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Layout and design of The P.E.O. Record by Allison Vial
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we reflect on our past in preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration in 2019, we must also be reminded of the wise words of our Founder, Franc Roads Elliott, “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 want to preserve our rich history, there is also an intent to focus forward allowing us to envision the bright future of P.E.O. for the next 150 years!

P.E.O. is not just an organization we join to fill our time, but we need to be in touch with the soul of who we are, reaching out to women with shared values who would love to be united in our purpose. I challenge our members to “each one, bring one” as we consider sharing the gift of P.E.O. In a recent convention workshop, participants shared qualities to describe who she would invite as a potential member—genuine, loving, warm, supportive, joyful, steadfast, faithful, kind.

When talking to a potential new member about P.E.O. a common commitment to philanthropy is important. Philanthropy means “the love of humankind,” in the sense of caring and nourishing, focused on the quality of life. Grace is also defined as “the disposition to benefit and serve others.” 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.

With gratitude and grace... LEAD forward.

Many people have inquired about the symbolism for the logo this biennium. Designed by our communications team at the P.E.O. Executive Office, it reflects the virtues and positive voice of our prestigious organization. The words “with gratitude and grace” have a softly progressing and elegant sense with the use of italicized letters. Bold, powerful pink letters accentuate “Lead” and “forward” is advancing in that direction and punctuated by our special star emblem. The five petals of the flower represent the virtues of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth as a constant reminder of the foundation of our Sisterhood. Those same petals form multiple hearts, as you trace from the base and around two petals at a time as a constant reminder to “strengthen the heart of P.E.O.” in all we do. From the strong purple center, a total of seven points in darker pink/purple hues represent our founding sisters and radiate gently as our significant virtues stretch beyond our own membership and into the world. Notice also the subtle white arrow near the bottom of the daisy petals “leading us forward” and reaching “outward” beyond ourselves.

Thank you for sending stories of how members are “strengthening the heart of P.E.O.” in profound ways. A recent story from Chapter ES, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, will warm your heart as a new chapter, with 16 initiates and three transferring members, showed a “determination to do all they could” immediately after their organization. The story goes like this, as told by Jeanne Herder, past president, Wisconsin State Chapter:

“One of our new initiates, Lisa, was diagnosed with cancer. President Karin McDonald had an idea that would include as many sisters as possible to give Lisa love, hugs and care. First, to gently lift her duties of recording secretary, several members volunteered. By general consensus, Lisa’s dues were paid by our chapter. Karin organized “workshop” sessions in her home for members to cut, press, embroider and sew our love, hope and comfort into a beautiful quilt. Within three weeks, the project was completed and hand delivered. This story has shown our new sisters the true spirit of P.E.O.”

My heart is filled by your expression of love. The quilt is a masterpiece and I can only imagine the strength and comfort Lisa felt wrapped in your care during a time of uncertainly. What a blessing this chapter has been to our beloved sister.

With gratitude and grace... LEAD Forward

Sue Baker • President, International Chapter

We extend gratitude to Peggy Bottorf, past president, California State Chapter, and Mathilda Hatfield, past president, Arkansas State Chapter, for completing a seven-year term on the Cottey College Board of Trustees. Appreciation also to Jackie McMorris for serving a three-year term on the Cottey Board. We welcomed new trustees on June 1, 2018: Kathryn Bayne, past president, Maryland State Chapter; Tamara Kenworthy, KT, Des Moines, Iowa; and Dr. Hope Zoeller of Louisville, Kentucky.

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Women helping women reach for the stars

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Barbara Jensen, Idaho
Joan Pattison, Indiana
Melanie Melville, Louisiana
Barb Cieszynski, Manitoba–Northwest Ontario
Judith French, Maryland
Lydia Rosentreter Bangert, Michigan
Jan Briones, Minnesota
Laurel Andrew, Nevada
Beth Gammie, New Jersey
Cindy Schuetzler, North Dakota
Ann Bryant, Oklahoma
Stephanie Coatney Price, South Carolina
Belinda Hargrove, Texas
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P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) is passionate about its mission—Promoting educational opportunities for women.

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

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

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

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

For more information visit the website www.peointernational.org. A reprint of this page is available on the members’ website under P.E.O. Projects.
P.E.O. Sisterhood Spans the World

When our STAR scholar from 2014 informed us that she would be pursuing her master’s degree at York University, York, England, in the fall of 2018. I knew we needed to connect her with any P.E.O.s that resided in the UK. I reached out to some P.E.O. sisters on social media and received a response within 30 minutes. I was connected with Ginny Khoury who resides in London. She wrote a wonderful email to our STAR scholar and also connected her with the president of the UK group, Katherine Everitt-Newton. All this happened within 24 hours. The love and bond of P.E.O. sisterhood spans the world!

— Kathy McConnell, NF, Four Seasons, Missouri

At This P.E.O. B&B

When I opened my March-April issue of The P.E.O. Record I was delighted to see the bed and breakfast article by Brenda Rush because we had recently returned from staying at two P.E.O. B&Bs in Arizona; Brenda’s article is SO RIGHT ON! After we left one of the B&Bs I was so happy for the experience I wrote a quick poem as follows:

What a delight to spend the night at a P.E.O. B&B
You walk in the door to a HUG and much more at a P.E.O. B&B
A new sister’s your host and she gives it her most at THIS P.E.O. B&B
Soon you share stories of your chapter’s glories at THIS P.E.O. B&B
The reciprocity flows and you each emit a glow at THIS P.E.O. B&B
Strangers walking in the door, exiting dear friends forever more—at EVERY P.E.O. B&B

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

Convention of International Chapter

September 12-14, 2019 ★ Des Moines, Iowa

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of P.E.O.! Watch for updates and more information in future issues of The P.E.O. Record.

Registration opens March 2019
“What’s PAST is PROLOGUE”

As we look back over 130 years, 1884 seems quaint and antiquated. Yet for that time, Virginia Alice Cottey was a forward-thinking educator. The events she set in motion with the founding of her school led Cottey College to become the highly regarded institution it is today. As we glance at the past, we can see how her decisions have continued to build one on the other. These decisions enabled generations of women to create their own incredible futures.

1884
Virginia Alice Cottey creates the Vernon Seminary to offer women an education equal to that of men of the time.

1886
In recognition of the school’s embodiment of the founder’s principles and at the determined insistence of the town and her family, the name of the school is changed to Cottey College.

1890
Virginia Alice Cottey marries widower Sam Stockard, informing him that her school shall always come first, as it had from the beginning.

1910
Cottey becomes a charter member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the two-year honor society, reflecting the College’s commitment to higher education.

1918
Cottey becomes a charter member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the two-year honor society, reflecting the College’s commitment to higher education. Cottey was recognized at the 2018 PTK national convention for being the only continuously operating original chapter 100 years later.

1920
On February 17, 2018, 12 Cottey College students visited the P.E.O. rooms at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and the P.E.O. Executive Office and Centennial Center in Des Moines. This trip was the capstone experience of the excursion course in which they were enrolled titled “Virginia Alice Cottey and the P.E.O. Sisterhood.”

The young women traveling to Iowa in February 2018 represent the Cottey College that is the result of a strong partnership dedicated to educating women. Today, Cottey College is a four-year, independent, arts and sciences college for women. We know Cottey offers what students today want because women come from across the nation and around the world to enroll in one of thirteen baccalaureate or four associate degree programs. Seventy percent of those who earn an associate degree remain at Cottey to earn a baccalaureate degree.

On campus before the trip, the students spent time researching some aspect of the P.E.O. Sisterhood in the bound volumes of the P.E.O. Record in the Cottey College archives. Several chose one of the seven founders of P.E.O. and were eager to learn more about them in the P.E.O. rooms in Mount Pleasant. The students learned the founders were among the privileged few women who had access to a college education in 1869. This fact was also true of the early students at Cottey College in the late 19th century.

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July–August 2018 | THE P.E.O. RECORD
1960

Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library is built. With gifts from P.E.O. members and chapters, the library is named for benefactor Blanche Skiff who was a niece of P.E.O. co-founder, Virginia Alice Coffin.

1963

The Chapel is constructed with gifts from the BILs.

1956

Robertson Hall and Raney Dining Room are constructed. Robertson Hall is named for Elizabeth C. Robertson, Nebraska past state president, and Raney Dining Room is named after Bessie R. Raney, past president of International Chapter.

1950

Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow becomes president of Cottey. Her efforts to recruit international students lead to the College being known as “The College of World Friendship” and to a link between Cottey and P.E.O.’s International Peace Scholarship.

1949

The College celebrates its centennial. The statue, “Friends Meet,” sculpted by Carole Harrison, is commissioned to honor the event. The statue is installed in the “Friendship Circle” north of the library and dedicated on October 11, 1985.

1981

Main Hall undergoes major reconstruction and the College celebrates its rededication on October 1.

1980

While often talked about, but not easily achieved, a fast start in a challenging environment has helped these students succeed.

Tatsiana Kvitsko Trimborn, Class of 2010. Born in Belarus four years after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear meltdown, Tatsiana was born without fully-formed legs and also missing most of her fingers. Sent to a boarding school at age six, she was found by a visiting group of doctors and sent to Kansas City for treatment. She was sponsored by three families in the area who took care of her when she returned each year for treatment. One of her host mothers suggested she apply to Cottey. Doing her best to learn English in a few short months, she was admitted to Cottey College where she thrived. After graduating from Cottey, she transferred to MidAmerica Nazarene University where she eventually earned a master’s in science of management. At the same time Tatsiana was fitted for her first running blades. Shortly after, she ran her first 5K race. Today, Tatsiana is a public relations specialist for Knit-Rite, a lead designer, marketer and manufacturer of innovative textiles for medical and consumer markets. She runs most every weekend and recently completed her first marathon.

Kate Barlow, Class of 2015. Kate was a non-traditional Cottey student in that she transferred to Cottey as a third-year student after having already received her associate degree from Sheridan College. She quickly embraced the Cottey life getting involved and serving as a Golden Key, Resident Assistant, and the third-year class president. She spent her study abroad at Semester at Sea. Kate graduated from Cottey in 2015 with a degree in international relations and as...
The founder of Cottey College, Virginia Alice Cottee Stockard, spoke these words on October 6, 1927, upon hearing that a majority of the delegates at the convention of Supreme Chapter of P.E.O. voted to accept her gift:

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. As I have been sitting here, I have been thinking how strange are the ways of God to man. At the time that the P.E.O. Sisterhood was beginning to foster the education of women, in a little town in Missouri I was struggling toward the same goal. As I looked at this bowl of marguerites tied with the yellow and white, I thought of a handful of hopeful, young girls years ago meeting in a plain study hall to vote on the school colors and a flower to represent their school permanently. They decided on the marguerite and the yellow and white."

Thus was launched the 90-year relationship between a women’s organization and a women’s college, both of which understand that associations made up of women are important to women.

1927 At the Convention of Supreme Chapter, the Sisterhood accepts the gift of Mrs. Stockard’s life’s work and becomes the owner of Cottey College.

1930
Convention of Supreme Chapter charters a train from Kansas City to Nevada for 743 delegates and 139 visitors to visit campus.

1933 Mrs. Stockard celebrates the 50th anniversary of the College.

1934 Mrs. Stockard passes away.

1939 Under the leadership of International President Chellie Stevens Wright, P.E.O. Hall becomes the first major building project under the stewardship of P.E.O.

1940 Cottey becomes fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, now The Higher Learning Commission.

1940 Virginia Alice Cottee Stockard passes away.

1948 Cottey’s second residence hall is constructed. It is named for Winona Evans Reeves who was past president of Supreme Chapter and editor of The P.E.O. Record. Cottey enters a growth phase over the next 15 years.

1959 The Chapel with gifts from the BILs.

1956 Robertson Hall and Raney Dining Room

1959 Virginia Alice Coffin.

1963 Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library is built. With gifts of International from P.E.O. members and chapters, the library past president Bessie R. Raney, is named for benefactor Blanche Skiff who is named after and Raney was a niece of P.E.O. co-founder, Elizabeth C. Robertson.

1970 The Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts is completed. It consists of a 490-seat auditorium, a 150-seat recital hall, and an art gallery.

1971-72 The College of World Friendship is transformed into the Peace Scholarship.

the valedictorian, spoke at her commencement. She has also worked during Vacation College in 2016, 2017 and again in 2018 being the main face during the week earning her the unofficial title of “cruise director.”

Kate graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law with her JD in May and is evaluating her career options.

1981 The College celebrates its centennial. The statue, “Friends Meet,” sculpted to honor the event. The statue is installed in the Main Hall.

1985 The Rubie Burton Academic Center is finished and includes the renovation of the old Academic Building. That year, the College purchases the historic Norman House that becomes the Helen and George Washburn Center for Women’s Leadership.

1989 The Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts is completed. It consists of a 490-seat auditorium, a 150-seat recital hall, and an art gallery.

1999 Cottey reintroduces intercollegiate athletics with the Cottey Comets basketball team. Cottey becomes a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Today, Cottey fields teams in basketball, cross country, golf, softball, track and field and volleyball.

