



# Shooting Stars! It's Who We Are!

Dear Sisters,

OMGoodness! It is June! It's here! This is my last newsletter! It's real! It's time for convention! I hope you are ready!

This newsletter has two important reminders for you, some good news from International Chapter, and Convention 2022 information. Please read everything carefully and share with all your chapter sisters.

It has been a whirlwind of a year again! Not much went as we expected, and we continue adjusting as we move forward. It appears that COVID-19 is finally not the front and center issue in our lives although there are still concerns. It's tempting to breathe a sigh of relief and say how good it is to be back to normal again. Be careful with this. It may feel normal, but there are big differences from pre-COVID 19 times and now. I believe these will be lasting changes and they will take some getting used to. Plus, not all the changes are due to COVID-19. There were other big events in the past two years in our country that will have lasting impacts on how we proceed. To paraphrase Jimmy Buffett, "We have a whole lot to think about!"

We also have a lot to relearn. Our Sisterhood has been impacted greatly by all these events. The reactions have been mixed. The effects ongoing. The concern is great. Now is a good time to remember to have "loving concern for each sister".

I have tried to be careful to not use this little letter to convey what is only my personal opinion. I have tried to stick to the facts, offer many possibilities, and encourage careful consideration in opinion.

I will step away from that intentionally today.

I have received many concerned emails, letters, and been in conversations with sisters who are very fearful of what they perceive to be the "removal of God and/or Christianity" from P.E.O. I have given this a lot of thought, read many opinions, and conducted some research. Here is are some thoughts I would like to share with you.

In the driving effort to be inclusive and tolerant, we need to be mindful of the fact that removing what is already present, is not being any more inclusive than leaving out something that is not present. A related statement would be that if you try and remove everything that is or might be offensive to someone, you will eventually be left with nothing. People can find a way to be offended by anything. Not offending, is not the same as not including, and leaving out anything in favor of including something else is still excluding. This is something I continue to put a lot of thought into. Giving choices invites inclusion. It allows participation to the extent that someone is capable and comfortable. Removing, or banning does not allow a choice, and is therefore exclusionary. It is also necessary to understand that I am not talking about choosing between good and evil here. That is a totally different type of choice. This is about learning. Learning about things that are not familiar to us and learning to see the value in them. It involves really seeing things from another point of view and understanding.



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I know it is not easy, nor will every decision that is made will be the correct one. After all, we are all terribly human. Therefore we have state/provincial/district and international conventions. This is how we keep amending and changing our ways as we learn and understand. This is an important process in our governing system. (Which is probably something many of us need to relearn!) This is what guides our sisterhood as well as the many governing institutions of companies and countries. If you abandon that process, you have no say in the direction things will go.

It is hard to stick to one central idea in this train of thought, and I think I am beginning to see many sidetracks ahead, so I will just leave it there. No big conclusion, no correct path to set us on, just careful consideration and thinking on our own beliefs and understanding and learning about what we do not fully know of ourselves and others.

The conclusion I will make is that I have learned so much serving as your president. I have learned more about myself every day as I answered your questions, tried to give directions, and attempted to teach "the P.E.O. way". I am a much better person for the years of service I have given. It is so very true...what I received is reflex, as I gave, I received much more. The decision to accept the nomination for the state board was made from wanting to help continue our fantastic tradition of supporting women's education, wanting to promote the Sisterhood, wanting to give back to the Sisterhood a little of the investment they had in me through my Cottey College education.

I hope some those desires were accomplished. But what really happened is that I kept receiving benefits! I kept learning and growing from the giving of P.E.O. No matter how much I gave, I could never catch up with what I was being given. It has been a wild ride, to be sure. But thank you for giving it to me!

Lovingly,  
Sherry

**It's NOT TOO LATE! PLEASE! If you still have turned in your CIF, bring it to convention and turn it in with your yearbook and evaluation!**

**UPDATE THE CHAPTER INFORMATION FORM (CIF)** and send an electronic copy of your updated form to Joyce Victor at [jovictor@outlook.com](mailto:jovictor@outlook.com) by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

It should include the following information:

- new officers
- upcoming meeting dates and times
- all members' addresses, phone numbers and email addresses both resident and non-resident

No official form is necessary, but all the information above must be included.

You can find a sample form in the email message and on the website if you wish to use one.

Important  
DATE!



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## I·M·P·O·R·T·A·N·T

Announcements



Every chapter was required to submit an amended copy of their bylaws and standing rules to the state Secretary Jean Matheny this past fall. This was due to the changes voted into effect at the 2021 Convention of International Chapter. These changes are mandatory, do not require the vote of the chapter and must be made and a complete copy of the chapter's bylaws and standing rules **MUST** be filed with the state chapter.

As of this writing, there **75, YES, SEVENTY-FIVE Chapters that have not responded to this request!** Sisters, this is a required duty of our state chapter board secretary, and she is dependent on your cooperation to get this task completed.

Additionally, there are **102 Chapters** turned in their bylaws and standing rules but did not complete the amendment revisions.

