STUDY AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

(Page 24) Amend Part I, Article XI, AMENDMENTS, section (d), sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

(Page 35) Amend Part II, Article XIV, AMENDMENTS, section (c), sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

(Page 54) Amend Part III, Article XVII, AMENDMENTS, section (d), paragraph 1, sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

(Page 80) Amend Bylaws, Article XXI, AMENDMENTS, section (d), paragraph 1, sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

(A page 82) Amend Standing Rules, General, (d), item 4, (d), sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

(A page 84) Amend Standing Rules, AMENDMENTS, section (d) sentences 1 and 2, by striking out the words “January 15” and inserting the words “January first” both times they occur.

A rising vote was taken and with at least 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were adopted.

Amendments D–1 & D–2 were considered as a whole with a single vote

SUBMITTED BY TEXAS STATE CHAPTER

(Page 12) Amend Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting, Item of Business #13. BALLOTING, by striking out paragraph 2 and inserting a new paragraph 2; and in paragraph 3, by striking out the word “(them)”.


A rising vote was taken and with at least 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were adopted.

F–4. SUBMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER

(Page 44) Amend Part III, Article VI, MEMBERS BY INITIATION, Sec. 2–ELIGIBILITY, by striking out all words following “eighteen years”.

A rising vote was taken and with at least 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendment was adopted.

Amendments H–1 & H–2 were considered as a whole with a single vote

SUBMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER

(Page 80) Amend Bylaws, by inserting a new ARTICLE XXI–LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

(Page 13) Amend Constitution, Part I, Article II, CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER, Sec. 1–MEMBERS, by adding to the list of members attending Convention of International Chapter the members of the Leadership Development Committee.

A rising vote was taken and with at least 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were adopted.
EDITORIAL RESOLUTION

Resolved, That the Executive Board of International Chapter be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make other such technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Sisterhood in connection with Part I, Part II, Part III of the Constitution; the Bylaws and Standing Rules, Ceremonies of Initiation and Installations, and the Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting.

A standing vote was taken and the editorial resolution was adopted by majority vote.

The resolution was adopted.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE NOT ADOPTED

A–1. SUBMITTED BY NEVADA STATE CHAPTER

(Page 11) Amend Introduction, Article V, JURISDICTION, paragraph 2 by striking out the word “state” preceding the word “chapter” and inserting the designation “s/p/d”.

Number of votes cast.................................................................1,578
Number of necessary for adoption (2/3)..............................1,052
Pro..........................................................................................742
Con..........................................................................................836

The amendment was NOT adopted.

Amendments B–1, B–2, B–3 & B–4 were considered as a whole and with a single vote.

SUBMITTED BY KANSAS STATE CHAPTER

(Page 24) Amend Part I, Article XI, AMENDMENTS, by striking out section (a) and inserting a new section (a).

(Page 35) Amend Part II, Article XIV, AMENDMENTS, by striking out section (a) and inserting a new section (a).

(Page 53) Amend Part III, Article XVII, AMENDMENTS, by striking out section (a) and inserting a new section (a).

(Page 80) Amend Bylaws, Article XX, AMENDMENTS, by striking out section (a) and inserting a new section (a).

Number of votes cast.................................................................1,581
Number necessary for adoption (2/3)..............................1,054
Pro..........................................................................................822
Con..........................................................................................759

The amendments were NOT adopted.

C–1. SUBMITTED BY PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER

(Page 16) Amend Part I, Article V, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Sec 4–NOMINATION OF OFFICERS, paragraph 1, sentence 3 by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting the word “chair”.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendment was NOT adopted.

D–3. SUBMITTED BY NEVADA STATE CHAPTER

(Page 12 and 13) Amend Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting, Item of Business #13. BALLOTING, paragraph 4 by striking out the sentence “The vice president will distribute ballots and pencils” on page 12; by inserting the sentence “The vice president will distribute ballots and pencils”; and by inserting instructions “President waits to make next instruction until after the vice president has marked her own ballot”; as new paragraph 1 and 2 on page 13.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendment was NOT adopted.

D–4. SUBMITTED BY CONNECTICUT STATE CHAPTER, MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAPTER, NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER AND NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHAPTER

(Appendix 5) Amend Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting, P.E.O. Prayer, paragraph 3, sentences 2, by inserting he word “(Amen)” following the word “Thine.”, and by inserting instructions as a new paragraph 4 “Continue if reciting the Lord’s Prayer”.

Number of votes cast.................................................................1,586
Number necessary for adoption (2/3)..............................1,058
Pro..........................................................................................705
Con..........................................................................................881

The amendment was NOT adopted.

Amendments E–3 & E–4 were considered as a whole and with a single vote.

SUBMITTED BY DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER

(Page 5) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part I, paragraph 4, president’s part, by adding optional wording that would read: “Place your right hand upon your heart and raise your left hand.”

(Page 8) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part II, paragraph 6, president’s part, by adding optional wording that would read: “Place your hand upon your heart and raise your left hand.”

Number of votes cast.................................................................1,565
Number necessary for adoption (2/3)..............................1,044
Pro..........................................................................................894
Con..........................................................................................671

The amendments were NOT adopted.
Amendments E-5 & E-6 were considered as a whole and with a single vote.

**SUBMITTED BY CONNECTICUT STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 5) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part I, paragraph 4, president’s part, by adding optional wording that would read: “Place your right hand upon your Holy Book, the Word of God”.

(Page 8) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part II, paragraph 6, president’s part, by inserting the words “or your Holy Book” following the word “Bible”.

Number of votes cast........................................................................1,625
Number necessary for adoption (2/3).................................1,084
Pro.......................................................................................................................858
Con...................................................................................................................767

The amendments were NOT adopted.

**E-7. SUBMITTED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

(Page 7) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part II, paragraph 4, chaplain's part, by striking out sentence 2.

Number of votes cast........................................................................1,623
Number necessary for adoption (2/3).................................1,082
Pro.......................................................................................................................701
Con...................................................................................................................922

The amendment was NOT adopted.