1999 The 1999-2000 Comets Basketball Team

Kate graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law with her JD in May and is evaluating her career options.
The Present is Prologue to the Future

For over 90 years, we have been fortunate to have a steadfast partner like P.E.O. who shares our commitment and dedication for educating women. In particular, we appreciate your willingness to pass on information to your chapter so members can help refer qualified women who want to create an incredible future for themselves at Cottey College—YOUR college.

What is Cottey? We focus on six key attributes of the College that we believe are primary decision factors for students and their parents when they are narrowing their college choices. Specifically, those decision factors are student-centered learning, a safe campus in a caring community, a women’s-only educational experience, degrees focusing on arts and sciences, a campus with fewer than 400 students, and remarkable affordability.

In a typical year, Cottey students represent more than 30 states and 20 countries. They are confident, intelligent women who desire — and receive — a rigorous education. Cottey women are leaders and are not afraid to step out of their comfort zone to pursue excellence. They are accepted at top-flight graduate schools and succeed in typically male-dominated career fields. Cottey alumnae are prepared with what it takes to create an incredible future for themselves.

We encourage you to learn more about your college, refer students and network in your community. Today’s prologue is tomorrow’s future. We Are Cottey.

Why Cottey?*

- Ranked #6 Best Women’s College (out of 36 listed) by College Consensus
- Ranked #7 Best College—Midwest by US News & World Report
- Ranked #1 Best College—Midwest by College Consensus
- Ranked #49 Best College in the U.S. (out of 990 colleges and universities) by College Consensus
- Ranked #2 in Lowest Student Debt Load at Graduation by US News & World Report
- Ranked #2 Best Value by US News & World Report

*Stats for 2018
“We Who Are Sisters”—the new P.E.O. Pictorial History Book Available for Preorder Now!

5 Easy Steps to Order “We Who Are Sisters”

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- Books are 20% off until July 31, 2018, and quantities are limited! Place your preorder today.
- Consider having one person place an order for others in the chapter to save on shipping costs and to help those who might not be comfortable shopping online. You can order up to 20 books at once.
- Books will begin shipping January 2019.

Celebrate P.E.O.’s 150th Anniversary with a Contribution to the P.E.O. 150 Fund!

$150 in honor of 150 years!

With a goal of 100% local chapter participation, each chapter is encouraged to donate $150. Individual donations are also encouraged—make a donation to the fund in honor or in memory of a special P.E.O. in your life.

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

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

Commemorative 150 Celebration Jewelry Now Available!

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

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

These limited-edition sesquicentennial celebration pieces are available exclusively from Herff Jones, the official jeweler of P.E.O. Visit www.peo150.org for more details, including how to order.
This article is the second in a series of four based on member suggestions contributed during the P.E.O. for the Next Generations workshop at the 2017 Convention of International Chapter.

Not too long ago, if you wanted to talk to a P.E.O. sister outside of a meeting you would either drive to her house and ring the doorbell or call her on the phone—you know, the one that rang on the end table beside the couch and was connected by cords and wires to the floorboard. Things have changed. Today there are more ways to communicate with your sisters than there are varieties of cookies at the grocery store.

All kidding aside, communication is an important part of maintaining chapter vitality. Members who know what’s going on are more apt to feel like part of the group, regardless of their ability to participate in chapter life.

While you will want to consider the preferences of your entire membership, here are a few ideas participants attending the Next Generations workshop at the 2017 Convention of International Chapter suggested for communicating effectively with younger members.

**Create a chapter Facebook page.** Social media can be a wonderful way to share chapter news with your sisters—for example, meeting reminders, upcoming social events, information about project applicants—as long as you follow a few simple rules. First, review the Social Media Guidelines in the Brand Resource Center at https://members.peointernational.org/brand. Secondly, consider whether you want a Facebook Group or a Page. A Group is private and allows you to chat back and forth with each other, whereas a Page is public and is designed to bring more awareness about P.E.O. to your community. Always make sure you have permission from each sister to post their photos/names on social media. Not everyone has a Facebook account, but those who do typically check it frequently.

**Email the meeting agenda and summary.** This is a great way to remind everyone of the date, time and particulars of an upcoming meeting as well as make sure everyone has the latest chapter news whether they are able to attend the meeting or not.

**Note:** Instructions to Officers of Local Chapters (IOLC) prohibit the distribution of minutes by postal service, email or fax except between the president, recording secretary and their pro tems, so make sure your recap is just that—a sisterly summary. This might include the same type of information you’d post on a Facebook page, such as new project applicants, loving concern, social committee reports and program highlights. It would not include private P.E.O. business, such as names proposed for membership or other voting matters.

**Use e-invites for meetings.** Sites such as Evite and Punchbowl provide a variety of design templates you can use to send free electronic invitations for upcoming meetings and social events. Simply plug in the details of your event and the email address of each member. The site not only sends the invitations, but allows your members to respond directly back to the hostess.

**Use text messaging.** Whether you text to remind a sister of an upcoming meeting, invite her to a spontaneous get together, or just to say you are thinking of her, text messaging can be an effective way to communicate quickly—especially for those who seem to be permanently attached to their smart phones!

If you’ve been thinking these are great ideas for members of all ages, you are right! The art of communication is very personal and the key to doing it effectively is knowing how your chapter sisters prefer to connect. Have the conversation at your next meeting. Discuss ways to integrate some of these methods into your existing practices, especially as they relate to members who aren’t able to attend on a regular basis. Much like cookies, everyone has their favorite flavor and you don’t know what it is until you ask.
P.E.O. Jean Springer Recognized as a WOMAN WHO IMPACTED Calgary History

“She Who Dares” Project was part of Canada’s 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2017

by Heather Worton, L, Calgary, Alberta

Jean Springer, L, Calgary, Alberta, was selected as one of the women recognized in the Calgary YWCA’s “She Who Dares” project to celebrate Canada’s sesquicentennial in 2017 by centering on sharing women’s history. The stories of 150 incredible women who have impacted Calgary during the last 150 plus years were highlighted and celebrated in an interactive installation. The intent of this project was to acknowledge that women have always impacted history, but not all their stories have been told and many of their accomplishments came at a time when women were discouraged from stepping outside their limited roles.

Jean was chosen to represent the year 1987 and recognized for her contributions and accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science education in Calgary and Alberta. From her earliest days as a child in Jamaica, she has loved math and science. She completed a double honors degree in math and physics at the University of West Indies and taught for a short time in Trinidad before coming to Vancouver where her husband pursued an engineering degree. Soon Jean, as wife, homemaker and mother of three, became a full-time student and teaching assistant while completing a Master of Science in mathematics at Simon Fraser University. She continued on to complete a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Calgary some years later.

Jean continued to teach and went on to become Chair of the Department of Math, Physics and Engineering, and also Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Mount Royal University in Calgary. She helped found and lead the Alberta Women’s Science Network (AWSN), working to attract and retain women in science, technology, engineering and math professions. She was honored by the AWSN as a Mentor of Distinction in 2006.

Although retired, Jean continues to be asked to teach a class or course or give a presentation because of her undiminished passion for math and her dedication to educating students.

Jean was initiated into Chapter L in 2003 and currently serves on the provincial finance committee. Although often quiet and ever modest, we know her as a composed, gracious, clever, witty, talented, capable and generous woman; an accomplished photographer, keen gardener, great storyteller, dedicated grandmother and much appreciated sister in our chapter.

The stories of 150 incredible women who have impacted Calgary during the last 150 plus years were highlighted and celebrated in an interactive installation.
OCTOBER 22, 2017, WAS A DAY I’LL NEVER FORGET.

On this day, I successfully finished the Columbia Gorge marathon in beautiful Hood River, Oregon. This also became the day I completed one of my major life goals of successfully running a 26.2 marathon in all 50 states. I was born into a family who loves running and have been at it since I was about six years old. Being active as a youngster in track, basketball, golf and softball, I continued my love of running after heading off to college. Soon, I became interested in long distance running and ran my first full marathon in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1995. Thinking back, I didn’t really know what I was doing but learned from my father (a marathoner himself) about how to train and what to expect during the run. My marathon in 1995 led to another soon after in 1996 in Duluth, Minnesota. I’m not sure if I was hooked at that point but did continue running long distances until my 10th marathon in Nashville, Tennessee, which made me eligible for the 50 States Marathon Club. Hitting this milestone solidified my goal of wanting to become a certified member of this group.
From 2008 until October of 2017, I was fortunate enough to travel and sightsee to the remaining 40 states. Altitude in states like Wyoming and Utah and the 105 degree temperature in Kona, Hawaii, made running a bit more demanding. But, courses like Chicago and Big Sur in California made me realize how lucky and grateful I was to have the opportunity to run. A few marathons I completed alone but for the majority, I had friends along to go the 26.2 miles or family cheering me on out on the route. For a few years I was completing six or seven marathons per year, and twice I completed what they call a “double.” A double marathon is finishing one marathon on Saturday and then one on Sunday. Doubles are popular on the east coast where the geography allows runners to easily drive to another state after the first race and run the next day. I realize this may sound completely crazy to some but for a woman living in the Midwest, one airline ticket and two states checked off the list made this idea completely reasonable to me. In all honesty, the training regime for a double was the hard part. I would run a long run (16 miles, for example) on Saturday then run “shorter” (12 miles, for example) on Sunday. This routine, coupled with three other training runs between five and seven miles per week was tough. But, besides the positive of getting two states knocked out in a weekend, I did enjoy a different challenge of running 52.4 miles in two days. My first double was in 2012 where I ran in Bristol, New Hampshire, then Portland, Maine, the following day. The second double took place in Hartford, Connecticut, and Newport, Rhode Island, in 2014.

Running for me has been a cost-effective therapy. Hitting the pavement in the early morning allows me to prepare for my full day of work at United Healthcare while also getting in valuable exercise. I enjoy the stillness and quiet of the streets before others are up and about. Marathoning has given me an identity that less than one percent of Americans can claim. I have attempted to use this identity to show others that setting goals, working hard and pushing over unseen hurdles is possible if you believe in yourself.

All of the hard work, sweat and occasional tears got me to my final state of Oregon in October 2017. I was fortunate enough to be accompanied by three running buddies and 22 friends/family members who all enjoyed the beautiful Columbia Gorge area. We all had such a good time celebrating my milestone that weekend. When I finished the Oregon marathon, I became one out of about 475 women worldwide who have completed this goal and one out of 16 in my home state of Missouri.

For now, I have returned to my 4:45 a.m. wake-up call to continue my exercise routine of running four days per week, hitting the gym and attending a Pilates class. I also continue to meet every Saturday morning with a group of runners in Kansas City who are running long distances. For my future goals, I plan on helping a friend pursue her 50 marathons/50 states goal and supporting Girls on the Run (a running club for grade school girls). One bucket list goal is to travel to Greece to run the original marathon course.

JENNIFER EVERETT, MT, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, is a second-generation P.E.O. She also had a great, great aunt who was a member of Chapter EC in Traer, Iowa, (initiated on 10/26/1948). Jennifer grew up in Chillicothe, Missouri, and was initiated in 1987 into Chapter T, Chillicothe. She graduated from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 1994 with her Masters in Health Administration. She’s been working in healthcare ever since and recently celebrated her 10–year anniversary with United Healthcare.

Background image: Jennifer passing the Shiprock formation on the Navajo Indian Reservation near the four corners area of New Mexico, at 4,700 feet elevation.
Women helping women reach for the stars

The Power of P.E.O.

Sisters Connect and Collaborate to Support Education in an Ethiopian Community

by Ruth Wagemann Martin, Sally Cress and Angelique Smith, BX, Columbus, Ohio

When our Chapter BX sister, Angelique Smith, traveled to help Habitat for Humanity build mud houses for those in need in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia, she never imagined it would lead to helping build a beautiful school in their village. The local community leaders came to the U.S. Habitat Global build team and asked if they would help the village build their children a school close to home. So many children did not go to school because the one available was far away and the journey arduous. Little ones could not make the trip and many girls dropped out to help care for younger siblings at home.

Angelique and the Habitat team leader, Colleen Kaleda, a professor at Portland State University, started work as soon as they arrived home to cofound the new nonprofit, The Community Project: Ethiopia. The commitment was made. The children of Debre Birhan, and their village of 4,000 in the highlands of Ethiopia, 120 kilometers northeast of the capital, Addis Ababa, would have their own neighborhood school.

Like P.E.O.’s mission, education is the focus of The Community Project’s effort with the school as its cornerstone. Angelique knows education changes everything, empowering children with life changing choices, broadening their own opportunities, the lives of their children and the future of their entire community.

The mission of the project is to build a sustainably designed kindergarten through eighth grade school, a community center, classroom vegetable gardens, composting latrines and innovative microenterprise. The project is now recognized at the United Nations as a model for all of Ethiopia, as it includes its own brick factory, independent water supply from the nearby Baresse River and a bamboo propagation nursery to develop new jobs with the fastest growing plant in the world. Bamboo will be used as a renewable resource of building material for construction and furniture making.

Working with their visionary village leader, the mayor of Debre Birhan, and officials from the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, the local leaders created a Community Development Committee to provide oversight and steer the project from the community’s perspective. Families pledged their volunteer labor and are invested in the partnership from planning to implementation.