Another **51 Chapters** have not returned copies of their bylaws and standing rules with the requested correction made.

**PLEASE SISTERS!** Find out if you are one of the chapters, we need information from to complete our duties for the year by asking your chapter officers if this had been done! If not, please see to it immediately.

EMAIL A COPY OF YOUR BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES IN WORD FORMAT TO :

JEAN MATHENY

[jean.peo.nebraska@gmail.com](mailto:jean.peo.nebraska@gmail.com)

**HUGE, HUGE, HUGE THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE CHAPTERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THIS TASK! YOU ARE SHOOTING STARS OF NEBRASKA STATE CHAPTER!**



Have you heard?

The **NEW Nebraska State P.E.O. website has gone live!**

Check it out at [www.nebraskapeo.org](http://www.nebraskapeo.org)

Same universal login. Same special sister password!





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## N<sup>o</sup> S<sup>c</sup> CONVENTION 2022

*Things you need to know!*

- ✚ **BE Prepared** follow all COVID-19 regulations that may be in place at the time!
- ✚ **PLAN** to attend **June 10-11-12!** Attending **ANY** part of convention, requires wearing a convention badge, you will not be admitted to any convention event without one.
- ✚ **REMEMBER** to bring your **ID card!** You **will** need it to check-in for the convention.
- ✚ **WEAR** your pin! **YOU** are a **STAR!** **DRESS** like a **STAR** on Saturday!
- ✚ **BE FAMILIAR** with the amendments we will be voting on. A printed copy is provided in your delegate packet. They are available **here** as well.
- ✚ **BRING** \$15 to order a copy of the **2022 Proceedings** for your chapter - or yourself! (**form** is attached)
- ✚ **DELEGATES** must plan to attend **Delegate Orientation on Friday afternoon at 3:30.** (See **attached** schedule)
- ✚ **We will be hosting a donation drive to raise money for restoring the NE P.E.O. Home baby grand piano.** **Bring** donations from your chapter sisters, personal donations, the money in your couch cushions, the change in your car's ashtray, money found in the street, or whatever you can to support returning this lovely, historic and beloved old piano to its grand appearance and sound. Let's see if we can stuff the jars full by the end of convention!
- ✚ **Plan** for any honorariums you or your chapter wish to give. (See **attached form**)
- ✚ **Please bring Loving Kindness, Concern, Playfulness, and an open mind with you.** This is an opportunity to **renew friendships, create new connections, experience the power of our Sisterhood and be filled with the light of our star.**





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P.E.O.s Always  
Raise the Bar to the Stars



## International News

### Take a Moment to Update Your Contact Information

If you have moved or changed your email address recently, please take a moment to update this information. This will ensure you receive The Record every other month and any email updates from International Chapter. Having the most updated and accurate contact information for each member helps ensure delivery without extra costs.

**For local chapter presidents, this is especially important as a mailing with updated Ceremony of Initiation materials will be sent to you soon.**

**Presidents:** if you plan to be away between May 15-June 15, please email: [bmogle@peodsm.org](mailto:bmogle@peodsm.org) or call 515-255-3153 ext. 3726 before April 29, 2022, with the name and address of another member.

Please take a moment to update your information and verify your chapter officers have been updated on the Report of Election of Officers of Local Chapter, so you receive everything you need to successfully lead your chapter.

### Ceremony of Initiation Mailing Memo

#### Ceremony of Initiation Mailing

Packets are on their way to local chapter presidents containing updated materials for the Ceremony of Initiation. [Please read the memo included in the mailing as it contains detailed instructions.](#)

Materials should be received by June 1.

1. If you are a local chapter president and have not received the packet by June 10, [please complete this form.](#) (link is external)
2. If you received a packet with missing materials, [please complete this form.](#) (link is external)
3. If you received a packet with damaged materials, [please complete this form.](#) (link is external)

**Materials were mailed to local chapter presidents on file within the P.E.O. International membership database as of May 2, 2022.** You are highly encouraged to keep your contact information up to date by [completing this form.](#)

### Ceremony of Initiation to Welcome Members Starting **July 1, 2022**

The Executive Board of International Chapter is happy to announce that members will be joining the P.E.O. Sisterhood through our beautiful Ceremony of Initiation starting **July 1, 2022!** The ceremony is a highlight of our member experience — whether hearing it for the first time as a new member or sharing the experience as a current sister. Our Ceremony of Initiation is more than a formality. Hearing the words reminds us of all of the meaning behind our emblem, our five virtues, our Objects and Aims and the promises we each make as we enter P.E.O. membership. The Ceremony of Initiation unites every P.E.O.!

There are several important things to know about the Ceremony of Initiation:

- The Ceremony of Initiation will welcome all new members beginning **July 1, 2022.**
- After June 30, 2022, Initiation by Affirmation is no longer an option for membership.



