

# The A, B, C's of P.E.O.

## A – ACTIVE

Being a member and wearing our star  
makes you a P.E.O. in name –  
Only by becoming active  
can you appreciate  
our Objects and Aims.  
Accept new challenges  
when they ensue –  
But the first responsibility  
expected of you –  
Is to attend all meetings  
so you'll comprehend and know  
the full import of P.E.O.

## B – BE ON TIME

P.E.O. is a previous date –  
Attend to the time  
please don't be late –  
Let's keep the meeting orderly  
don't make your sisters wait.

## C – CLOSING

Stand, at the close of the meeting  
when the gavel tap is given.  
For the benediction, your head is bowed –  
for the closing statement, risen.

## D – DEVOTIONS

As the chaplain conducts devotions  
we stay seated in our chair –  
With "let us pray" –  
our heads are bowed –  
While she reads the chaplain's prayer.  
  
This moment of devotion  
is reverently closed  
With the recitation of the Lord's Prayer  
and let it be known –

From the version of King James –  
remember "debts and debtors"  
And, although it means the same,  
not trespasses and trespassers!

## E – EMBLEM

Our P.E.O. emblem  
a tiny work of art –  
Is worn on the left side  
always above the heart  
  
It's worn to every meeting,  
and when other occasions rule,  
On a dress or suit jacket,  
above all other emblematic jewels.  
  
The chapter should be apprised'  
of the emblem's final disposition –  
At a sister's death  
Her family may keep it,  
it may be buried with her,  
or returned to our organization.

## F- FIRST NAMES

We were all taught to respect our elders –  
and call them Miss or Mrs.  
But in P.E.O., we use first names –  
because we all are sisters.

## G- GAVEL

On the first tap of the gavel  
our meeting comes to order. On the  
second tap, if able –please rise  
while our Opening Ode and Objects  
and Aims are vocalized.

## H – HISTORY

We honor our Founders  
in a personal way.  
Make it your responsibility  
to attend Founders' Day.

## I – INVITATION

Extended by request  
is a membership invitation –  
By the entire local chapter  
without any reservation.

## J – JOINING

(Versus Becoming)  
P.E.O. is a privilege –  
it is not a club to join

We take our vows seriously –  
our virtues keep us going.  
As we strive for high ideals –  
and as every sister knows,  
Only through love and loyalty  
do we become P.E.O.'s.

## K – KNOWLEDGE

With knowledge comes wisdom  
so please be apprised-  
That with non-members –  
discussion of private P.E.O. matters  
is never advised.

## L – LOVING CONCERN

Have loving concern for each sister  
and when the situation deems  
It is the charge of every member  
to attend to her sister in need.

## M – MEETINGS

Be mindful of your own attendance –  
A previous engagement is P.E.O.  
And the business meeting procedures  
stay the same wherever you go.

## N – NEW MEMBERS

If you vouched for a member,  
your first obligation  
Is to acquaint our new sister  
with our rules and traditions.  
Take her under your wing –  
her mentor be –  
Don't expect her to grasp  
immediately  
What it's taken us years  
to digest and know.  
She needs guidance and direction  
to help her grow.

## O – OBJECTS & AIMS

Think about  
the Objects and Aims –  
they're not just words to recite.  
Make them your personal guideposts –  
a foundation for the principles of life.

### **P – PASSWORD**

We no longer give the password  
each time we meet –  
But each sister must know  
to never repeat –  
“To those not a member”!

### **Q – QUIET**

When the meeting is called to order,  
cease all neighborly conversation –  
So the president can chair the meeting  
in an orderly, businesslike fashion.

### **R – ROLL CALL**

When the treasurer calls the roll  
don't answer “here” or “aye”  
Using P.E.O. decorum,  
“present” is the correct reply.

### **S – STAND**

Protocol says  
when you address the chair –  
Stand and be recognized  
before speaking loud and clear.  
Whether a committee report,  
or a topic of discussion  
Follow Robert's Rule of Order  
where standing is the custom.

### **T – TIMELESS TRADITION**

It has been said that in the vocabulary  
of a P.E.O.  
You never (well, almost never)  
hear the word NO.

### **U – UNABLE**

(To attend a meeting)  
Unable to attend a meeting –  
Unto other hostesses do  
According to the Golden Rule –  
as you would have them do to you.  
The hostess, to her home has issued  
a welcoming invitation –  
Call ahead, if you can't attend –  
it's not only your manners –  
but also your obligation!

### **V – VOTE**

When business deems action  
and you are given a choice –  
Remember it's pro or con  
whether voting by ballot or voice.  
Of course, you must understand,  
that doesn't apply  
when we vote by a raise of the hand

### **W - WELL ACQUAINTED**

When a name is presented for membership –  
be your own counsel –  
and before you sign:  
Know that with the candidate  
You are well acquainted  
Before putting your name on the line

### **X – X-EMPLIFICATION**

The exemplification of the ritual  
is an occasion for us all –  
To renew and review the lessons  
taught silently by our star.

### **Y – YEARBOOK**

If you can't be a hostess  
be a co-hostess or give a program –  
it's only fair.  
The yearbook committee's job will be easier  
if everyone does her share.

### **Z – ZEST**

As we go through life  
we are often told  
We reap what we sow.  
It's just the same in P.E.O.  
Your spirit and your zest  
and the joy that you possess  
Can only help you grow  
into a loving P.E.O.!