**F-1. SUBMITTED BY ONTARIO–QUEBEC PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

(Page 39) Amend Part II, Article III, MEETINGS, Sec 1, paragraph 1, sentences 2 by striking out the word “twelve” and inserting the word “ten”; by striking out the word “three” and inserting the word “five”.

Number of votes cast........................................................................1,623
Number necessary for adoption (2/3).................................1,082
Pro.......................................................................................................................485
Con...................................................................................................................1,138

The amendment was NOT adopted.

**F-2. SUBMITTED BY NEVADA STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 39) Amend Part II, Article III, MEETINGS, Sec. 1–NUMBER, by striking out paragraph 1 and inserting a new paragraph 1.

Number of votes cast........................................................................1,378
Number necessary for adoption (2/3).................................919
Pro.......................................................................................................................381
Con...................................................................................................................997

The amendment was NOT adopted.

**F-3. SUBMITTED BY DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHAPTER**

(Page 44) Amend Constitution, Part III, Article VI, MEMBERS BY INITIATION, Sec. 2–ELIGIBILITY, sentence 1 by striking out the word “eighteen” and inserting the word “seventeen”.

Number of votes cast........................................................................1,373
Number necessary for adoption (2/3).................................916
Pro.......................................................................................................................880
Con...................................................................................................................493

The amendment was NOT adopted.

**F-5. SUBMITTED BY MARYLAND STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 45) Amend Part II, Article VII, THE EMBLEM, Sec. 2–ACTIVE MEMBER, by striking out the word “lent” and inserting the word “provided” in sentence 1 and by striking out sentences 3 and 4.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were NOT adopted.

Amendments F-6 & F-7 were considered as a whole and with a single vote.

**SUBMITTED BY MARYLAND STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 46) Amend Part III, Article VII, THE EMBLEM, by striking out sections 3, 4, and 5 in their entirety.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were NOT adopted.

**F-8. SUBMITTED BY ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 47) Amend Part III, Article VIII, FINANCE, by inserting a new Sec. 4–EMERITUS.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendment was NOT adopted.
Amendments F-9, F-10 & F-11 were considered as a whole with a single vote.

**SUBMITTED BY NORTH CAROLINA STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 48) Amend Part III, Article IX, REINSTATEMENTS, Sec. 1–INACTIVE MEMBER, by inserting a new paragraph 1.

(Page 39) Amend Part III, Article II, LOCAL CHAPTERS, Sec. 2–MEMBERS, last paragraph, by inserting the words "(except as noted in Part III, Article IX, Sec. 1)” after the word “Sisterhood”.

(Page 47) Amend Part III, Article VII, FINANCE, Sec. 4–INACTIVE MEMBER, by inserting the words “(except as noted in Part III, ARTICLE IX, Sec. 1)” after the word “Sisterhood”.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were NOT adopted.

**G–1. SUBMITTED BY CONNECTICUT STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 5) Amend Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting, Item of Business #5. READING OF MINUTES by adding optional wording that would read: "The minutes of the last meeting were sent to you using secure, current technology for your review. Are there corrections to the minutes? There being no corrections, the minutes stand approved as sent. If corrected: The minutes stand approved as corrected. Recording secretary makes corrections, if any, and writes ‘approved’ with date opposite signature."

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendment was NOT adopted.

Amendments G–2 & G–3 were considered as a whole with a single vote.

**SUBMITTED BY OREGON STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 42) Amend Constitution, Part III, Article V, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Sec. 4–RECORDING SECRETARY, by inserting a new paragraph 3.

(Page 5) Amend Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting, by adding revised language to item of Business #5. READING OF THE MINUTES.

A rising vote was taken and with less than 2/3 of the members standing for the affirmative, the amendments were NOT adopted.

**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**A–2. SUBMITTED BY ALBERTA–SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AND NORTH CAROLINA STATE CHAPTER**

(Page 11) Amend Introduction, Article V, JURISDICTION, paragraph 2 by striking out the words “Hereinafter the words “state chapter” shall be used to designate state, provincial, or district chapter.”

It was moved and seconded to refer the amendment to the Study and Research Committee of International Chapter to determine if removing the reference “state chapter” used throughout the Constitution to designate “state, provincial and district chapter” should be replaced with state/provincial/district or for the committee to provide other language throughout the Constitution to reflect the nomenclature used in the different countries that are part of International Chapter, and the equal rank state, provincial, and district chapters possess; and for the Study and Research committee to submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the executive board of International Chapter by September 1, 2020; said report will be published in the P.E.O. Record and presented to the delegation at the Convention of International Chapter in 2021, at which time amendment A–2 will be reconsidered.

Motion to send to the Study and Research Committee.

**Responses**

Number of votes cast..........................................................1,600

Number necessary to pass (majority).................................801

Pro ..........................................................................................860

Con ..........................................................................................740

The amendment was referred to the Study and Research Committee.

**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTION WERE WITHDRAWN BY THE SUBMITTING ENTITIES**

**E–1. SUBMITTED BY MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAPTER AND NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHAPTER**

(Page 5) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part I, paragraph 4, president’s part, by striking out the words “the word of God” and by inserting the word “(or and a blank line)”.

**E–2. SUBMITTED BY MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAPTER AND NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHAPTER**

(Page 8) Amend Ceremony of Initiation, Part II, paragraph 6, president’s part, by inserting the word “(or and a blank line)”.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY KANSAS STATE CHAPTER**

That the Executive Board of International Chapter appoint a special committee representing each level of the Sisterhood to thoroughly review the appropriateness of Standing Rule #2 and all references to it and to publish the committee’s findings to the entire P.E.O. membership. ★
Welcome Home!

Welcome home to Iowa, where our Sisterhood began 150 years ago. To honor our sesquicentennial anniversary, the P.E.O. Sisterhood issued an invitation to all sisters to “Come Home” to celebrate...and celebrate we did. From the airport to the city of Des Moines, P.E.O. banners blazed the area. About 1,500 volunteers were in every possible area to assist attendees. Identified with beautiful multicolored scarves, they were a true blessing to the more than 6,200 registered delegates and guests.