In 2014, work began with the generous technical partnership of three Engineers Without Borders teams in Portland, Maine; Denver, Colorado and Portland, Oregon. The Debre Birhan mayor offered a beautiful 10 acre site to be the home for the school, gardens, orchards, community center, playground, soccer field, 400-meter track and a microenterprise. The Community Center will be home for adult skills development, computer training, a place for youth and the community to meet for group meals and celebrations: all activities that encourage individuals to connect and thrive. The classroom gardens will teach children about growing their own healthy vegetables, fruits and herbs with emphasis on seed saving. The children will be encouraged to take their new knowledge of gardening and composting home with the seeds and plant their own family cottage gardens. Vegetable culture in Ethiopia is relatively new and this addition of vegetables and fruits to the children’s diet will greatly enhance their nutrition and good health.

P.E.O.-Inspired Partnership with Kids Around the World

A special P.E.O. connection was made as Angelique was giving the program at one of our Chapter BX meetings and updating her sisters on The Community Project. Sister Wilma Ford shared that her daughter, Melissa Lounsbury, a non–resident member of Chapter BX, worked for an Illinois based non–profit, Kids Around the World, which provides children in impoverished countries with refurbished playground equipment. For months, with unwavering dedication, Melissa worked to guide a remarkable young donor, Tara Hernandez, through the fundraising process to donate an extensive collection of playground equipment to the school in Ethiopia. Thanks to this P.E.O.–inspired partnership, the children in Ethiopia have a state–of–the–art playground that thankfully made its way safely by ship, past the Red Sea pirates off Yemen, to the port of Djibouti and overland to Debre Birhan.

The children of Debre Birhan had never seen a playground and one of the parents in the community who had been to the capital, recognized what it was, a place in honor of children. In the capital, there is an entrance fee required to play on playgrounds. A father, with tears in his eyes, told Angelique that she had made their poor children, “rich children” because they now had the opportunity to play on a playground.
Angelique adds, “You hear the sound of laughter and squeals of happiness ringing out across the fields hour after hour, day after day.” This never existed there before and now the valley is changed forever. We were told parents would not come to play with their children, they were working so hard, and especially fathers were not expected to come. Instead, from far across the fields, fathers can be seen carrying small children on their shoulders and holding hands with older ones coming to play on the playground.

**Book Bags from Chapter BX**

Last spring, our Chapter BX sister, Katy Greenhill, called Angelique to ask if the children attending the new school would like some book bags. Katy suggested that we might sew a book bag for each child and Chapter BX sisters enthusiastically sprang into action. We gathered donated fabric; Riverside United Methodist Church provided a room for our sisters to cut fabric, sew and stencil a heart on each book bag; and a local upholstery company donated the use of an industrial sewing machine to attach straps to the bags. To-date, over 250 book bags are ready to accompany Angelique on her next trip to Debre Birhan. We are sending permanent ink pens for the teachers to write the children’s names on their bags.

For most of the children, the book bag will be the first thing that’s ever been their very own.

Chapter BX is extremely proud of Angelique Smith and her remarkable work. Together we are working to send our love and a message of special P.E.O. care to the children of Debre Birhan.

The Community Project vision is grounded in the African proverb: “If you want to travel fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, go together.” P.E.O. is part of the team.
FROM GREEN CARD TO BLUE PASSPORT:

P.E.O. Rosa Ochoa’s Journey to U.S. Citizenship

by Kelly Kemp-McLintock and Rosa Maria Ochoa, BI, Springdale, Arkansas

Rosa taking the oath to become a citizen of the United States

Rosa with the judge who presided over her naturalization ceremony on August 18, 2017

Rosa outside the Federal Courthouse in Fort Smith, Arkansas
On Friday, August 18, 2017, Rosa Maria Ochoa raised her right hand to take the oath to become a United States citizen at the naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was surrounded by family, close friends and several of her P.E.O. sisters. It was a heartfelt day when people representing some 23 different countries officially became American citizens. Rosy (as she is lovingly known to her friends and P.E.O. sisters) reflects on her journey from being an immigrant to becoming a legal citizen of the United States.

My name is Rosa Ochoa and I’m writing about something that I’ve been longing for quite a few years—to become a citizen of the United States of America. I want to share my story with others not just to encourage you to appreciate the little things and perks of this amazing country, but to share an immigrant’s perspective and gratitude toward all of you who embrace immigrants and celebrate diversity. Many people aren’t aware of how uncertain things are outside the United States. I have lived in a culture of insecurity and political bureaucracy. It’s wonderful now to live and move freely in this great country.

I was born and lived in Chihuahua, the biggest state in Mexico, located in the northern part of the country, right on the border with Texas, for more than 35 years. That was until my husband and I became U.S. residents holding what is called a “green card” back in 2011. In 2012, we relocated with our three children (Roberto, Elisa and Paulina) to northwest Arkansas. My husband, Roberto, was so fortunate to have opened a transportation and logistics company and we embraced the experience of a new language and new culture.

The first thing that really caught our attention was the beautiful greenery and scenery of the Ozark Mountain Region, particularly coming from a dry desert town. In addition, we enjoy the climate, the four distinct seasons and the variety of wildlife. We also fell in love with the people in the south who are so welcoming and hospitable. Arkansans are very friendly people that get straight to the point and I just love that. Residents are involved in their neighborhoods, in their churches and in their communities by collaborating in groups to support different causes. We love it here and plan to be here through retirement. We like the relaxed lifestyle and quality of life here.

I have found northwest Arkansas an inclusive place to live. I’ve been invited to join several groups for different causes and activities and one that I really enjoy is P.E.O. Chapter BI, which supports women in pursuing education and professional careers.

The five years of holding a green card that’s required to apply for citizenship went by fast. After filling out the application for citizenship, and going through the meticulous process of fingerprints, history, geography and civics test as well as a thorough interview by an officer of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, we finally got a letter in the mail notifying us of the big day—we would officially take the oath and become U.S. citizens on August 18, 2017, at the Federal Courthouse in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The naturalization ceremony was almost as exciting as when my husband and I got married. We were all dressed up and it was wonderful to have family, friends and the support of P.E.O. sisters there with us for the ceremony and to share in the joy with us. Tears of joy ran down my face while taking the oath to become a citizen of the United States. It was a dream come true. I experienced a feeling of acceptance and peace.

The ceremony itself is a treasure to be remembered. As soon as the ceremony was over we went to the social security office to change our legal status from “U.S. resident” to “U.S. citizen” Oh! How great it feels to say that. Immediately after, we ran to the post office and applied for U.S. passports. It was so satisfying two weeks later to open the mailbox and see the official blue passports arrive. That little, but precious, blue book meant we would never, ever, again go through the mistreatment and instigation from immigration officers at the international border, checkpoints or airports. Thank you, God, for this great country that embraced us. Thank you, United States of America. Thank you, Arkansas. I’m so thankful to be here. This is a great country. There are so many opportunities. I feel safe here. I am supported. I am accepted.

This past year has brought a range of emotions for Rosy and her family. Just prior to her naturalization ceremony, Rosy was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is currently traveling to Mexico once a month to receive needed chemotherapy treatments. She is hopeful for a positive outcome. She says she’s been blessed with having the support of so many people including her P.E.O. sisters who are praying for her full recovery. Lana Hampton, president of Chapter BI, Springdale, Arkansas, says, “Having Rosy as a P.E.O. sister adds a dimension to our chapter that’s really special. She is quite a phenomenal woman; her life experiences, talents and character deepen the bond of sisterhood that we share in Chapter BI. We are so happy for her and her husband, Roberto, becoming U.S. citizens.”
Calling all **P.E.O. International** Facebook Followers!

We appreciate all of you and strive to provide important, useful content in our posts. To guarantee you don’t miss any posts, go to our **PEO International** Facebook page, click “Following” and select “See First.”

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**Do You Know That You Are a Philanthropist?**

**WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD “PHILANTHROPIST,” WHO COMES TO MIND?**

Carnegie, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt? But what about you? Yes, you! Does it occur to you that you are a philanthropist too?

Let’s do a little math and see what your impact is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount you give each year to P.E.O. and other charities</th>
<th>$___________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of years of your lifetime of giving</td>
<td>x __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiply the two together and see your impact!</td>
<td>= $__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merriam–Webster defines a philanthropist as “one who makes an active effort to promote human welfare.” It also defines philanthropy as “an act or gift done or made for humanitarian purposes.” That sure sounds like what you do for P.E.O. when you give to the P.E.O. Foundation or to any of our P.E.O. International educational projects.

> So the next time you hear about a philanthropist making a gift, pat yourself on the back. You do that and more as a P.E.O.
When I was a high school senior, I sought a scholarship from a local organization. Part of the application process was a presentation before a group of about 30 adults. I laid out my sterling qualifications, as did five other students. When my friend Tiffany approached the podium, she set a pretty, high-heeled sandal front and center on it, and gave her speech. At the end she said, “I’m sure you’re wondering why this shoe is here. It’s because I knew it would be a long night. I wanted you to keep listening, as you waited to learn why the shoe was here. And you did!” The audience roared, and she won the scholarship. Now, Tiffany was not an outstanding scholar, nor was her resume particularly robust. But she was prepared, creative, developed a connection with the audience—and she was memorable.

There are many benefits derived from putting some thought into your speaking opportunities, whether it’s a full-blown speech or a committee report in a chapter meeting. Imagine the difference in results if your fundraising committee kicked off the year as follows:

“The Ways and Means Committee will try to come up with some ways to make $10,000 again, to meet our budget. We’ll keep you posted!”

Or...

“We are handing out a history of our chapter fundraising over the last eight years. The chapter’s goal is to target a five percent annual increase so that we keep up with the cost of education, making our goal this year $10,500. For perspective, this would cover 40 percent of one student’s annual cost at the local university. You see from this chart that we’ve done a terrific job in the past hitting our growth goal, and you’ll remember all the fun we had doing it. Raising funds to support the P.E.O. projects is step one towards helping women improve their lives. First up is a dance party!”

Remember, when you speak publicly you should have a clear goal. Are we trying to call people to action? Change behavior? Change attitudes? We don’t give committee reports in our P.E.O. meetings because we love long meetings. We do it to inform the chapter, create alignment and lay the groundwork for inspired support of our mission! A boring or ill-prepared report is a lost opportunity.

Leadership trainer Guila Muir, in her article All Presenting is Persuasive, reminds us to always step back and think about our audience. “This is important to you because…” Or put more directly, “So what?”

At www.peoleadership.org, there are several communications resources that will help you to focus and refine your presentation, regardless of its scope.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE | LDI

“Spectacular achievement is always preceded by unspectacular preparation.” – Robert H. Schuller
MEMBERSHIP

10 Ways to EMPOWER Your Local Chapter Membership Committee

by Jan Loftin, Vice Chairman, P.E.O. Membership Committee

Did you know that the local chapter membership committee may be the most important committee in your chapter? REALLY? Yes REALLY!

Our Sisterhood’s membership is the heart and soul of everything P.E.O.! If our organization is going to remain vital and relevant in today’s competitive extracurricular environment we must nurture our current members and attract new members who will help our Sisterhood thrive! Your membership committee should be made up of enthusiastic members who will guide the chapter in assessing, promoting and maintaining chapter vitality.

These 10 tips are guaranteed to empower every local chapter membership committee:

1. **Know your stuff!**
   Review the resources provided in the Red Membership Toolbox on the P.E.O. website (www.peointernational.org). This is a fabulous collection of resources that if used, is guaranteed to make you the best membership committee member you can be.

2. **Keep a notebook to use during your term and to pass on to your successor.** Include:
   • the “Membership Begins With Me!” guide found in the Red Membership Toolbox
   • the calendar suggested in the guide
   • the monthly Hot Spot newsletter
   • a list of your unaffiliates
   • Introduction of a Woman Who is Not a P.E.O. forms

3. **Help your chapter set and reach annual membership goals; review your progress with the chapter often.**

4. **Give a membership report at every meeting.**
   Material for a membership moment is provided every month in the Hot Spot newsletter.

5. **Assess your chapter health during the year and share the results.**

6. **Enlist the help of your chapter in inviting unaffiliates to meetings or social events.**

7. **Give an annual membership program.**
   There is a plethora of ideas for programs in the Red Membership Toolbox. Check it out!

8. **Help the chapter nurture and mentor new members—initiates, transfers in and reinstated members.**

9. **Develop a plan for keeping in touch with nonparticipating members, inactives and nonresident members.**

10. **Your whole chapter makes healthy membership possible.**
    Celebrate often!

All of the resources to strengthen your chapter’s membership are at your fingertips on the international website, located in the Red Membership Toolbox. If you have not been there lately, now is a great time to check out these valuable tools. You will find suggestions on what to do if you have nonparticipating members. There is some very helpful information to use for a chapter program, such as “Choosing to Become an O&A Woman,” as well as other resources to help you sustain membership. If your chapter needs a boost in vitality, you can find many suggestions for activities to bring your chapter members closer together in the Chapter Health section. Initiating new members into your chapter requires nurturing them until they “become” P.E.O.s. Yes, that information is there also. So if you’re on the membership committee in your chapter you can be the one who spearheads these activities using the resources in the Red Membership Toolbox.
Q&A with ELF All-Stars: How Two Local Chapters Achieve Great Success in Finding ELF Applicants

by Ann Lambert, P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund Board of Trustees

Have you heard? The P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF) is 111 years young, and thanks to amazing support from local chapters we just keep getting better! It was a joy to reach out to a couple of chapters that are truly “ELF All-Stars” to learn about their keys to success. Angela Kolste, CL, Ogallala, Nebraska, and Lois Maclennan, T, Winnipeg, Manitoba, recently filled me in on the culture of their chapters and provided some great tips on how to find and support ELF applicants. Chapter CL has reached the amazing milestone of 110 applicants in our 111 years and Chapter T has reached 132 applicants!