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- Our sisters who were initiated by affirmation between September 1, 2020, and June 30, 2022, are full members who deserve the joy of receiving the Ceremony of Initiation. The ceremony shall be conferred to these sisters:
    - Prior to December 31, 2022
    - Before they serve as an officer during the Ceremony of Initiation
    - From the chapter to which they currently belong if they have transferred
  - The Ceremony of Initiation is only to be conferred at an in-person meeting; there are currently no options for the ceremony to be conferred at a virtual or hybrid meeting.
    - Any active member may be invited to conduct the Ceremony of Initiation; you may invite sisters from other chapters.
    - The ceremony may be conferred at a regular or special meeting.
  - **The Ceremony of Initiation may be conferred on more than three members/candidates at one time during the period from July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.**
    - The Executive Board of International Chapter, continuing to act pursuant to the public emergency authority of the executive board as granted under the Constitution, Part I, ARTICLE VI, Sec. 8, will suspend the provision of the Constitution, Part I, ARTICLE VI, Sec. 10, second paragraph, third sentence, to allow the Ceremony of Initiation to be conferred upon more than three members/candidates at one time from July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.
    - This is being done as a step to facilitate the transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and accomplish the formality of conferring the Ceremony of Initiation in a way that accommodates the members who have been initiated by affirmation, as well as the chapters that will be conferring the ceremony.
  - **In preparation for conducting the Ceremony of Initiation, please locate your initiatory emblem.**
  - The Ceremony of Initiation has been revised due to amendments adopted at the 2021 Convention of International Chapter. Updated documents and instructions incorporating these revisions will be distributed per the schedule below.

Informing and educating local chapters is a vital piece of the reintroduction of the Ceremony of Initiation. There are several communication pieces planned to reach every local chapter over the next couple of months.
1. An announcement will be included in the May-June 2022 issue of The P.E.O. Record.
  2. International Chapter will provide the Period of Instruction dedicated to the Ceremony of Initiation for your 2022 state, provincial and district (s/p/d) chapter convention. The video and a handout will be posted on the P.E.O. International member website on **June 13, 2022**, after the last s/p/d convention has concluded. **Members are encouraged to attend and learn more about the Ceremony of Initiation.**
  3. **An updated Overarching Guidance for P.E.O. Gatherings, effective July 1, 2022, will be posted prior to July 1, 2022.**
  4. Each local chapter will receive a packet of materials dedicated to the Ceremony of Initiation. Materials to be included are revised Ceremony of Initiation booklets and Prompter's Part, replacement pages for the President's Book, Counsel for Membership booklet, Guide for a New Member, Chaplain's Prayer Card for Initiation and detailed instructions. These packets will be mailed to s/p/d officers prior to local chapter presidents. All packets should be received by mid-June. If you have any questions, please contact your s/p/d executive board.

## Scheduling of Regular Local Chapter Meetings

The Executive Board of International Chapter is pleased to announce all local chapters are to again follow the pre-COVID practice of **scheduling regular meetings each year, beginning March 1, 2022**. Chapters are required to adhere to the Constitutional requirement (reflecting amendments adopted at the 2021 Convention of International Chapter) to schedule 12 regular meetings each year using one of the three formats available: in person, virtual or hybrid, utilizing the updated Procedure for P.E.O. Chapter Meeting distributed in January 2022.



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A chapter is not required to hold all meetings using only one format. Rather, a chapter may opt to hold some meetings using the in-person format, some virtually and some hybrid. The chapter should indicate in the yearbook which format is anticipated for each meeting, although changes may be made based on circumstances at the time of the meeting if notice is provided to the members. Such flexibility is necessary due to the changing nature of the pandemic, governmental and health authority guidance and the needs of the chapter members. **Remember there are no longer any “social meetings,” but a chapter may hold as many or as few social gatherings as desired. That is for the chapter to decide.**

## Presidential Star-Dates!

### ANY MONTH

Expect frequent messages via the technology Constant Contact program, including notice of newsletters posted on the Nebraska website. **Ensure** that all information is shared with the chapter, distributing information to chapter committees as necessary.

**Check** the International website and State website regularly, look for posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Act as chairman of the Preacceptance and Postinitiation counseling committee. Be sure to implement the 3-year Mentoring Program for your new members.

### MAY

1. Direct delegate to bring one yearbook and one completed yearbook evaluation form to be collected at state convention. If you have not sent your CIF form to Joyce Victor, bring the completed form to state convention.
2. Arrange for report of convention of state chapter to be given as soon as possible following convention.

### JUNE-JULY-AUGUST

1. Distribute **ALL** materials from convention to appropriate officers and committee chairmen.
2. Continue contact with your project recipients; invite them to any appropriate social occasions.
3. Watch for reminder notice of chapter visitation from the organizer, if applicable. Remind your officers and hostesses of the date.
4. Contact your visiting officer with specific arrangements. Offer hospitality and transportation.
5. Review preparations for organizer's visit.
6. Confirm date, time, and place of official visit with all concerned. Conduct practice of required procedures during chapter meeting. Arrange for any additional practice needed.
7. Try to keep in touch with chapter members via newsletter or informal social if you do not meet in the summer.

Thank you for reading!

Love, in P.E.O.

Sherry, Renee, Kellie, Jane and Jean