The main corridor of the convention center kept everyone busy shopping in the Marketplace, visiting the Projects room, the Book Store, The Iowa Room and viewing the jewelry from the P.E.O. jeweler, Herff Jones, where everyone could pick up their gift of a gold charm. Sisters would scream in delight as they encountered a face from the past. Placed throughout the venue were seven metal mesh dress sculptures as replicas of our Founders, created by Justine Zimmer. The Iowa Convention Host Committee has graciously agreed to donate these to the Sisterhood for display at the Executive Office in Des Moines. Also mingling among the attendees throughout the convention were seven young actresses dressed as our Founders and setting the stage for some great photos. The executive board hosted a welcome reception and state delegation dinners were held on Wednesday evening.

Tours of Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, The John Deere Works Factory, a Bikes and Brew, our P.E.O. Executive Offices and many others were offered to visitors and BILs while voting members attended seminars relating to Membership, Amendments and Finance and Budget. A visit to P.E.O.’s International Headquarters was of great interest this year. In addition to housing...
staff members and Des Moines-based projects we were able to visit the Heritage Museum and experience the P.E.O. Founders’ walk with gardens that honor our seven Founders. The walk also includes the sculpture dedicated in honor of P.E.O.’s sesquicentennial celebration.

Numerous special interest workshops were presented where the attendees, for example, could learn about cooking, how to peel an onion without tears and how to fix a simple dinner with One Pan, One Plate. Other seminar topics included tips on building our own relationships and many focused on our role as philanthropists and also our role in strengthening our Sisterhood. Following our opening night dinner, we assembled in the Wells Fargo Arena. What an amazing picture of 7,000 delegates and guests enjoying the Southeast Iowa Symphony Chamber Orchestra perform, followed by introductions, invocation and the Presentation of Colors by the Des Moines Police Department Honor Guard. Attendees were welcomed by Bev Templeton, President, Iowa State Chapter. Sue Bakers’ theme permeated the convention at all levels; With Gratitude and Grace… LEAD Forward… and following her remarks, Patricia L. Brolin-Ribi, Second Vice President, International Chapter, gave an introduction to our Projects Night speakers.

Always a highlight at any convention are the project speakers and we were not disappointed. Michelle Rofrano used her Educational Loan Fund in pursuit of her master’s degree in conducting. She is proud to be a part of a field that is male-dominated and that she can be an advocate for breaking the glass ceiling. Sarah Van Horn is a senior at Cottey College. She has a double major in criminology and psychology and plans to pursue a master’s in counseling in order to work with survivors of human trafficking. Nathalie Greenfield is a two-time recipient of an International Peace Scholarship. Having obtained her undergraduate and master’s degrees in England, Nathalie is pursuing her law degree at Cornell University. Sharing her personal story of being raped, Nathalie’s goal is to bring gender equality to the European Union and reform for women’s advocacy. Julie Spronk is a Program for Continuing Education recipient. Julie was unable to attend as she was recently hospitalized; thus her lifelong P.E.O. friend, Kate Hawkins, told how Julie was raising two small children and trying to manage on public assistance when she understood the importance of education and pursued her nursing degree. P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient Lyla June Johnston is part of the Diné Nation, often referred to as the Navajo. Lyla June is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in indigenous studies at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Her studies focus on creating food diversity by using sustainable ecosystems and land management. Lyla is a poet and a singer and following her speech she performed on a drum as she sang “All Nations Rise.” Marjada F. Tucker is a P.E.O. STAR Scholarship recipient. Having received her B.A. in biochemistry and cell biology, with minors in humanities and civil leadership, she is currently in her second year of medical school. Her ultimate goal is to become a doctor and serve rural and under-served communities. Each recipient gave thanks for the financial and emotional support that enabled them “to reach for the stars.”

Opportunities to connect with sisters were offered on shuttle buses to and from hotels. There were 5,950 delegates, visitors and volunteers registered creating many opportunities to hear about our sister’s chapters activities. The Membership Committee held a phone-a-thon in the main corridor. Here P.E.O.s could call unaffiliates, Golden Girls and new members to connect or reconnect. One thousand and eighteen members were contacted through this means and generated true P.E.O. spirit.
Music was a highlight throughout convention. On Friday morning Jean Couchie Burnquist, Past State President, Ohio State Chapter, sang “For Good” from “Wicked,” accompanied by Jill Kremer from Chapter BL, Seattle, Washington. Later in the day Jill played a musical medley “A Tribute to our Founders.” Even the guards were music minded as they danced their way into our hearts carrying their large marguerites to the Beatles tune “In My Life.” The main focus of the 275-member choir was performing a commissioned piece called “An Answer to our Prayers,” lead by Theresa Spencer, Chapter ND, Nevada, Missouri. The words for this piece were written by Rose Aspinall; the music and setting were composed by Mary McDonald to honor Sue Baker for her warm, loving and effective leadership in P.E.O. throughout the years.

It was suddenly Saturday and convention goers attended one of two Celebration of Life ceremonies scheduled an hour apart to accommodate the large crowd. The music was beautiful and peaceful and a responsive reading “A Litany of Remembrance,” was read. The meditation, “Closer than a Sister; P.E.O. Past, Present and Future,” was given by Pastor Annette Ruhs Kruse, Chapter MZ, Vinton, Iowa. A memorable video was presented of the burial sites of our seven founding sisters as wreaths were lovingly placed on each grave.

Our business meeting resumed and, following a beautiful devotion given by Linda Hartford, Past President of Ohio State Chapter, Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College, gave updates about the College. She spoke in her dynamic and energetic manner about Cottey’s guiding threads: leadership, social responsibility and global awareness. On several occasions during convention Chuck Baker, BIL of Sue Baker, spoke about a new initiative to create a student center in the lower level of the chapel. Cottey College is debt-free and $3.2 million will be raised to support this project. The true objective is to create a center that will strengthen the Cottey community by connecting students, faculty, staff and visitors in a central gathering place. For further information on how you can be involved, email at BIL@cottey.edu.