Q: Tell me a little about the culture of your chapters. What makes you so excited about ELF?

Angela: Our chapter was organized on October 25, 1921, and I am so proud to say that my maternal grandmother, Ethel F. Worden was one of the 14 charter members. My mother, Dorothy Worden Hagge, was the chair of the ELF committee as I was growing up, and I was so impressed with the “college girls” she would interview and counsel at our dining room table. It has left a lasting impression on me and I am so proud to be a part of an organization that does so much to help and promote women. When we have a recipient, all our members enjoy providing encouragement for their endeavors.

Lois: Our chapter has found recipients from an extended circle, including relatives, friends of children and grandchildren, people we meet in the service industry, such as a hairdresser or dental hygienist and people we know through other organizations, such as book club, church, co-workers or the gym. Our slogan is: Always remember that where there is one ELF student, there are many other potential students.

Q: Where do you find the women you sponsor for ELF?

Angela: The entire chapter keeps their eyes and ears open for potential candidates. I take an interest in each year’s graduating class and try to keep track of each young woman in her quest for higher education. I also talk with teachers and guidance counselors to get ideas for any potential candidate. Looking over our list of names, I am reminded how many girls we have sponsored who are sisters. We also have a mother and two daughters on the list of ELF women.

Lois: Our chapter has found recipients from an extended circle, including relatives, friends of children and grandchildren, people we meet in the service industry, such as a hairdresser or dental hygienist and people we know through other organizations, such as book club, church, co-workers or the gym. Our slogan is: Always remember that where there is one ELF student, there are many other potential students.

Q: Do you have a chapter committee that does all of your ELF work?

Angela: It is customary for us to choose the committees we are interested in. We try to mix up the committees each year so we all have the opportunity to work with different sisters and expand our talents and knowledge.

Lois: Our entire chapter keeps their eyes and ears open for potential candidates. I take an interest in each year’s graduating class and try to keep track of each young woman in her quest for higher education. I also talk with teachers and guidance counselors to get ideas for any potential candidate. Looking over our list of names, I am reminded how many girls we have sponsored who are sisters. We also have a mother and two daughters on the list of ELF women.

Q: How do you keep in touch with your ELF recipients?

Angela: Mostly through texts and emails, which I then report to the chapter. We have also had several of these young women give the program at our meetings. They appreciate both the financial and moral support we give them.

Lois: Our chapter has found recipients from an extended circle, including relatives, friends of children and grandchildren, people we meet in the service industry, such as a hairdresser or dental hygienist and people we know through other organizations, such as book club, church, co-workers or the gym. Our slogan is: Always remember that where there is one ELF student, there are many other potential students.

Q: What keeps your chapter so engaged with finding and supporting ELF applicants?

Angela: We have seen so many of our candidates return to our rural area and give back to our community. Many thanks and congratulations to these two chapters for their amazing support of ELF. What is your chapter’s ELF story?

Lois: Our chapter goal is to sponsor recipients until we reach and then exceed a total of $1,000,000 in ELF loans!

Q: How do you typically approach the subject of ELF once you have met a woman you think might be a future applicant?

Lois: My opening line is, "Aren’t tuitions unbelievably expensive now? I really don’t know many students who can complete a program without loans and grants. An organization I belong to assists students. I want you to visit our website to see if you might qualify for any of our projects and then let’s talk. Here’s my number."

Angela: Mostly through texts and emails, which I then report to the chapter. We have also had several of these young women give the program at our meetings. They appreciate both the financial and moral support we give them.

Many thanks and congratulations to these two chapters for their amazing support of ELF. What is your chapter’s ELF story?

How does your chapter find ELF applicants?

How do you support them through their schooling?

Email stories and photos to mediamanager@peodsm.org for a chance to have your ELF story featured on our social media accounts.

Katherine Armstrong (pictured to the left) is the 103rd recipient sponsored by Chapter CL, Ogallala, Nebraska, who recently gave a chapter program, and Chapter T, Winnipeg, Manitoba, has sponsored 132 ELF applicants.
Ruth Hope Mwandira is the mother of four children and grandmother of two. She was an International Peace Scholarship (IPS) recipient in 2008–2009 and completed her Ph.D. at the age of 50 and continues to inspire the women of Malawi who say, “it is never too late for further education, look at Ruth.”

Ruth graduated in 2011 from Oregon State University with her Ph.D. in public health and is currently a Health and HIV AIDS Adviser at the Department of International Development, UKAid, Malawi. She is working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights that includes family planning, nutrition and HIV and AIDS programs. Ruth is passionate about girls’ education and women’s empowerment issues and is interested in contributing to social justice causes that help remove the barriers that stand in the way of development.

While studying in Oregon, Ruth was greatly inspired by the P.E.O. chapter members who raised funds to help other women further their education and how these women embraced Ruth and her family, making them feel at home. She now belongs to two women’s groups, Maziko (meaning roots) and CARLEAF, and runs a savings and loan facility to help women in small business where she shares the P.E.O. concept. These organizations identify and help girls who need school fees and items to continue their education.

Ruth writes,

“I would like to thank P.E.O. for your support and for not putting barriers such as age limit and country of origin in your support to women. Indeed, because of your support, I have reaped a lot of dividends in terms of numbers of women who have been inspired by my example including my own two daughters, Lily and Linda.”

Lily, Ruth’s daughter, received her IPS award in 2017–2018 and received her Masters of Public Health from the University of Colorado in Community Health in May 2018. She credits her family for always being supportive of education and for teaching their children to fight against inequality and challenge social injustices. Throughout her childhood Lily recalls her mother’s dedication to empowering women by eliminating gender inequalities and inequities.

Lily returned to Malawi after her mother received her Ph.D. with a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition. Before returning to the U.S. to study, Lily worked at two non–governmental organizations in Malawi, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Theatre for a Change.

Lily credits many influences in her life for molding her into the person she is and feels that everything that has happened and continues to happen directs her toward realizing her goal of helping people.

Lily writes, “I am extremely thankful to P.E.O., not only for the support but for the friendship and sincere generosity they show to women like me who have big dreams and goals. Thank you P.E.O. for showing us that these dreams are valid.”
A creative spirit began to stir in Jesse Mumm at a very young age when a neighbor taught her about drawing. Jesse recalls, “She was a huge influence in my love for art. When I was 11 years old I took my first wheel throwing class at a local museum and fell head over heels in love.” When the museum stopped offering classes, Jesse went on to take every other art class available to her while in high school and through the local arts community.

After several years working in the hotel industry, Jesse was drawn back to the potter’s wheel and launched her own business, Mumm’s Mud, producing a variety of pieces sold through local galleries and art fairs. Word of her talent created a large following and then when demand leveled off, she began to search for a new vocation.

While Jesse deliberated her career options, her sister, Josie, began to lose her hearing to Meniere’s disease. It is likely that Josie’s hearing loss will be permanent, fluctuating in severity throughout her lifetime. This confluence of events was startling for Jesse. She needed to embark on a new career and she wanted to help her sister Josie. Suddenly she realized she could both use her talented hands and assist her sister by becoming an American Sign Language interpreter.

Jesse enrolled at Scott Community College where Laura Scott, Chapter OM, Bettendorf, Iowa, serves as a member of the foundation. Working closely with college administrators, Laura asked them to help spread the word about P.E.O. philanthropies. She also offered to visit with students interested in pursuing Program for Continuing Education grants. “Jesse had the gumption to make a call,” Laura remembers.

Chapter OM successfully sponsored Jesse for a PCE grant during her second year of the three-year certification program in American Sign Language Interpretation. Jesse is now on track to graduate in May 2019. Although the coursework is demanding, Jesse is a committed student. In addition, she continues to produce unique pieces for Mumm’s Mud and works part-time as an administrative assistant at Scott County Kids, a non-profit focused on keeping youth out of the Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court System in Scott County.

Jesse’s passion for serving the deaf community has continued to grow as she works to finish her degree. It is likely that Josie’s hearing loss will be permanent, fluctuating in severity throughout her lifetime.

Upon graduation she plans to apply for a job at an area video relay center that provides videophone service for the deaf. She also hopes to work on a freelance basis to provide sign language interpretation with the long term goal to become a court-certified sign language interpreter.

Laura Scott and the sisters of Chapter OM remain in touch with Jesse as she works toward completing her certification. They also support her work as a potter by commissioning her to make hundreds of daisy key chains embossed with “P.E.O.” as a fundraiser for the 2018 Convention of Iowa State Chapter. “I think it is really special to support our PCE recipient in this way,” reflected Laura.

Chapter OM sisters remain focused on the purpose of P.E.O. as they help women reach for the stars, and they are committed to searching for eligible candidates and helping them achieve their educational goals. As Laura remarks, “We keep our eyes open for those in need.”
Is your chapter wondering about the best way to find a highly qualified candidate to nominate for a P.E.O. Scholar Award? Well, it is not as difficult as you may think. Below are three easy steps that will help you succeed.

**STEP 1. INVESTIGATE**

Start by finding which of your state, province or district institutions of higher education have doctoral programs. Focusing on programs near you can make it easier to establish a connection.

In the United States, you can use the college navigator tool on the National Center for Education Statistics website to find colleges with doctoral programs. [https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)

In Canada, you can use the Canadian Universities website. [http://www.canadian-universities.net/Universities/Programs/Doctorate.html](http://www.canadian-universities.net/Universities/Programs/Doctorate.html)

You can also use connections your chapter sisters may have with local college personnel. Get their advice about highly-regarded doctoral programs and who might be the best contact.

**STEP 2. KNOW THE DETAILS**

Before personally contacting local colleges or universities, it is important to review the eligibility requirements on the Scholar Award website. [https://members.peointernational.org/peo-projects/scholar-awards/psa-eligibility-requirements](https://members.peointernational.org/peo-projects/scholar-awards/psa-eligibility-requirements)

Beyond these criteria, always remember to look for excellence. Seek out serious, goal-oriented scholars who are excited about their subject and who are in the process of creating new knowledge or finding new discoveries through their research. Recipients of Scholar Awards are outstanding women who can already demonstrate evidence of making significant contributions to their chosen fields.

**STEP 3. MAKE CONTACT**

Once you have researched the institution and reviewed Scholar Award eligibility requirements, then it is time to contact university officials of doctoral programs to inform them about the P.E.O Scholar Awards and to ask for referrals for their top women doctoral candidates. Spring and summer semesters are excellent times to begin looking for a Scholar Award nominee.

The best point of contact may be different depending on the organizational structure of the institution and the willingness to make referrals. If you do not already have an established contact, consider contacting the office of graduate studies and requesting a recommendation.

Remember that the further along a woman is in her program, the better her chances are for selection. A program of research, additional awards and publications will help you identify more competitive candidates.

Always remember to also ask for permission to leave the P.E.O. Scholar Award Information Card at the college department. [https://members.peointernational.org/resource/psa-information-card](https://members.peointernational.org/resource/psa-information-card)

It is very important to place it strategically in the buildings of the best doctoral programs on campus, not just near the graduate school office. Please note that you cannot advertise for a scholar by placing information regarding the P.E.O Scholar Awards on the website of any college or university.

By following these three key steps, your chapter will create an effective path for finding a potential P.E.O. Scholar Award candidate.
STAR Scholarship

STAR Referral VIPs: How High School Counselors Can Help You Find Quality STAR Candidates

by Jayme Resnik, P.E.O. STAR Scholarship Board of Trustees

Good news from STAR! Thanks to the generosity of our sisters, 3,452 young women from all over the U.S. and Canada have been recipients of a $2,500 P.E.O. STAR Scholarship since STAR’s first year in 2009. The total of these scholarships is an impressive $8,635,000. There were 520 scholarships awarded for 2017-2018. Because of your commitment to the STAR Scholarship as well as the $20.17 Challenge, we were able to award 760 scholarships for 2018-2019! The STAR Trustees would like to thank you for your generous support by either donation, sponsorship or both to P.E.O.’s youngest philanthropy! All donations go directly to the scholarship awards. The number of scholarships awarded is commensurate with the donations received.

Before you begin looking for that perfect STAR candidate the local school counseling office should be your first stop. The counseling office works one-on-one with students as they begin to pursue their higher education goals. Because counselors work so closely with students they know which girls in the senior class exemplify our STAR Scholarship attributes. So, before you make that appointment, it pays to gather and review information that helps articulate the STAR qualities that will culminate with a winning application. Take it along with you for your visit and leave it with the counselor for future reference. Please remember to highlight application deadlines as well as your contact information. The following information illustrates just what you are looking for in your chapter’s STAR nominee.

What is needed to achieve this prestigious award?

Look at the STAR diagram as your candidate will need to have all five points well represented to be considered for this prestigious award.

