

DEFINITIONS of ACRONYMS and COMMONLY USED P.E.O. WORDS AND PHRASES

Below are many acronyms and phrases that are used frequently by P.E.O.s. Many are those used by all sisters throughout the Sisterhood, others are those that are used specifically in Nebraska. When underlined, the item can be clicked on and the item or webpage will open.

[ARCS](#): Annual Report of Corresponding Secretary - annual report used to record all membership changes not indicated on the Chapter Membership Summary, including updates on inactive members, and to record membership totals (active and inactive members) as of March 1.

BIL: Brother-in-Law - This term was coined by H.B. Williams of Centerville, Iowa, as a name for the husband of a P.E.O. member because he wanted a name for them, and it stuck! The abbreviation is BIL (no periods).

[CHAT](#): Chapter Health Assessment Tool – use annually to assess the current membership health of a local chapter.

CIC: Convention of International Chapter

COI: Ceremony of Initiation - The ritual whereby new members are accepted into the Sisterhood.

CHAPTER ETERNAL - Deceased members are said to belong to “Chapter Eternal.”

[CI](#): Chapter Information Form – a Nebraska specific form that local chapters are asked to submit each year that includes chapter meeting schedule, officers and membership information. This form is used by the state leadership to assist with easily connecting with local chapters.

CMH: Chapter Membership History - Lists all P.E.O.s who have been a chapter member since 1980. Any members not listed are those who died prior to 1980 – information about these members may be found in the retired General Enrollment Book.

CMS: Chapter Membership Summary - Serves as a reference document for annual reports (update is sent each year). Represents members who were living during previous fiscal year and membership activity during year, i.e., initiation, transfer in, death, reinstatement and change of name, address and email.

[DIRECTORY OF PRESIDENTS](#): Directory on the P.E.O. International member website listing the name and address of the president of each local chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, the current state, provincial and district (s/p/d) chapter officers, the living past presidents of International Chapter and the past living presidents of s/p/d chapters. On this page are links to the names and addresses of the officers of International Chapter and of those appointed by the executive board to particular assignments.

[IOLC](#): Instructions to Officers of Local Chapters

LCOW: Local Chapter Officer Workshops – training conducted each spring by the state executive board for local chapter officers

LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) Conference - Yearly event held in July to bring the president and organizer from each state, provincial or district chapter together at the P.E.O. Executive Office.

MEMBERSHIP

- **Active Member** - One who has paid dues to her chapter and who is entitled to attend meetings.
 - Active members who do not participate in chapter life are considered **nonparticipating**.
- **Inactive Member** - One who has forfeited all privileges of the Sisterhood upon failure to pay dues and/or assessments before March 1.
- **Introduction of a Woman Who Is Not a P.E.O.** - A form used by individual members to recommend a family member or close friend to chapters in another community.
- **Invitation to Transfer** - Invitation used by a local chapter to invite a member to transfer.
- **Lateral Transfer** - Transfers the membership of a member to another chapter in the same geographic area that meets at a more convenient day and/or time.
- **Membership Card** - Given annually upon payment of dues, it indicates active membership and affords its holder all the privileges of membership.
- **MDC: Membership Development Committee** – Nebraska committee established to assist with assessment of the health of local chapters, to assist with local chapter membership committees and to facilitate the unaffiliate process
- **Member Update** (formerly CIM) - Form used to report all membership activity (i.e., name, email and address changes; deaths, transfers, initiations and reinstatements) during the year to the membership department.
- **Nonresident Member** - One who resides at a distance which makes regular attendance impractical. The member shall have all the privileges of the Sisterhood.
- **Notice of Member in your Area** – Sent by corresponding secretary to notify local chapters that an unaffiliate has moved to their community.
- **P.E.O. Member ID** - The P.E.O. member ID is the computer-generated official method for identifying P.E.O. members. The seven-digit P.E.O. member ID can be found in the following locations:
 - Chapter Membership Summary (CMS) and Chapter Membership History (CMH)
 - Back cover of The P.E.O. Record above the member's address
 - P.E.O. Directory section of the P.E.O. International member website
 - Letter from membership department providing new initiate's Member ID
- **Reinstatement** - The process by which an inactive member may request a return to active status.
- **THREE-YEAR MENTORING PLAN**: International resource created to help your new sister, whether a new initiate or just new to your chapter, experience a chapter's special bond of friendship by mentoring her during the first three years of her membership.
- **Transfer**
 - **Transfer In** - Term used by the chapter to which a member has transferred.
 - **Transfer Out** - Term used by the chapter from which a member has transferred.
- **Unaffiliate** - An active member who resides in a community other than where her chapter is located.

NSC: Nebraska State Chapter

PSP: Past State President

PHILANTHROPIES/PROJECTS: P.E.O. philanthropies and their accepted abbreviations are:

- **Cottery College:** A nationally ranked, fully accredited, independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women located in Nevada, Missouri, has been owned/supported by P.E.O. since 1927 and offers baccalaureate and associate degrees in a variety of majors. Cottery College, a debt-free institution, welcomes women from around the world.
- **P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF):** A loan fund established in 1907 to lend money to qualified women students to assist them in securing a higher education.
- **P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund (IPS):** A fund established in 1949 to provide scholarships for selected women from other countries for graduate study in the U.S. or Canada.
- **P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE):** Established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the U.S. and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to complete a degree or certification that will improve their marketable skills for employment to support themselves and/or their families.
- **P.E.O. Scholar Awards (PSA):** Established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women of the U.S. and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university.
- **P.E.O. STAR Scholarship (STAR):** Established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional women in their final year of high school to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year.

PROJECT DONATION FORMS:

- [Project Donation Form](#), individual, for Nebraska projects only
- [Project Donation Form](#), local chapters and reciprocities
- [Project Donation Form](#), P.E.O. Home only

RECIPROCITY - Local chapters, or their representatives, in an area who unite for one or more of the following purposes: to welcome unaffiliated P.E.O. members, to promote the acquaintance of all members in the city or district and to further interest in the projects of the Sisterhood. (Constitution Part III, ARTICLE XIII, Sec. 2)

ROUNDTABLE: Local chapters in a city who meet periodically to share membership information, programming and social events.

S/P/D: State/Provincial/District Chapters- Consists of all active members of chapters and active members of disbanded chapters.

- State: United States chapters
- Provincial: Canadian chapters
- District: The Northeast District includes Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