Marilyn Staples-Sundt, President of Oregon State Chapter, extended an invitation to the 2021 Convention with a lively video about the Portland, Oregon, area and left each of us wanting to attend the next convention in this amazing city. With the theme of red roses, we were each encouraged to save the date. Next came the invitation to our 2023 convention presented by Alicia Redfern, President of Pennsylvania State Chapter, utilizing a video with the theme “Pull up a Chair.”

Sue Baker’s State of the Sisterhood address was a reflection on the historic 2017-2019 biennium as the Sisterhood celebrated its 150th anniversary. Sue gave an update on
the 150 fund—90.4 percent of all local chapters have made a contribution of at least $150, for a total of $1,124,925. These gifts will be used for the sculpture at the executive office, maintaining the birthplace in Mount Pleasant and for our philanthropies. Sue thanked the sisters for accepting the challenges set out before them and for their dedication as they lived out the theme “With Gratitude and Grace – Lead Forward.”

A Sue Baker Fund was established by her Warren, Ohio, chapter, EE, in concert with the Ohio State Chapter to honor Sue’s years of service to P.E.O. The funds will be directed via the P.E.O. Foundation and help continue 150 more years of our helping women reach for the stars.

Officers were installed. Our new Recording Secretary is Kathryn Ebert, Past President of Washington State Chapter and past chairman of the Study and Research Committee. Our new President of International Chapter, Brenda Atchison, shared her theme for this biennium...Build Your Legacy and Make History. The sisters who came after the Founders are the ones who built P.E.O. into what it is today. Brenda challenged each sister to continue to be builders of our organization.

On Saturday evening attendees gathered for a celebration dinner, complete with birthday cakes. Master illusionist Lyn Dilles provided closing night entertainment. Lyn wowed the audience with her talents—from card tricks to large-scale, mind-blowing disappearing acts. An array of fireworks topped off this big “150th” anniversary celebration that was the 74th Convention of International Chapter. The assiduous attention to detail was ever present throughout the convention and we give glowing marks to all who made this possible.★
The grand celebration for our 150th anniversary is nearly over and as we prepare to close this Convention of International Chapter we hope you have been inspired.

I do not know of any other organization that places such a high priority on honoring our past. Our members do have a special connection with our Founders because most chapters are required to have an annual program with this focus. It is natural then, that we have knowledge and a close tie with our roots in P.E.O. This biennium I have gained an even more intimate relationship with our past by laying a wreath on the grave of each of our seven Founders, connecting with their proud descendants and putting into perspective those members who continue to change the world with their kindness.

In the words of Founder Ella Stewart, “Our lives should be affected by our emblem in that we are pure-minded, truthful, faithful and loving in character.” Purity in life and heart—words matter. Please be reminded of the positive and encouraging voice of P.E.O. If it does not build someone up, don’t say it, don’t write it and don’t post it on social media.

I would be remiss if I did not mention, as I leave this office, the outstanding staff and event team who made the bold decision 100 days ago to change the venue and plan a whole new event. Many of our sisters would not have been able to attend this historic occasion and we are so glad that each of you was here. Rebecca Bruce, our convention and special event manager; Shelby Kramer, event coordinator; Jackie Matt, executive director and our staff have done an outstanding job. Rebecca, you have been so gracious, so real and you are my hero!

Patience is a virtue. Our society thrives on instant gratification, but in our P.E.O. world change is calculated, intentional and fair. We seek patience with the process; patience with each other; and patience with our leadership who, often with the advantage of a wider perspective, carefully consider each decision for the benefit of all.

While we celebrate our independent thinking and diversity, we must show understanding, kindness and respect as ideas are expressed in our democratic governance and the gracious debate at this convention was productive and greatly appreciated by our delegation. Thank you.

Changes in P.E.O. go through the amendment process and are voted upon at Convention of International Chapter. Delegates exercised their right to vote as important decisions were made democratically for the good of our Sisterhood. We will accept those results and graciously LEAD FORWARD.
With respect to the many questions received on diversity, I offer the following: The P.E.O. local chapter determines their membership by the women that they invite. According to our Constitution, any woman 18 years of age, professing a belief in God, who is sponsored voluntarily by three members of a local chapter, balloted upon favorably, is entitled to become a member. While we do not define God, I encourage each of you to look carefully at the wording in our Constitution, where the reference to "God" is singular and with a capital "G."

Sponsorship requires a statement of personal acquaintance and recommendation. P.E.O. is not for everyone, which is why we carefully consider names being proposed and also speak with a prospective member as to our work, prior to her acceptance of our invitation. It is important that a woman enters the Sisterhood knowing that her beliefs are congruent with a mission she can support and with which she would feel comfortable.

There is actually much diversity within our organization—one of the greatest assets of P.E.O. is our inter-generational diversity. We have women in P.E.O. from age 18 to over 100 years old and that creates rich chapters. We believe that P.E.O. continues to grow younger as we attract women who want to reach beyond themselves in service to others.

I can confirm that there are many women of racial and cultural diversity in P.E.O. across the U.S. and Canada. Our eligibility requirements certainly allow for P.E.O. to be diverse by culture, race, ethnicity, faith, age, background, education level and profession. Diversity cannot be forced, but it is important that we each can become more aware of our own unconscious bias.

I challenge each member to lead forward, pledging to give her very best and knowing that her best is all we ask. We won't judge or be critical if it is not equal to what we think is our own very best. It is our job to make every member feel valued no matter what her contribution. She may only be able to attend a meeting (not host, do a program, lead a committee or hold office) then we provide that respite for her to attend without guilt and knowing when it is her time, she will rise to the occasion.

In the words of Mother Theresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Collectively in P.E.O., we do make an enormous difference and I am grateful to be part of something bigger than just what I could accomplish alone.

As your president, I gave my very best, as I had pledged to do—and I fell short every day, which shows that I am only human. I humbly ask your forgiveness for my failings. If you wrote to me about your opinion on the proposed amendments, I was not able to personally answer each and every letter, but all were read and taken to heart.

Stepping back from my duties as president of this stellar organization, I know that there will be ways for me to continue to LEAD FORWARD. We can serve, then step back and let someone else serve. There is so much to contribute whether or not we have a title or hold an office. For as long as I am able, I will be a servant leader for I believe deeply in the mission and heart of P.E.O.