Who is a STAR candidate? Every educator knows her—she is among the amazing young women who serve to perpetuate all that is right and good in her school, community and world. She may not be the top student, although STAR requires a 3.0 or better unweighted GPA, but she works diligently to produce the best she has to offer. She may not lead every club in her high school, but she is a young woman who exemplifies leadership through the decisions she makes and the respect that she has gained from those who know her. She is actively involved in a wide variety of activities and is a positive role model for her peers. She may not spend every waking hour involved in community service, but she is involved throughout her high school years in ways to improve her local community, her state or perhaps even the world. She may not be known by everyone, but her references know her well and take the time to present her in the brightest of lights. She may not have won writing awards, but her essay reveals the inner girl—her inspiration, her motivation and her aspirations.

A STAR candidate displays all of these attributes and so much more. She is aware—one who sees a need and works to meet it. She is a kind and caring citizen—making others feel comfortable is her trademark. She is the girl with that special sparkle—the one who brightens your day. She offers the promise of a vibrant, productive future for herself and society.

A STAR candidate is that special girl whose light will shine well into the future. Every point of her star quality is fully developed and clearly visible. Give your high school guidance counselors the opportunity to promote a STAR from her section of the sky!

A STAR candidate is not elusive—she is shining brightly right before your eyes! I encourage you to seek out your high school counselor to not only find a wonderful candidate, but to also share the mission of P.E.O.
New Presidents* of State, Provincial and District (S/P/D) Chapters will be installed at S/P/D conventions this spring. These leaders will help shape the future of our Sisterhood and have already dedicated years of service to P.E.O. In the next few issues of The Record we will meet the committed women who are your S/P/D Chapter Presidents.

*Presidents from the blue highlighted areas are featured in this issue.
DONNA STEINFORT
Alaska
Growing P.E.O. in Alaska—One Daisy at a Time

Donna Steinfort has the pleasure of serving as the second president of the newly formed Alaska State Chapter. She was initiated into Chapter H, Ketchikan, Alaska, in 1999, transferred to Chapter E, Anchorage, in 2002, and served as the selector and first president of Chapter Q, Chugiak, when it was formed in 2008. She was heavily involved in the formation of the Alaska State Chapter, serving as the co-chair for the Convocation held in 2016.

Donna was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, but later moved to Maryland where she met her husband, Gary. While Gary attended the Coast Guard Academy, she attended American University, graduating with a degree in psychology and sociology. Her husband’s 30-year Coast Guard career took the family from Key West to Alaska, with many points in between. Her I.R.S. career easily transferred with the changing military duty stations.

Donna and Gary have two grown children, Kristen Santos and Eric Steinfort, and two grandsons. Daughter Kristen is a member of Chapter BI, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Donna loves to travel, attend OLE classes and theater, and is active in the Kairos Prison Ministry, working with inmates at the local women’s prison.

MARGUERITE (MARGY) HARTWIG
Alberta–Saskatchewan
Celebrate—Move Our Star Forward!

Born and raised in Tecumseh, Nebraska, Margy Hartwig first heard about P.E.O. from family friends, but it was not until she moved to Canada that she became a member. A parent of a client invited her to a P.E.O. coffee party. The enthusiasm of the members in attendance and their bonds of friendship persuaded her to become a P.E.O. Margy was initiated in Chapter K, Edmonton, Alberta, in 1985.

Margy completed her Master of Arts degree in speech-language pathology in 1974. Employment opportunities in Nova Scotia would land her in Canada where she has spent her adult life. After a short time in the Maritimes she moved to Alberta and devoted more than 40 years to a career in speech-language pathology. She has been actively involved in many volunteer opportunities including president of the Speech and Hearing Association of Alberta and her local golf league.

She met her late husband, Russ, in university and they have two sons. Son Matthew is married to Anna; their children are David and Emma. Son Alex is married to Kim; their son is Jasper. Margy’s family is the joy of her life. Moving several times with her husband’s career Margy instantly felt welcome in her new transfer chapters, M, Calgary, and her current chapter, O, Red Deer.

Margy enjoys traveling, sports, reading, duplicate bridge and cooking. Upon retirement in June she hopes to find another Schnauzer to make her life complete.

SALLIE HARTNETT
Arizona
Color the World with P.E.O.

Sallie Hartnett’s P.E.O. journey began in Anchorage, Alaska, where a P.E.O. saw her son, Caelan’s, birth announcement in the newspaper from her hometown of Cody, Wyoming. Betty Heald reached out to Sallie and introduced her to a wonderful group of women. Sallie was initiated into Chapter E, Anchorage, in 1995, not long after her daughter, Erin, was born.

Sallie met her husband, Brett, working in Yellowstone National Park over the summer. His service in the Army and Air Force as a combat air rescue helicopter pilot moved them to Alabama, Korea, Washington, Alaska, Florida, Montana, Italy, Iceland and finally to Vail, Arizona. Sallie began her pharmacy career as a clinical pharmacist after graduating from the University of Washington. She has worked in both hospital and community settings. While living in Italy and Iceland, Sallie volunteered with Air Force and NATO spouses’ groups, raising money for local charities and scholarships for Americans stationed overseas.

Sallie was a charter member of her current chapter, FC, Vail, Arizona, transferring from Chapter BB, Billings, Montana. Since beginning her state service, her aunt Shirley Chase became her first P.E.O. family member. Sallie still enjoys her work as a pharmacist but now only part time.
Women helping women reach for the stars

THE P.E.O. RECORD | July–August 2018

SUE DOYLE
California

POW! Power of Women—150 Years of P.E.O.

A third generation member and 40-year P.E.O., Sue Doyle was initiated in 1978 into her mother’s chapter, DC, Denver, Colorado, and has been a member of Chapter GR, San Francisco, since 1982. Sue has been inspired and influenced by her mother, Edna Doyle, a 75-year golden girl, and her two daughters: Katie Herman, initiated in 2009 and immediate past president of Chapter AH in New York City, and daughter Emily Herman, initiated into Chapter GR, San Francisco, in 2015.

Sue holds a BA in theater from the University of Colorado, an AA in interpreting for the deaf from Ohlone College, and a Master’s in writing from the University of San Francisco. As an educator and administrator, Sue worked in independent elementary schools in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 20 years, has taught at San Francisco State University and was a California Arts Council Artist-in-Residence. In addition, Sue has volunteered with many organizations focusing mostly on adult literacy, education and creative dramatics for kids. In her spare time, Sue enjoys hot yoga, the theater, film, ballet and vast quantities of strong black tea.

Her goal of traveling to all seven continents accomplished, Sue’s list of future travel destinations just keeps growing.

KRISTIN CRESTA
Connecticut

Making a World of Difference

Kristin Cresta comes from a family of P.E.O.s. She grew up in Avon, Connecticut, and received the gift of P.E.O. from her mother, past state president of Connecticut, Marti Kalar, when initiated into Chapter D, West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1997.

After attending Emory University (Georgia) and University of Miami (Florida) for physical therapy, Kristin became an active member of Chapter J, Rome, Georgia. In 2005, Kristin joined her current Chapter Z, Farmington, Connecticut, and became involved with the state membership committee, Young Women’s Initiative Special Committee and as state International Peace Scholarship chair.

Kristin’s career as a physical therapist includes working at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, being a traveling therapist in Oregon and Maryland and spending six months as Clinical Rehab Manager in Haiti after the earthquake. She currently works full-time as a school physical therapist.

Kristin married her BIL, Mike, in October 2013, and has been blessed with two beautiful girls: Sofia (3½) and Isabella (1½). She paid back two Educational Loan Fund loans after earning her doctorate in 2013. Kristin has traveled extensively through Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. She enjoys good food and wine, outdoor picnics with her girls, dancing, the Olympics and spending time with friends and family.

LYNN C. HARWELL
Georgia

All Aboard! For the P.E.O. Celebration

Lynn Harwell’s theme as president of Georgia State Chapter (GSC) is in honor of her BIL, Mike, and his 38 years in railroad accounting. Lynn and Mike have been married 43 years and have two sons, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren.

Lynn was initiated into Chapter AR, Conyers, Georgia, in 1999 and has held most every office, at least once. She served GSC on the Grouping Committee, Membership Committee and as General Chairman for the 2014 Georgia State Convention. Lynn was elected to the GSC executive board as Treasurer in 2015.

While working her first full-time job as Controller’s Secretary at Sears in Tucker, Georgia, Lynn attended night school at Georgia Technical School and College, achieving several certificates in administrative support. She has had a rewarding career, mostly in education. Her last 15 career years were spent as the Administrative Assistant/Coordinator for the Academic Dean of Oxford College of Emory University.

Lynn was awarded a lifetime membership in the Georgia PTA, after serving as PTA president at local schools and Rockdale County PTA Council.

The cornerstones of Lynn’s life are faith in God, love of family and a commitment to lifelong learning.
Barbara Jensen
Idaho

Bloom Where You are Planted

Barb Jensen loves watching things grow—plants, trees, animals, children, people’s abilities and ideas.

As a sophomore at Boise State University in 1974, Barb was initiated into her mother’s chapter, AM, Hailey, Idaho, by her mother, who was president. After graduation, Barb transferred to Chapter AD, Meridian, then Chapter BO, Boise. Barb is a third generation P.E.O. Her sister Janice and her niece Rachel are also members of her chapter.

Barb was chapter president five times and served as Treasure Valley Reciprocity president. She also served on the state Amendments and Recommendations committee for three years before going on the state board in 2014.

Barb worked for Idaho Power Company for 36 years. While working and raising teenagers, she returned to college and earned her bachelor’s degree in human resources management in 2005. She retired in 2014.

A native Idahoan, Barb currently lives in Nampa with her husband, Les. They have two grown daughters, Stacy and Kimberly, and one grandchild, Grady. Barb enjoys gardening, snow skiing and hiking. She has taught pre-Kindergarten Sunday school for many years. She enjoys watching the kids absorb the lessons and grow into wonderful young adults.

Joan Pattison
Indiana

Quilting the Treasures of P.E.O.

Joan Pattison’s best gift was meeting her future husband at church in fifth grade in Orange, California. Not only did she marry the love of her life, Scott, but she also gained a loving father-in-law, a beautiful mother-in-law, three beloved daughters, two fine sons-in-law, four adored grandchildren and the gift of P.E.O. Margaret Pattison, S, California, now Chapter Eternal, a 60-year P.E.O, sent Joan’s name to the Indiana State Organizer in 2002.

Joan has directed preschool and taught high school English in California, Indiana and Zimbabwe alongside her husband who is a biochemistry professor. They remodeled their 1924 dairy barn into a home for Joan’s parents and her sewing studio. Her parents are deceased and the summer board meeting will be held “in the barn!”

Learning to sew and quilt from her grandmother, Joan celebrates working “to the best of her ability.” She makes liturgical stoles presented to new elders and deacons by the Indiana United Methodist Church upon ordination each June.

Treasuring her life as a patchwork of family, education, faith and P.E.O., Scott and Joan share their home with books, two rescue dogs and a varying number of stray, adored cats.

Melanie Melville
Louisiana

Oh, the Places we CAN go in P.E.O.!

In 2005, Melanie Melville was initiated into Chapter M, a large chapter in Shreveport, Louisiana. This nurturing chapter helped her move through the ranks of officers and in 2012, Melanie was instrumental in the formation of Chapter BL, Shreveport. Embraced with loving support from Chapter M, Chapter BL is now a thriving chapter on its own, proudly claiming two of Melanie’s sisters and a daughter-in-law among its members.

Melanie and her husband, David, a United Methodist minister, moved to south Louisiana in 2013. Through these additional moves, she has discovered first-hand the welcoming spirit of P.E.O. everywhere. After spending short periods of time in Chapters BE and E in south Louisiana, she has been an active member in Chapter AA, Baton Rouge, for the past three years.

David, four grown children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren and two lovable old dogs make up the true center of Melanie’s life. She loves spending time with all of them!

Music is an avocation for Melanie. Singing wherever she has lived for the past 40 years, she presently directs the church choir and is a member of musical groups around Baton Rouge including Symphony Chorus. In her spare time, she loves to read, garden, play cards and especially to travel the world.
Barb Cieszynski was born and raised in Selkirk, Manitoba. She is a third generation P.E.O., initiated into her mom's chapter, P, Selkirk, Manitoba, in 1990. P.E.O. is a family affair for Barb with her mom, sister, aunts and cousins all members of P.E.O. She was very proud when her daughter joined Chapter P in 2016.

Barb trained as a nurse at the Saint Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg and worked for over 30 years in the Manitoba Home Care Program. When Barb retired in 2014, she was working as an Education and Training Coordinator for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Barb and her husband, Doug, have been married for 37 years. They have two children—Michael, his wife Carly, and Courtney. While her children were growing she spent most of her free time involved with their activities. She was president of her children's school parent council and president of the figure skating club. She rarely missed a hockey game, baseball game or figure skating competition.

Since retiring, Barb and Doug enjoy traveling, golfing and just enjoying life.

Judith French was given the gift of P.E.O. in 2005 by a dear friend and has been sharing adventures with her sisters in Chapter B, Chevy Chase, ever since. Chapter B's long history, interesting past and many accomplished sisters are a wonderful inspiration for this history lover.