Thank you for the honor of serving.

Sue
Women helping women reach for the stars for 150 years
HOME, SISTERS!

2019 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
Welcome to P.E.O.
Main Street

Women helping women reach for the stars for 150 years
Opening Night Ceremonies and Projects Night
TOURING THE P.E.O. EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Descendants Tea
Memorable MOMENTS

Lettie Corkhill Cunetto, HZ, St. Louis, Missouri, a descendant of P.E.O. “builder” Lulu Corkhill (Williams), wore a special bracelet to Convention. The bracelet was a gift to Lulu in 1869, when she was 14. Lulu’s name is hand-engraved inside the bracelet with the year. The bracelet was then passed on to Lettie’s aunt Helen in 1939. Now it belongs to Lettie, whose name was engraved along with the year, 2019.

Sue Baker also wore a special bracelet to Convention—this charm bracelet with photos of all the Founders is a part of International Chapter’s historical archives and is only to be worn by the president of International Chapter.

A special postal cancellation stamp was created in celebration of P.E.O.’s 150th anniversary.
Iowa City artist Justine Zimmer created these iconic metal sculptures for the 74th Convention of International Chapter. The pieces, called “Sisters,” call to mind the unique personalities and strong bonds of friendship of the seven P.E.O. Founders. Justine enlisted the help of Iowa P.E.O.s in the fabrication process of these whimsical indoor/outdoor sculptures. The sculptures are on wheels and appeared at various locations throughout Convention. At the end of Convention, it was announced that “Sisters” are being gifted to International Chapter of The P.E.O. Sisterhood. They are now at the Executive Office in Des Moines.
NEW chapters

CHAPTER AT
Greenville, South Carolina

ORGANIZED: February 9, 2019

First row, from the left:
Elizabeth Shelly, Sofia Carlson, Martha Choi, Nicole Senn, Jennifer Florian, Liz Hyrkas, Melissa Weaver, Jill Tyner, Connie DuPre

Second row:
Pamela Berry, Jill Viselli, Joanna Scott, Jane Rowe, Malorie Schuman, Julie Birello, Elizabeth Shands, Karen Green, Jen Evie Viselli, Elizabeth Barrier, Kelly Leicht

CHAPTER ON
Chicago, Illinois

ORGANIZED: April 28, 2019

First row, from the left:
Dana Sterbens, Katy White
Second row: Erica White, Carolyn Aiken, Jessa Wolfe, Rachel Strack, Courtney Milligan, Whitney Regan, Katie Rock
Third row:
Katherine Chavez, Jessica Dorsey, Laurey Brown, Stephanie Geier, Deena Erfurt, Adrienne Abrams, Erica Hassett, Carolyn Hassett, Lyra Ziegler

CHAPTER FM
Sunbury, Ohio

ORGANIZED: April 13, 2019

First row, from the left:
Mary Church, Amber Cline, Jessica Kellough and Cristin Jonard
Second row: Virginia Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Barr, Kelley Johnson
Third row:
Shari Wilson, Sarah Maar, Tara Shelby, Meg Funston, Caitlin Cotter, Kellie Cotter
Fourth row: Katie Buckner, Julie Adams, Erynn Cotter, Amie Myers

CHAPTER CR
Saratoga Springs, New York

ORGANIZED: May 4, 2019

Pictured: Judy Doubleday, Sarah Ireland, Sue Meyer, Kathy Adair, Cindy Fogarty, Lisa diTarglani, Laura Regan, Leigh Anne Clevenger, Martha Love, Megan Ireland, Judy Toelle, Debra Darby, Roseann Styczynski, Janice Partridge, Katherine Raymond, Deb Bishop, Susan Van Raalte, Cindy DiSorbo, Nora Cheek, Karen Patton, Diana Kakaty, Jen Horn, Theresa Fingerhut, Judy Ellers, Kirsten Ott, Judy Ellers, Kirsten Ott, Susan Van Raalte, Cindy DiSorbo
CHAPTER DF-LP
Western Springs, Illinois
MERGED: June 25, 2019
First row, from the left: Jean Stewart, Margaret Richter, Jean Wass, Ann Lawrence, Dorothy Lund, Dixie Conkis, Lou Lateer, Salty Burson, Janice Johnson, Judy Gaylord
Second row: Nancy Martens, Romelle Marshall, Susan Ide, Debra McGrath, Sue Schindler, Nancy Conforti, Mary Lou Snare, Ann Hileman

CHAPTER CZ
Charlotte, North Carolina
ORGANIZED: July 13, 2019
First row, from the left: Catherine Weide, Julia Jeter, Katie Downie
Second row: Ellen Scheide, Stephanie Gifford, Sarah Offutt, Stacy Adams
Third row: Hannah Kay Herdlinger, Brandy Blackmon, Katie Conley, Kim Franck
Fourth row: Bonnie Kalen, Jessie Baell, Carol Tyner, Hailey Moroni, Darlene Florence

CHAPTER FE-JP
Waterloo, Iowa
MERGED: August 25, 2019
First row, from the left: Sally Thurman, Prudy Klinger, Sandy Schipper, Dawn Larson, Kathleen Keefer, Diane Golden
Second row: Sue Schrader, Donna Brown, Cam (Camilla) Glidewell, Linda Berneking, Debbie Foulk, Louise Frevert, Lynn Kloberdanz, Lee Stonewall, Barbara Corson, Beverly Schmidt, Peg Frushour, Kathy Cooley, Mary Ellen Warren ★
WHERE IN THE WORLD

Rosalie Wenger, DN, Topeka, KS, in Delta Junction, Alaska

Sandy Timmons, T, Reno, NV, on an Arctic expedition near Qaanaaq, Greenland

Sisters from Chapter T, Fort Thomas, KY, at a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. Both the Reds and P.E.O. were founded in 1869.

Lucy J. Cyphers, BX, Camden, Arkansas, fishing on the Amazon River in Peru

Julie Watson and Linda Fortin, BX, Peoria, IL, at Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee

Lisa Schuler, Z, Titusville, FL, in St. Maarten

Dawn Cantwell, AK, Morristown, TN, at the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland

Gayle Weitly and Connie Hunnell, PSPs, California State Chapter in Rostock, Germany

Sherry Efird, BW, Malvern, AR, and Diana Ramsey, CC, Russellville, AR, in Quebec City

Annie Shiffer, EW, Spokane WA, in L’Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland

Lucy J. Cyphers, BX, Camden, Arkansas, fishing on the Amazon River in Peru
Where in the World is The Record?

Mary Anne Elmore, Julie Harman, and Julianna Harman, KO, Liberty, MO, in Vienna, Austria

Linda Ignowski, CI, Portland, OR, in Malbork, Poland

Barb Tylenda, AZ, Racine, WI, in the Kingdom of Bhutan

Carolyn Moore, Karen Lee, Marcia Perry, Phyllis Rogler and Karen Trenholm, P, Ogden, UT, in India

Clay Dobrovolec, CC, Troy, MI, at Lake Victoria in Tanzania

Mary Meade, X, Erie, PA, in Hue, Vietnam

Pack the latest issue of The P.E.O. Record when you travel! Snap some pics and send them in—you could be featured in a future issue of the magazine. Visit our Facebook page to see a gallery of more submissions.

Send photos to mediamanager@peodsm.org.

WWW.PEOINTERNATIONAL.ORG November–December 2019 | THE P.E.O. RECORD
CHAPTER DC ★ SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**ORGANIZED:** April 5, 1919

**CELEBRATED:** April 6, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Toni Wieland, Mary Ann Rebori, Jerri Loveland, Carolyn Wolfe, Patsy Summers

*Second row:* Loy Swanson, Rosemary Jackson, Jane Bennett, Delores Fisher, Mary Harges, Mary Christiano, Judy Bartell, Sharon Barlow, Jan Hale, Judy Moskoff, Jane Sellars, Peggy Clemons, Sally McAlear

CHAPTER N ★ NAMPA, IDAHO

**ORGANIZED:** May 3, 1919

**CELEBRATED:** May 14, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Pat Carlson, Jeannine Ickes, Joan Deal, Cerie Hansen, Shirley Severn, Cherol Williams, Marilyn Emerson, Sus Helpenstell

*Second row:* Rona Williams, Helen Watts, Deborah Booth, Judi Rawlings, Blanche Swindell, Cheri Cunningham, Pam Cunningham, Katherine Lauer, Courtney Hyslop, Mary Ruesch, Susie Myers, Barbara Watkins

*Third row:* Susan Stands, Kathy Sommer, LaDonna Webb Cappellini, Wanda Stuart, Anne Curran, Carol Pintler, Loretta Driskell, Linda Skogsberg, Barbara Hindman, Linda Dobbs, Susan Huter, Carol Shepherd, Dixie Blome, Jean Borer, Fran Robinson

*Fourth row:* A.J. Zissler, Jennifer Kerr, Lisa Myers, Lori Lovelace, Phyllis Tincer, Mary Keys, Patti Copple, Judy Wissel

CHAPTER BC ★ KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

**ORGANIZED:** May 6, 1919

**CELEBRATED:** May 6, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Mary Ann Hinderks, Peggy Osborn, Helen Mercer, Doris Elrod, Barb Wigger, Barb Shropshire, Martha Mather, Linda Dillon, Jean Johnston

*Second row:* Rosalie Hyde, Mary Ruth Yulich, Lou Ann Millard, Mickey Roberts, Mary Jo Smith, Nancy Clark, DeAnna Hensley, Pat Gates, Barb Haney, Jan Petrowski, Jane Angle

CHAPTER U ★ KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

**ORGANIZED:** May 7, 1919

**CELEBRATED:** May 2019

*First row, from the left:* Cynthia DeRosier, Rita Pederson, Patricia Mathis, Karen Nicolas, Patricia Boyer, Evelyn Della-Rose, Maryann Lundin

*Second row:* Kathy Yates, Sally Jones, Kristine Bailey, Carol Ann Meadows, Susan Chamberland, Doy Touslee

*Third row:* Gay Ann Woods, Margaret Huntley, Barb Merryman, Susan Oates, Barbara Collier, Julie Hendrixson, Janet Larson, Ruth Young
CHAPTER O ★ MOSCOW, IDAHO

**ORGANIZED:** May 10, 1919  
**CELEBRATED:** May 20, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Michal Casberg, Karen McGarvey, Phyllis Vettrus, Debby Bielenberg, Judith Marineau, Mary Blanton, Marilyn Jackson, Jennifer Pierce, Marralee Haagen  
*Second row:* Claudia Johnson, Wendy Amsbaugh, Mary McReynolds, Susan Burns, Melissa Renfrow, Anne Anderson

CHAPTER BD ★ MANCOS, COLORADO

**ORGANIZED:** October 20, 1919  
**CELEBRATED:** October 19, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Ann Algier, Michael Sue Kern, Mary Ann Ott  
*Second row:* Rachel McWhirter, Diane Muller, Marilynn Heath, Barb Cover, Donna Watkins  
*Third row:* Mary Wilson, Jo Schrock, Linda Simmons, Gwen Hawkins, Holly Cruser  
*Fourth row:* Frances Hitchcock, Roma Ewing, Meg Cummings, Cathy Conway  
*Fifth row:* Helen Looman, Sandy Weaver, Carol Van Der Harten, Lynne Lewis

CHAPTER BA ★ MEEKER, COLORADO

**ORGANIZED:** September 22, 1919  
**CELEBRATED:** September 29, 2019


CHAPTER B ★ MORGANTOWN WEST, VIRGINIA

**ORGANIZED:** June 2, 1919  
**CELEBRATED:** June 15, 2019

*First row, from the left:* Peggy Merz, Marva Graff, Linda Shanes, Kay VandenBosch, Dolores Bell, Gale Truman, Helen Ann Graffious, Polly Plummer  
*Second row:* Debby McConnell, Libby Porter, Cecilia Barnett, Ellen Neidermeyer, Gay Kline, Rama Riemenschneider, Fran Lemley, Sue Overman, Sheryl Ramsey, Heather Larkin ★
Mary Coley, EY, Tulsa, Oklahoma, wrote the novel “Blood on the Cimarron: No Motive for Murder, An Oklahoma Mystery.” Stillwater Journalist Claire Northcutt visits the Cimarron Valley Rescue Ranch on assignment and finds the owner dead. After her nephew Denver becomes the primary suspect in the gruesome murder, Claire begins to investigate. She soon suspects the rancher wasn’t the hero he appeared to be. Struggling to control PTSD brought on by the bloody murder, and fear that she has attracted the attention of a serial rapist terrorizing the college community, life-threatening things begin to happen to those around her. Can she survive to uncover the truth behind the rancher’s death?