Judith spent much of her childhood in Florida. She has an MBA and was a management consultant. For the past 25 years, she worked in information technology at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University where she is Chief Strategist for IT. She is a member of Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

In the 1980s, Judith spent two years working in Juneau, Alaska, where she took classes to learn mountaineering—rock and glacier climbing—and became an outdoor enthusiast. This was a life-changing event for a Florida girl. Judith was so pleased to be able to return with a Chapter B sister for the convocation of the Alaska State Chapter in 2016. That was a genuine P.E.O. adventure!

Judith loves adventure travel and has taken several cross-county cycling/camping trips. She keeps busy with tutoring students in math, caring for foster cats, dancing and renovating her old house with her BIL, Mark.

Lydia Rosentreter Bangert graduated from high school in Oxford, Mississippi, in 1981 and then attended Vanderbilt University. She graduated in 1985 with a degree in electrical and biomedical engineering.

Lydia was initiated into her mother’s P.E.O. chapter, I, Oxford, in January 1986. Her mother, June Rosentreter, served as president of Mississippi State Chapter for the year 2000–2001. Lydia moved to Michigan in 1986 to work for General Motors. Shortly thereafter, she met Karl, an engineer at Cadillac Division, who later became her husband.

Married since 1988, Karl and Lydia have four children—Christian, August, Peter and Annaliese. Daughter Annaliese, a fourth-generation P.E.O., is a member of Lydia’s current chapter, EF, Brighton, Michigan.

In 2002, Lydia joined the Michigan P.E.O. Fund, Inc. Board. She has also served on the A&R Committee and the Michigan Cottey College Committee.

In 2007, she began a degree in radiation therapy and graduated from University of Michigan–Flint in 2010. Since then, she has been working as a radiation therapist at Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Lydia likes to Jazzercise, read, sew and fuse glass. She and Karl enjoy riding bikes, cooking, entertaining and meeting friends for dinner.
Jan Briones was initiated into Chapter Q, Montevideo, Minnesota, in 1989. The 2018–2019 year will be one of P.E.O. celebrations! Jan will mark 30 years of P.E.O. membership, her chapter will turn 100 and our Sisterhood will turn 150!

Jan is a lifelong Minnesotan. Born and raised near Madison, Minnesota, she has lived in Montevideo, Minnesota, since 1980. Her husband, Eli, is a general surgeon. Married for 38 years, they have five children: Natalie, a family medicine resident, married to Bartt Stoltman, an engineer, MBA; Eleazar II, a medical student in Atlanta, Georgia, married to Chelsea (Gibson), a loan officer; grandson, Eleazar III, will turn one in June; Nathan, a financial analyst, married to Jamie (Pahl), an attorney; Naomi, a medical student in Ann Arbor, Michigan, engaged to Max Griffith, an emergency medicine resident; Ashley, a Food Science Master’s student at the University of Minnesota, enjoys part-time roles as a microbiology teaching assistant and as a chef at Restaurant Alma in Minneapolis.

Jan graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, (1980), earned a Master’s degree from the College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, (2008) and received a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. (2010). She practices at the Montevideo Clinic and moonlights in area emergency rooms.

Jan enjoys Minnesota Opera and Orchestra performances, gardening, reading, cooking and entertaining.

Laurel Andrew grew up in Orland Park, Illinois. A third generation P.E.O., Laurel was initiated into Chapter HM, Palos Heights, Illinois, her mother and sister’s chapter, and transferred to Chapter Y, Las Vegas, Nevada. Her grandmother was in two California chapters and her cousin is in Chapter DS, Chico, California.

Laurel earned degrees at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She spent a year in Belgium during graduate school and then worked in Switzerland for a year. Following business school, she was a financial analyst in Miami, Florida, where she met BIL, Victor Onufrieff, a now–retired labor attorney. They transferred to jobs in California before moving to Las Vegas. A stay–at-home mom to Victoria and Ian (now 20-somethings), Laurel served in chapter offices and on state committees, volunteered with several education–related non–profits and her children’s teams and activities and has taken trips with Habitat for Humanity’s Global Village. Always a “numbers person” (as she says, “treasurer of everything since Blue Birds”), Laurel appreciates that her volunteer experiences—especially P.E.O.—use the other side of her brain!

Laurel and Victor travel with their family, including stepson Nick and his wife Angie, whenever possible. She enjoys reading, knitting, swimming and daily walks with Victor and their dog.

Beth Gammie developed a passion for mentoring and educating young women while raising three daughters—Amanda, Margaret and Katherine. She founded two Girl Scout Troops and volunteered in PTA.

In 2002, Beth became a member of Chapter W, Haddonfield, New Jersey. Beth’s mother–in–law, Pat Gamme, had been a member of the Haddonfield chapter, as well as Pat’s mother, Helen Mosher. After Pat passed away in 1995, Irene Hubbard made certain that Beth was remembered and reminded of P.E.O.

Beth and her BIL, Doug, met in Lisle, Illinois, and have been married for 30 years. They lived in Fairless Hills and Yardley, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in 1996. Their three daughters have been initiated into Chapter W. Amanda has transferred to Chapter CE, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and Katherine to Chapter J, Kittery, Maine. Margaret represents the fourth generation of P.E.O. in Chapter W, New Jersey.

From her first exposure to P.E.O., Beth has introduced like–minded women to the Sisterhood. That includes her sister, Aimee Shannon, of Chapter DY, Troy, Ohio, and many of the women Beth was acquainted with through PTA.

Beth has served on the state finance, audit, reciprocity and ELF committees. She and JoDee Pettine, past president, New Jersey State Chapter, have not missed many opportunities to enjoy convention together including Conventions of International Chapter in Vancouver, Dallas, Indianapolis and Charlotte.
Cindy Schuetzler
North Dakota

Embark on the P.E.O. Journey, a Passport to the Stars

Cindy Schuetzler’s P.E.O. journey began in 2003 when she was initiated into Chapter AQ, Dickinson, North Dakota. She was the only P.E.O. in her family until her oldest daughter, Meagan, was initiated thus beginning the P.E.O. legacy in her family. She graduated from Brigham Young University in 1986 with a double major in elementary education and early childhood education. She has taught elementary school in Oregon, Utah and Nevada. Cindy is active in her church and loves working with the youth. Currently she teaches an early morning religion class to the high school youth of her church. She and her husband, Paul, moved from Oregon to North Dakota in 1997 for Paul’s work and have loved living on the prairie. They have five children with two still at home, and eight grandchildren. During the years that her children were home, she was a Brownie/Girl Scout leader, a Boy Scout leader, a merit badge counselor and attended many sports, drama and music events for her kids. Her greatest accomplishment was being a stay-at-home mom and spending time with her kids and husband. She enjoys reading, sewing, quilting and walking on the beach.

Ann Bryant
Oklahoma

STAR POWER! Shine Bright...and Share the Gift of P.E.O.!

Ann Bryant was initiated into her mother-in-law’s chapter, Q, Enid, Oklahoma, in 1998. She is grateful for the love and support of her chapter. Her Oklahoma executive board sisters are shining stars in her life. Daughters Hope and Brooke continue the P.E.O. tradition. Participating in Hope’s initiation into Chapter Q melted Ann’s heart, and Brooke, a recipient of a P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, is a member of Chapter CO, Brooklyn, New York.

Ann grew up in South Dakota and graduated from South Dakota State University with a major in microbiology and clinical laboratory technology. She worked in this field for 10 years. Ann and her husband, James, were married at the Old North Church while living in Boston 40 years ago. They have two sons and two daughters. A grandson, born in April 2018, added a new blessing to their family.

Ann is passionate about yoga. A highlight of her practice was a “yoga retreat and adventure” to the Sacred Valley in Peru (2018). She loves to travel and she and James have a list of places to visit. Ann has volunteered at church, school, local organizations and city and state boards.

The Sisterhood continues to be a precious and valuable gift for Ann.

Stephanie Coatney Price
South Carolina

Peace Love P.E.O.

Stephanie Price was initiated into her mother’s chapter, E, Anchorage, Alaska, in 1986. She is currently a member of Chapter B, Aiken, South Carolina. Stephanie is a third-generation P.E.O., following her mother, grandmother and two great-aunts into the Sisterhood. She was joyful in 2016, when her sister, Kristin, was also invited to join Chapter E; Stephanie was able to return to Alaska to take part, along with her mother, in the Ceremony of Initiation for her sister.

Although born and raised in Alaska, she has made her home in South Carolina for the past 28 years, where she lives with her two children, Emily and Joshua. She is employed by Centerra-SRS, a contractor to the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS), as a Security Awareness Administrator. It was while working at SRS that she met Donald (JR) Ludwick, her soon-to-be BIL. They plan to be married before the end of the year.

Before arriving in Aiken, Stephanie had also lived for one year in Orlando, Florida; and three years in Little Rissington, England.

Stephanie is active in her church, Saint Thaddeus Episcopal, as a Eucharist Minister. She has also served on the Vestry and as a Sunday school teacher.

Outside of P.E.O., Stephanie enjoys being with friends and family, playing tennis and the triumph of finishing a Sudoku puzzle.
Belinda Hargrove says that attending Cottey College was the best decision of her life. She was able to attend Cottey thanks to a generous scholarship from the Oklahoma state P.E.O.s. She has an AA from Cottey College, a BS in mathematics from Oklahoma State and an MS in operations research from Southern Methodist University.

Belinda was initiated into Chapter FF, Fort Worth, Texas, in 1986. After she started working for American Airlines, she transferred to Chapter GO, Bedford, Texas, in 1990.

For the past 20 years, Belinda has been co-owner of TransSolutions, a consulting firm specializing in computer simulation and operational excellence analyses to evaluate capacity of large facilities, primarily airports. Belinda is active in several airport industry organizations and served as Chair of Airport Consultants Council in 2006. Her work projects have spanned across the U.S. as well as Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Israel and Japan.

The Cottey College Alumnae Association honored Belinda with the Distinguished Alumnae Citation in 2001, and she received Cottey’s Going Places award in 2016 “for commitment to women’s Leadership, Citizenship and Scholarship.” She gave the commencement address at Cottey College in May 2016.

Having visited all 50 states, Belinda loves traveling. Belinda is active in Martin United Methodist Church.

Diane Browning was born and raised in Ogden, Utah. She met her BIL, Tom, when his family moved next door to her family. After they were married, eventually they landed in Torrington, Wyoming. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Diane was initiated into Chapter AU, Torrington, Wyoming, in 1984. She served in every local officer position except treasurer and was president five times. She was a co–chair for a Wyoming State Chapter Convention. She was a delegate to International Convention in 2005 and 2017. Diane moved to Eden, Utah, in 2011; she transferred to Chapter F, where she initiated her sister. She served on the Utah Cottey Committee.

Diane attended Weber State University and graduated from Eastern Wyoming College. She volunteered at her children’s schools and also worked for Torrington High School as a dance teacher. She also volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

Diane owned a dance studio for several years in Wyoming and was part owner of Prairie Pines Quilt shop in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, with two other P.E.O.s.

Diane quilts and has been featured in several quilt shows. As an avid hiker she has trekked in Scotland, New Zealand and Nepal. In her remaining spare time she skis and reads.

Kathy Richardson was raised in a small rural town, Romance, in southwest Wisconsin. She met her future husband, Tom, in high school, while playing in the band. He was first chair trumpet and she, second chair. They have been married for 45 years. When Tom completed his education as a family practitioner, they moved to Richland Center where they raised their three daughters, Jennifer, Gabrielle and Carrie.

Kathy had never heard of P.E.O. before being asked to join and was initiated into Chapter R, Richland Center, Wisconsin, in 1990. With three daughters, the thought of a group focused on the education of women appealed to her.

Kathy received an associate’s degree from University of Wisconsin–Richland after her eldest daughter graduated from high school, but due to a back injury curtailed further education. This was when P.E.O. became a priority in her life along with volunteer activities at her church.