Mary and her husband, Daryl, live in Jenks, Oklahoma, near Tulsa. They have five adult children and three grandchildren.

Maryann Karinch, IY, Estes Park, Colorado, has a professional writing career that includes a total of 30 books on human behavior and human rights. Her latest four books include “Basic Wilderness Survival Skills,” “Sex and Cancer: Intimacy, Romance and Love after Diagnosis and Treatment,” “Body Language Sales Secrets,” which builds on the body-language expertise she has used to help the Department of Homeland Security and law enforcement professionals; and “Deepwater Deception,” written with a person a jury determined was falsely accused of causing the tragic explosion on the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon.

Maryann is a 60-year member of Chapter IK.

Thelma Giomi, V, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the author of “Shatter My Heart.” Thelma brings her extensive experience teaching and working in a medical setting, as well as living with a chronic illness, to the lives of the four main characters in the book. Four friends, individually and together, face and overcome some of life’s most devastating events. They emerge from these challenges with poise and compassion, becoming the heroes of their own lives.

Thelma is a psychologist, award-winning poet and novelist. As a therapist, she has worked with children, families and individuals experiencing a wide range of psychological and life stressors. While working in a university medical setting she trained medical students, residents and graduate students. In her personal life, a diagnosis of systemic lupus became the impetus to focus on her lifelong love of writing and to develop as an author and motivational speaker. Thelma resides in her native New Mexico.

Carole Bartels Loetscher, IK, Dubuque, Iowa, wrote “Wood, The History of Farley & Loetscher Manufacturing Company – Once the Largest Millwork Company in the World.” The book takes the reader from the company’s humble beginnings in 1875 when Christian Loetscher began manufacturing wood products in Dubuque, Iowa, through the early 1900s when the company sprawled over 23 acres, to the company’s final days in 1962. Today, Farley & Loetscher’s millwork can be found in homes, churches and businesses across the United States, including the massive oak doors of the U.S. Supreme Court, depicting the 10 Commandments.

Carole’s late husband, Richard, is the grandson of Christian Loetscher. Carole graduated from Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, majoring in English. She taught corporate etiquette and protocol for 25 years. Carole is a 60-year member of Chapter IK.

Karen Martin, CN, Irving, Texas, wrote a chapter in the woman’s anthology “The Power of Our Voices.” Karen’s chapter is called “Not Another Casserole: Tips for Surviving a C-Word Diagnosis.” In it, she credits Chapter CN’s support during a post-9/11 breast cancer journey. Karen is a native of Wynne, Arkansas. She has been married to Karl D. Martin since 1984. They have two adult children, Kameron and Kamille, and granddaughter Kyler. Karen’s a grateful 16-year breast cancer survivor.

A lifelong Baylor fanatic, she follows the Baylor Bears and fishing trends—for funding and fish!
Gregg E. Brickman, AO, Cookeville, Tennessee, wrote “Imperfect Escape: A Sophia Burgess & Ray Stone Imperfect Mystery.” Exploding meth labs, gossipy, interrelated townsfolk and back biting colleagues are all in a day’s work for Sophia and Ray. “Imperfect Escape” is Gregg’s eighth mystery and the fourth title in the Imperfect Series.

Gregg was born in North Dakota and completed her education in Florida, embarking on a varied career in clinical, administrative and academic nursing. She finished her 45-year nursing career with an 18-year stent teaching beginning nursing students at Broward College. She began writing mysteries in the late 1990s.

Jean Keezer-Clayton, H, Holdrege, Nebraska, wrote “Sipping Proverbs: An Eclectic Journey.” The writer selects a few verses out of each of the 31 chapters of Proverbs to connect with life experiences. There are chapters focused on praying for young people and on living well as senior citizens. There are several stories about learning spiritual lessons from unlikely sources such as Golden Retrievers. Jean was widowed early in life and addresses life in a blended family after re-marrying. The chapters are sprinkled with humor and end with a “So What,” feature that suggests a next step in spiritual growth as well as a prayer.

Jean grew up on a farm in south-central Nebraska and has deep roots in rural culture. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English education, and two master’s degrees in English and divinity. She is semi-retired after working as a chaplain and pastor. She currently serves as visitation hostess for Nelson-Bauer-Mach Funeral Home.

Loka Ashwood, C, Vermont, Illinois, wrote “For-Profit Democracy: Why the Government Is Losing the Trust of Rural America.” Loka received a P.E.O. Scholar Award, which in large part funded the research she presents in this book.

Loka is an Auburn University agricultural economist and sociologist who relocated to rural Burke County, Georgia, to better understand the growing distrust between the government and rural populations. She chose the location because the extremely poor county is home to the first new nuclear power plant built in the U.S. in decades, and the process by which the for-profit companies that own the plant took the land of poor disenfranchised residents, polluted and eroded the country’s natural resources, then found a loophole to avoid paying much-needed taxes to the county, illustrates what she refers to as the “public-private fallacy” that prioritizes benefits to corporations over those of individuals, leading to a system in which profit creation drives policy. The work is character-driven, affecting and philosophical. Recounting many of the interviews she conducted with more than 80 people, Loka illustrates the human impact of eminent domain and abstract-seeming ideas such as what she terms “the rule of numbers.”