Currently, Kathy shares her time between her state and chapter P.E.O. duties, being the treasurer of her church, enjoying her three grandchildren and lunching with sisters at home and afar.
NEW chapters

CHAPTER JO
Sumner, Washington
ORGANIZED: February 11, 2017
First row, from the left: Debbie Stephen, Laurie Demick, Maura Cooney, Molly Barnes, Kathy Simonis, Myrna Anderson
Second row: Teresa Henderson, Crystal Rollins, Bonnie Henderson
Third row: Carol Larson, Alexandra Lampert, Laurel Tuttle, Tami Masenhimer, state organizer Rachel Kristianson

CHAPTER BH
Mount Juliet, Tennessee
ORGANIZED: March 11, 2017
First row, from the left: Ashley Johns, Martha Bailey
Second row: Nancy Suppelsa, Judy Schmitt, Anne Courreges, Polly Gibson, Carole Gassert, Debbie McDade
Third row: Kim Orr, Katherine Wright, Sally Robertson, Jean Lestingi, Helen McDevitt, Cheryl Culbertson, Cindy Pertuset
Fourth row: Verbal Angelico, Sumner Foster, Gina Manskar, Molly Phy, Kate Dickinson

CHAPTER JP
Gig Harbor, Washington
ORGANIZED: March 28, 2018
First row, from the left: Gail Jones, Sally Brown, Lin Velluti, Bets Byrtus, Barbara Danforth
Second row: Kelley Spinn, Virdie Golliner, Betty Ringlee, Sheila Spinn, Nancy Littlemore
Third row: Barbara Rochelle, Nancy MacKay, Barbara Malich, Jenny Linnane, Konnie Serka
Fourth row: Jane Barnes, Peggy Beck, Marty Harvey, Peggy Macdonald, state organizer Mary Anne LeCompte, Susan Boyer

CHAPTER PJ
Waukee, Iowa
ORGANIZED: April 2, 2018
First row, from the left: Jill Tallman, Carroll Nelson, Ashley Lund, Meghan Oldham, Casey Lewis
**CHAPTER AS ★ PEKIN, ILLINOIS**

**ORGANIZED:** November 19, 1917  
**CELEBRATED:** August 8, 2017

*First row, from the left:* Claire Maquet, Gail Whitton, Peg Hughes, Nancy Moessner, Marilyn Brower, Joanne Barfield, Sue Vansaghi, Tomi Ault, Claudie Huey  
*Second row:* Courtney Eeten, Judy Holder, Pam Dalcher, Jill Roepenack, Jill Rimington, Claire Ford, Carol Burson, Lisa McKenzie, Peggy Mayo, Sharon Golden  
*Third row:* Kendra Burling, Sue Crowell, Pam Woolsey, Sherrie McArdle, Linda Cooper, Debbie White, Gail Warning, Kathleen Mackaman  
*Fourth row:* Deb Schermerhorn, Sue Woodruff, Becky Dixon, Jan Darnell, Jill Peterson, Lucy Elliott, Linda Clark, Jana Bonnett, Kyle Cain

**CHAPTER BY ★ LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

**ORGANIZED:** January 26, 1918  
**CELEBRATED:** March 24, 2018

*First row, from the left:* Mary Lou Fredrickson, Jessica Walsh, Judy Pfeifer, Bonnie Fox, Rosemary Rhodes, Rhonda Rhodes, Sig Bergman, Gail Keown, Pat Sass  
*Second row:* Linda Blomgren, Nancy Shelley, Jenny Weisser, Pat Selk, Dawn Thompson, Judy Runion, Bev Westerberg, Connie Cole, Ann Carlson, Cheri Beery, Stephany Madsen-Martinez, Renee Antonowicz, Gail Steinacher

**CHAPTER AJ ★ MIAMI, OKLAHOMA**

**ORGANIZED:** August 3, 1917  
**CELEBRATION:** December 11, 2017


**CHAPTER BA ★ ASHLAND, KANSAS**

**ORGANIZED:** April 30, 1918  
**CELEBRATED:** April 21, 2018

*First row, from the left:* Charlene Hughes, Pat Fellers, Leanne Pike, Jeanne Clawson, Lyne Johnson, Essie Waits, Georgeann Lang, Judi Randall, Pam Harden, Debbie Dome  
*Second row:* Jan Fast, Cathy Giles, Diane Humphreys, Sue York, Joyce Walker, Molly Beckford, Sally McNickle, Jan Shaw, Sherry Pike, Jenny Betschart, Vicki Haydock, Sally Shattuck
Passions of P.E.O. Sisters Booklet

Do you remember the time when you first joined P.E.O. and couldn’t remember the names of your new sisters? Nancy Reed, AX, York, Pennsylvania, developed a booklet called “Passions of P.E.O. Sisters” that addresses the need of new members to learn about her existing sisters in the chapter membership. Each sister has a page with her name and an informal photo along with three items about which she is passionate. Under each main passion she has added three details to add insight to each topic. For example, if one’s passion is volunteering, she might list where she volunteers and why. Thus, she adds insight into how and why volunteering is an important part of her life. Chapter AX sisters have found this to be a valuable way for new members to learn about existing members and for existing members to learn more about each other.

Open House for PCE Recipients

Chapter KL, Cedar Falls, Iowa, is excited about developing relationships with each other and with the women they help through scholarships and grants. The chapter has been following and cheering for their most recent Program for Continuing Education recipients for two years as they strove to reach their goals. Since their applications were approved, Chapter KL sisters have sent monthly notes of encouragement, delivered homemade goodies and sometimes sent gift cards or small gifts for their children. In May, both students graduated from University of Northern Iowa, and it was time to party! Chapter KL hosted an open house at a local park where P.E.O. sisters and friends could greet the graduates and wish them well. Chapter KL will continue to nurture these women while seeking more and more women who can use a boost to achieve their dreams.

Hats Off to Women’s Education

Sisters in Chapter DO, Mountain Home, Arkansas, hosted a Kentucky Derby–inspired luncheon, tea and hat auction to raise funds for P.E.O. projects.

With jockey silks and Derby–themed decorations providing the backdrop, Abby Cramer from the Mountain Home High School Band played the “Call to Post” to begin the tea. Chapter DO president Becky Barr welcomed a sold-out crowd of 136 guests who enjoyed afternoon tea, mock mint juleps, dainty sandwiches, tarts and derby pie. Butler service was provided by BILs and students from the Mountain Home High School National Honor Society and the Flippin High School Interact Club.

Each of the 17 table hostesses personalized her table using her own linens, tableware, teapots and Derby centerpiece.

With hats being the primary accessory and focal point for any Derby event, guests participated in a spirited and entertaining hat auction. Hats were modeled by chapter members and auctioned. Each of the beautiful, unique and one–of–a–kind hats was named after a Derby winner, beginning with “Secretariat,” a Derby favorite. The silent auction featured additional hats and other treasures.

Decked out in the finest of Derby apparel, tea guests raised their hats in support of women’s education, netting over $6,000 for P.E.O. projects.
Musicale Supporting Women’s Education

Chapter AD, Albuquerque, New Mexico, decided to host a fundraising concert with three goals in mind: 1) to raise money for P.E.O. projects; 2) to foster collaboration among local P.E.O. chapters; and 3) to introduce P.E.O. and its good works to the wider community. Members of Albuquerque Chapters AH and AU joined the planning committee, which created “P.E.O. Presents: An Afternoon Musicale Supporting Women’s Education.”

The roster of musicians for the event included a jazz band, a college–age women’s close harmony vocal ensemble, a string bass soloist, a young classical pianist, a chamber trio, a bassoon band, a baritone soloist, an organ/bagpipe duo, the Albuquerque Girls’ Choir, the Albuquerque Civic Chorus and a klezmer band. An emcee kept things moving and promoted P.E.O. and its projects in between acts. The printed program included an insert promoting P.E.O. and describing the projects in detail.

All of the incredible musicians volunteered their talents for the event and the church generously donated its facilities for the performance.

A number of Albuquerque–area P.E.O. chapters helped the sponsoring chapters procure items for a silent auction that took place in conjunction with the concert. A reception was held before the concert and homemade cookies and coffee were served while attendees viewed the auction items.

The event was advertised through email, Facebook, on the state website; with fliers in libraries, community centers, churches and retirement communities and with free ads in the local paper and a local magazine.

Chapter AD’s musicale raised over $4,000 for P.E.O. projects and provided a varied and enjoyable musical experience for 300 people.

Chapter BX of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is proud of the STAR recipient they sponsored and of a recent fundraiser where they shared the P.E.O. message with many fine ladies.

In 2016, Emma Mader of Smethport, Pennsylvania, was chosen to receive a STAR scholarship for her freshman year at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania. At the close of her sophomore year Emma continues to demonstrate the goals and values of a STAR recipient. Chapter BX has kept in touch with Emma and loves to hear about her accomplishments.

Emma’s mother, Julie Mader, is a teaching artist who excels in many artistic elements. As a thank you for helping Emma she offered to conduct a scarf painting class as a fundraiser for P.E.O. projects. Her only payment was reimbursement for the cost of materials. The rest was pure profit for P.E.O. There was so much interest in the class that two classes were held so everyone could participate. More than half of the class members were non–P.E.O. ladies who learned about the mission of P.E.O. and the many ways help is given to women.

After a few hours of social time and fun learning all went home with beautiful hand painted silk scarves. Chapter BX is so thrilled to support the P.E.O. projects in this way.

Pictured above (left): Julie Mader and members of BX during the scarf painting class

Pictured above (right): STAR recipient Emma Mader and her mother, artist Julie Mader, wearing sample silk scarves like the ones made by Chapter BX
WHERE IN THE WORLD

Heidi Atwell, WM, Fallbrook, California, at Machu Picchu, Peru

Marilee Bobzien, AW, Custer, South Dakota, in Portugal

Brandy Fredell, H, Jacksonville, Florida, on a mission trip to Guatemala

Jane Lewellen, CX, Bella Vista, Arkansas, and Suzanne Kennedy, EC, Fort Myers, Florida, at the Kinderdijk windmills in South Holland, Netherlands

Michelle Aldridge, past provincial president, Alberta-Saskatchewan, and Susan Harber, president, District of Columbia, at Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada

MJ Fitzgibbon, past state president, Connecticut State Chapter at Keukenhof Gardens, Holland

Donna Klene, Betty Hams and Jean Powers, BR, Hannibal, Missouri, and Kathy Riney, JH, Hannibal, Missouri, at the Amsterdam flower market

Jane Lewellen, CX, Bella Vista, Arkansas, and Suzanne Kennedy, EC, Fort Myers, Florida, at the Kinderdijk windmills in South Holland, Netherlands

Brandy Fredell, H, Jacksonville, Florida, on a mission trip to Guatemala

Heidi Atwell, WM, Fallbrook, California, at Machu Picchu, Peru
Where in the World is The Record?

Pack the latest issue of The P.E.O. Record when you travel! Snap some pics and send them in—you could be featured in a future issue of the magazine or on our Facebook page or Instagram feed.

Send photos to editor@peodsm.org or mediamanager@peodsm.org.
**KATY REGNERY**

Katy Regnery, G, Ridgefield, Connecticut, wrote “Don’t Speak,” a new twist on a beloved fairytale. In this modern retelling of “The Little Mermaid,” a fisherman’s daughter from an Outer Banks island untouched by time, meets the son of the North Carolina governor at a fancy party where she is working.

Laire, who wants more from life than her little island can offer, is swept away by wealthy, sophisticated Erik, who is, in turn, entranced by her naiveté and charm. The two spend a whirlwind summer together that ends on the knife-point of heartbreak and forces them to go their separate ways.

Years later, when fate finds them together once again, they will discover the terrifying depth of the secrets they kept from each other, and learn that shattered hearts can only be healed by a love that willfully refuses to die.

Katy is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author. She lives in the relative wilds of northern Fairfield County, Connecticut, with her husband, two young children, two dogs and one Blue Tonkinese kitten.

**RUTH WELSH**

Ruth Welsh, EY, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, wrote “The Real World of War,” about her husband Richard W. Wiessner’s journey from childhood in Faribault and Saint Paul, Minnesota, to his military experiences as a P47 pilot in Italy, France and Germany in World War II. Ruth felt like a detective matching dates in articles, letters and documentation of historical events to Dick’s candid words in describing his fast-moving story of death-defying combat. She describes Dick’s experiences and struggles with his German immigrant background, his training in the United States and his 80 missions on the Western Front. The book gives a geographically-illustrated account of what war was like and how it changed lives. Ruth wrote the book to keep his stories alive for his family, military colleagues and individuals seeking additional insights and observations from one of the members of the Greatest Generation. It took Ruth six years to transfer all the documentation, photos and Dick’s accounts into this living memory of her late husband.

**DEBBIE JOHNSON**

Debbie Johnson, HR, Austin, Texas, wrote “Give for Good, A How-to Guide for Business Giving,” a step-by-step guide to help businesses most quickly and easily build a smart strategic philanthropy plan that is both good for business and creates a fulfilling community investment. Debbie’s career includes over 20 years working for AT&T/Lucent Technologies, rising through the sales organization and ending as vice president, then as a consultant for the past dozen years. While she was always encouraged to give to those less fortunate than herself, she had no idea how rewarding true philanthropy could be until she participated in and ultimately ran AT&T’s local community philanthropy in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Her nonprofit experience gives her perspective into community issues and associated giving plans. Debbie is a native Nebraskan, initiated into Chapter DM in Lincoln, graduated from the University of Nebraska and took additional advanced coursework from MIT and Peter Senge (The Fifth Discipline).

**PAULA SCHUMACHER**

Paula Schumacher, IK, Lawrence, Kansas, wrote her first mystery “The Glass Road.” Exciting, suspenseful and intriguing are not usually the words used to describe a forensic accountant’s job, but Marie Gardner finds her job takes that dramatic turn when a professor is murdered. The professor is not unknown to Marie: her mother worked with him, he’s an exciting topic among the bridge players at Marie’s weekly game and his wealthy family is a client of Marie’s employer.

Everyone has insights into the professor’s strange behavior. Marie travels across the country following rumors and suspicions until finally she unearths a past secret. As the mystery unfolds, so does Marie’s own personal mystery.

**SARAH RAESSLER**

Sarah Raessler, BI, Lynchburg, Virginia, created “As I See It,” a book featuring images of over 100 of her paintings, a foreword by her parents about Sarah’s journey as an artist with Down syndrome, and an introduction by Sarah. The art, the book, even Sarah’s life, are examples of the surprising possibilities that may come when one asks, “Why not?”

Sarah sees the same things we see, but when she expresses them through her paintings, there is a strength of design and boldness of color that reveal the subjects in fresh, often delightful, new ways.

Sarah is an award-winning pastel artist whose work was featured on the cover of the November/December 2012 issue of The P.E.O. Record. Her paintings hang in homes throughout the country. An active member of her chapter, Sarah is also a self-advocate on the board of The Arc of Central Virginia.
Their stories illustrate the profound ways that the caregiving, mourning and inheritance process has changed in ways not adequately reflected in formal legal, medical and religious tools. The solutions center on awareness and preparation: providing more support for individual planning for incapacity and death and, even more importantly, creating legal, political and social planning for the “graying of America” at a time of increasingly complex familial ties.

Amy is a pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, affiliate scholar at the Institute for American Values and a frequent contributor to The Atlantic and Huffington Post.

**SUE A. JOHNSTON**

Sue A. Johnston, FU, Brighton, Michigan, is co-author of “Detours: Unexpected Journeys of Hope Conceived from Infertility.” Sue and nine other women collaborated to share their stories of struggling with infertility. Collectively the women have over 100 years of infertility treatment. Sue wanted to write a book to share their experiences, raise awareness and provide support for those who are struggling to build their families. This is how “Detours: Unexpected Journeys of Hope Conceived from Infertility” was born. Sue titled her chapter “Never Tell a Navy Wife to Abandon Ship,” because she never gave up on having a baby. She and her husband, Bob, have one son, Scott.

**DONNA SPENCER**

Donna Spencer, BM, Sarasota, Florida, co-authored “Moms Move Mountains: Special Education Survival Skills for Parents” with her business partner and fellow advocate, Susan Magers. The book helps parents act as their child’s advocate. There are tips for building relationships with school staff, being a participating member of the Individualized Education Program (I.E.P.) design team, solving problems, organizing education records and taking the necessary steps to successfully plan for their child’s future.

Donna and Susan, both parents of children with disabilities, spent more than two decades providing advocacy services and parent workshops to help parents and other family members understand the process of developing an I.E.P. for their child with special learning needs. “Moms Move Mountains” is a compilation of their knowledge gained through many years of experience attending I.E.P. meetings with families and working with school staff to develop family-friendly practices and policies.

Donna is a fourth generation P.E.O and has been an active sister for 53 years.

**LIZ HARTLEY**

Liz Hartley (aka Sharon Thompson, CQ, Salem, Oregon) wrote “To Trust the Heart: A Birthstone Romance.” The 1994 recession has hit Cassie Franklin, a custom jeweler in Eden Beach, California, right in the heart. With sales falling and bills piling up, and with would-be real estate mogul, Carla Towne, scheming to force Cassie out of her shop, Cassie must pull out all the stops to survive. Her best chance to save her business is to find a way to get into the most prestigious art show in Eden Beach, but to do that, she will have to take risks with her work and her life. It’s the worst possible time for Tate Garner, handsome owner of the exciting new restaurant around the corner, to stroll into her life. Tate’s silver-socket background is everything Cassie, an outsider with a chip on her shoulder, ridicules. But as she discovers the man behind her preconceptions, she wonders if she can trust herself to take the biggest risk of all: falling in love.

Liz has written about jewelry and gemstones for more than 25 years. She has both Graduate Gemologist (GG) and Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (FGA) diplomas.

**AMY ZIETTLOW**

Amy Ziettlow, GR, Decatur, Illinois, co-wrote “Homeward Bound: Modern Families, Elder Care, and Loss.” The book shows that as family structure becomes more complex, so too does elder care, and existing institutions and legal approaches are not prepared to handle those complexities. As 79 million American Baby Boomers approach old age, their diverse family structures mean the burden of care will fall on a different cast of family members than in the past.

Analysis in the book is based on in-depth, qualitative interviews with surviving grown children and stepchildren whose mother, father,
Spud Buds in Action

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

Every now and then a submission arrives that is complete and a pleasure to read. Such is the case with Spud Buds in Action written by Brenda Rush, AI, Amarillo, Texas. I hope everyone enjoys reading this article as much as I did.

“My husband is excited to meet your husband,” said Lynn Cole with a laugh. I had called Lynn from the road to report that we were within 30 minutes of arriving at their home, a P.E.O. Bed and Breakfast in Colleyville, Texas. Lynn explained further, “Henry is a Master Gardener and since he learned your husband is a plant pathologist, he can’t wait for your visit.”

It was true. As soon as we drove up, made introductions and got our bags unloaded, Henry invited Charlie to the back porch where the two BILs visited like long-time friends. Henry, a U.S. Air Force veteran and retired information technologist, was seeking solutions to a disease which was decimating his backyard roses.

Charlie, a Regents Fellow and Plant Pathologist for Texas A&M University with a field crop focus, was happy to talk plants. Since 2006, Charlie has worked on a variety of research projects investigating ways to increase the yield and quality of potatoes.

As their conversation continued, Henry excitedly told Charlie about a school in Tarrant County (in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) with an over-grown garden, recently made available to Master Gardeners for educational purposes. It seemed like lots of pieces were falling into place to teach kids how to grow food and Henry wondered if Charlie might have any ideas. Before the weekend ended, our guys had come up with a plan they were excited about.

Back at home, Charlie contacted a couple of fellow scientists and before long a box of seed potatoes was donated and sent to the Master Gardeners in Tarrant County. Henry designed and implemented an efficient “dirt-to-table” project.

After the first growing season, thanks to Henry’s contagious energy and enthusiasm, Lynn reported, “It has been a wonderful project which stirred so much interest and excitement. It involved over 350 students who planted, watered, harvested and recorded statistics for nine varieties of potatoes. The harvesting day was spectacular with all the kids elbow deep in dirt, gathering over 1,400 spuds. Each student left school that day with a bag of potatoes and recipes from a local executive chef to help in home preparation.”

Ten months after we first met the Coles, they came through Amarillo, stayed at a local P.E.O. B&B hosted by Diane Bim, and reconnected with us. We learned Henry’s dirt-to-table project was featured in two magazines and his Tarrant County chapter was awarded a first-place state award for research. Hundreds of kids were certified Junior Master Gardeners and had new skills to use for a lifetime. They also gained an understanding of what it takes to grow potatoes.

In the second year after the initial project, the students planted about 300 potatoes and harvested close to 3,000. A majority of the crop went to a local food bank. And now, a commitment to furnish more seed potatoes in 2018 will extend the practice of educating youth about agriculture. In a recent email Lynn said, “This will be the third year that fifth graders will be growing potatoes. At the end of the season, the project will have impacted over 1,000 children, in addition to those who enjoy the potatoes donated to the food banks.”

As P.E.O. sisters, we would never have predicted that one weekend, designed to contribute educational dollars to women, would have resulted in our BILs impacting so many. Across the miles, P.E.O. is an organization which allows people (women and men) to develop life-enhancing relationships extending beyond the sisterhood. P.E.O. is instrumental in planting seeds and through our efforts we can all learn and grow. Our Sisterhood offers more than we realize!

Albert Leffler is married to P.E.O. Kathy Leffler, BA, Scottsdale, Arizona
Send BIL submissions to Albert Leffler at albertleffler@gmail.com or 4251 E Shangri-la Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85028-2917
Members may view all items for sale at
https://members.peointernational.org/itemsforsale
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Local Chapter Technology Contacts

by Lucy Thoms, Digital Communication Specialist

Every local chapter has a technology contact, appointed by the chapter president, who is reported to International Chapter with your annual election of officers. While you know you have one, you might be wondering—why do we have to have one? What are her responsibilities?

The primary roles of the technology contact are to ensure members receive information from International Chapter and their state/provincial/district chapter and to help them with P.E.O. activities online. P.E.O. sisters have varying levels of comfort and knowledge of technology and some have limited internet access, so technology contacts can be a great resource for those who need assistance.

**Technology contacts should:**
- Have access to the internet
- Have an email account that is checked regularly
- Feel comfortable using the internet and computers
- Be familiar with P.E.O.’s websites
- Be excited to help sisters use technology

**The role of a technology contact will be a little different for every chapter. Here are some ways to help:**
- Be the designated recipient/contact for official communications from your state/provincial/district chapter and International Chapter and pass those on in a timely manner
  - Many state/provincial/district chapters have an e-Sister program—often, a technology contact also serves in this role.
- Assist the president and other officers with any duties they might need to do online, such as locating helpful resources and submitting online forms
- Help members access the P.E.O. International Member Website and become familiar with all it offers
- Keep your project and membership committee chairmen informed about valuable materials available on the website that will support their efforts
- Offer to assist project chairman to complete chapter recommendations for project applicants
- Be familiar with your state/provincial/district chapter website

**There are some key areas on the P.E.O. International Member Website that are great resources for your chapter:**
- **Listings and Directories:** find listings for local chapters, the Bed & Breakfast program, the Tender Loving Care (TLC) program and more.
- **Local Chapter Members:** find helpful general information for all members, including the following:
  - **Brand Resource Center:** find logos and images, social media and website guidelines, the P.E.O. style guide, press release templates and more.
  - **Manuals & Handbooks:** find the most up-to-date versions of P.E.O. reference materials.
- **Local Chapter Officers:** documents and resources needed for officer positions can be found here.
- **Membership:** there are a number of resources and activities in the local chapter membership toolbox to help promote vitality and growth in your chapter.
- **Leadership Development Initiative:** find tools to help officers, or individual members, develop leadership skills that are applicable to P.E.O. and beyond.
- **P.E.O. Projects:** find information, resources and newsletters. *Tip: project newsletters can be great inspiration for chapter programs or to share during suggestions for the good of the chapter.*

The most important thing a technology contact can do? Help sisters for whom technology is frustrating or scary by being understanding and patient. This can make all the difference in helping sisters feel comfortable and even empowered to accomplish things online.

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There are new security standards put in place by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council for certain web applications that went into full effect June 30, 2018. The new standards help prevent breaches and better protect information passed between systems. This affects CommunityForce, the platform used for P.E.O. International project recommendations and applications, and means certain browsers may no longer be compatible with the platform. When completing recommendations or nominations for the projects, please use Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Safari to ensure the platform works as intended.
Cottey College
Creators of Incredible Futures
Cottey College recently earned accolades from Best Regional Colleges-Midwest by College Consensus including:
• #6 women’s college in the nation (out of 36 women’s colleges)
• #1 regional college in the Midwest
• #49 college nationwide (out of 990 colleges/universities)
Yes, Cottey is doing so much right!
Come visit YOUR college and see for yourself!
Cottey College has taken another major step forward by being accepted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), effective July 1, 2018. Membership will allow our incredible student athletes to remain at Cottey and compete for and represent the Comets for a full four years. Currently, Cottey fields teams in basketball, cross country, golf, softball, track and volleyball. All Cottey supporters are encouraged to come out and cheer on the Cottey Comets when they are in your area.

P.E.O. Visit Day
Plan a visit to see your college this fall. P.E.O. Visit Day is Cottey’s premier visit event for P.E.O.s. It is scheduled for October 13, 2018. This wonderful opportunity includes a campus tour led by students, an update from the president of the college and participation in question-and-answer sessions with students, faculty or staff. Go to cottey.edu/peovisit2018 and send in your registration form today!

Find the P.E.O. B&B listing
It is available 24/7 on the P.E.O. member website at https://members.peointernational.org/bedandbreakfast. This online listing provides the most up-to-date information and can easily be printed in its entirety or by specific locations. If you have questions about the P.E.O. Bed & Breakfast program contact commassist@peodsm.org.

Gifts and Contributions
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—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.
• Chapter gifts to projects and P.E.O. Foundation are payable to your state/province/district chapter (s/p/d) and should be sent directly to your s/p/d treasurer or paid assistant. Chapter gifts are not tax deductible.
• Individual gifts by check should be made payable to the intended project or P.E.O. Foundation and sent directly to the treasurer of International Chapter in Des Moines. Online donations may be submitted to the project of your choice through the P.E.O. website at https://donations.peointernational.org/
• Individual gifts for Cottey College are to be sent directly to Cottey.

Individual Donations to P.E.O. International via Facebook
Facebook allows individuals to set up fundraisers through posts for non-profits. When donations are made to P.E.O. through Facebook, a third-party keeps a percentage of those donations. Therefore, we request that donations be made through our online donations site at www.peointernational.org.

Celebrating 150 years of Women Helping Women Reach for the Stars!
>> Last call to preorder “We Who are Sisters” at a discount
Order your copy of “We Who are Sisters” commemorative pictorial book before July 31, 2018, to guarantee your copy! More information is available on page 9 of this issue to learn how to order online. Local chapter technology chairs—consider offering to assist members without Internet access to place an order for them or offer to do a group order for your chapter—you’ll save on shipping and handling!

Additional information on the 150 Fund, pictorial history book, commemorative jewelry piece and local chapter resources can be found at www.peo150.org to quickly access more information any time.
Send completed form, including your former address printed in the upper right corner (or give address at which magazine was last received), six weeks in advance of your move.

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

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

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

Email  
membership@peodsm.org

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

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

Address or Name Change (please print)

Chapter letter(s) ___________________________ State/Province/District ___________________________ Date address effective ___________________________

Name  
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Email address  
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Street or box address  
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________________ State/Province/District ___________________________________ ZIP/Postal code _______________________

Educational Loan Fund // at-a-glance

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ELF.

- Maximum loan amounts:
  - $12,000 for a non-degree accredited program, an associate or bachelor’s degree
  - $15,000 for a master’s degree
  - $20,000 for a doctoral degree

- 2% interest