Patricia Gilkerson, EP, Stillwater, Minnesota, wrote “Half a Buck,” book five in The Horse Rescuers Series. The book is meant for horse lovers ages 13-16. Piper Jones and her best friend Addie become involved in rescuing horses from terrible situations. In “Half a Buck,” Piper takes riding lessons, hoping to ride in her first horse show. But strange things keep happening in her riding teacher’s barn and soon there are more questions than answers: Is Annie, the riding teacher, a criminal or an innocent victim? Who is threatening Annie and can the Horse Rescuers figure out a plan to help her? How does that horse keep escaping from his stall? And when will the river stop rising?

Pat is a former teacher, born in Wales, who grew up as a horse lover in Kentucky and developed a love of reading there. Pat was initiated into P.E.O. in 1976 and lives in Lake Elmo, Minnesota, with her husband, Jim. Her two children are grown with kids of their own, and she loves reading, writing and hanging out with family, friends and critters.
In honor of P.E.O.’s 150th anniversary, special local chapter supplies are available for a limited time.

Plates, emblem jewelry boxes, note cards and prints featuring cover art of the new P.E.O. history book “We Who are Sisters” can be ordered online at [https://eorders.peointernational.org/](https://eorders.peointernational.org/)

Artist Susan S. Johnston, T, Cumberland, Maryland, created this evocative watercolor depicting the seven P.E.O. Founders in front of Old Main at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

These pieces are a wonderful way to commemorate P.E.O.’s 150th anniversary!

- 8" x 10" Founders Tribute Print $15
- 10 Notecards with Envelopes $7
- Emblem Jewelry Box $18
- Plate $26

*(prices do not include shipping cost)*

While Supplies Last

[https://eorders.peointernational.org/](https://eorders.peointernational.org/)
Members may view all items for sale at https://members.peointernational.org/fundraisingmarketplace
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P.E.O.’s mission is to celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cottey College; and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a nonprofit organization that has helped more than 109,000 women* pursue educational goals by providing over $344 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 $208.2 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 $40 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 $59.2 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 $26.7 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 $10.7 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 2019

“P.E.O.s are the best! We offer educational opportunities for women. We do this by offering scholarships, grants, awards and loans to help women enhance their lives through learning! I consider myself a perpetual student and have found this the best avenue to accomplish helping others with self-improvement!”

—MARThA HEMMINGER
L, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

“I am not only honored, but humbled to be one of the recipients of the P.E.O. Educational Loan. With the help of your charitable support I can continue to pursue a lifelong dream and goal of mine, to become an oncology nurse. I appreciate the support that you have given me as well as each of you, who serve as role models, have given to many young women.”

—JACKALYN FINK
P.E.O. EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND RECIPIENT
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WINTER MAILING
This mailing to all local chapter presidents and s/p/d officers will be sent in January 2020.

Save the Date—Vacation College
You are invited to join us for Vacation College! With a wide array of course offerings, Vacation College has something for everyone. For one week Cottey College’s dedicated instructors will provide you with an experience you will never forget. P.E.O. sisters, BILs, alumnae and friends of the College are all welcome to attend. Get the word out! Vacation College is scheduled for May 19-24, 2020. Class listings will be posted online in January. For more information about Vacation College, go to cottey.edu/peo/grow. Early registration begins January 15 and ends March 15.

Gifts and Contributions – Support P.E.O. projects!
Are you making plans to support your favorite charities before the end of the year? Please consider a charitable gift to our P.E.O. projects! Our P.E.O. projects can only succeed with the continued support of our membership. Local chapters and individual donations to these projects determine the number of women who are helped each year and the amount that is available to award. Every dollar counts—ALL of our projects depend almost entirely on P.E.O. support.
Continue to make your donations as listed below and remember individual gifts to P.E.O. projects and P.E.O. Foundation qualify as a charitable deduction for United States income tax purposes.

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150 Fund Contributions
Accepted Until January 21, 2020
There is still an opportunity to donate to the 150 Fund. Both individual and chapter donations of at least $150 will be accepted until January 21, 2020. For more information, please see page 15 of this issue.

Time to Pay Dues
Local chapter dues are payable February 1 for 2020-2021. If you are going to be out of town and unable to attend meetings, please remember to pay early or mail your check to your local chapter treasurer.
Although dues are not considered delinquent until March 1, as a courtesy to the treasurer, please pay them as soon as possible. This will ensure that all annual reports are filed by the local chapter officers in a timely manner and that you continue to be counted as an active member of P.E.O. If you need help with financing your dues, please speak privately with your chapter president or treasurer. Every member is a very important P.E.O. and we strive as a sisterhood to have no new inactive members!

Pay Dues by Credit Card!
Chapters may choose to use a debit/credit card reader (Square, Roam pay, Pay anywhere, etc.) as described in the policy in Instruction to Officers of Local Chapter, to accept payment for:
• Dues, fundraisers and non-tax deductible donations to chapters (for tax deductible donations, please refer to Treasurer section of IOLC, page 3 of 6)
The debit/credit card reader must be linked directly to the chapter’s bank account. At the chapter’s discretion, transaction fees associated with this service may be paid by chapter funds or added to the charges processed for the card holder. A local chapter may not have a chapter credit card to make payments, but only a reader to accept payments.

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Send completed form, including your former address printed in the upper right corner (or give address at which magazine was last received), six weeks in advance of your move.

Mail  Membership Dept., P.E.O. Executive Office
      3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312-2899
Fax    The P.E.O. Record, 515-255-3820
Call   800-343-4921 (Automated line available 24 hours a day. May not be available in all areas of Canada.)
Email  membership@peodsm.org
Web    peointernational.org (Log in as a member and click on ‘manage membership’)

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

**Address or Name Change** (please print)

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Name

Email address

Street or box address

City State/Province/District ZIP/Postal code

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THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THE 2019 CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER IN DES MOINES, IOWA, A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

This was the culmination of P.E.O.’s Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebration.

**74th Convention of International Chapter by the Numbers**

1,018 unaffiliate members, Golden Girls and new members called at the Membership phone-a-thon

1,500 volunteers

4,073 mobile app users

5,950 registered attendees

Infinite amounts of fun, celebrations and connections

Join the fun at Convention of International Chapter in Portland, Oregon · September 23–25, 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!