

December 2023 Holiday Edition

P.E.O.
Newsletter

Volume 6



I'm dreaming of a White Christmas! I love the snow! I love Christmas! Spending time with family and sisters are always the best of times to cherish! It seems like several chapters have been busy doing fun holiday activities from fundraisers to social gatherings the creative ideas you've shared have been awesome and inspiring. Nebraska is full of creative, hardworking, and intelligent women! What a group to behold and to learn from!

This month's newsletter is jammed pack with information to share so please make sure you are sending this to all your members.

- We have a very special announcement concerning our IPS recipient that spoke at last year's convention. Please see page 2.
- There is information and wording for your bylaws committee about the mandated bylaw changes from CIC on pg. 6 plus a link with more information that will help you with your bylaws and changes that will be in your winter mailing from International Chapter.
- Tips for annual reports.
- Information on our new Gretna chapter.
- Tons of reminders sprinkled throughout this newsletter!

ALL of it is important for everyone to know! Remember the \$5.00 dues increase and preparing for annual reports is starting. Chapters will start receiving their Chapter Membership Rosters from Treasurer Beth Anderson and Secretary Amy Dusenbery. Presidents, be checking your emails for this document to print for your treasurer as it will assist her with the start of your annual reports. We wanted to make sure all chapters have them. If you don't receive one in the next couple of weeks reach out to your board buddy or any other STATE officer!

I hope you have a wonderful and sparkling holiday season. May you be surrounded by love this Christmas and always. Thank you for all the love and kindness you have shown me this last year and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

The state executive board and I wish all of you a blessed holiday and nothing but joy and happiness in the New Year! Keep calm and sparkle on! It's Christmas!

Lovingly,
Kellie Stang

Important Upcoming Dates:

Donation forms are due to
Sheri Rasmussen by Dec.
15, 2023

Annual Reports: Each
chapter should expect to
receive a roster from the
state treasurer or
secretary.

**If changes are needed, chapters
should submit a Member Update
before February 24.**

Reminders

Dues increase \$5.00 this
year!

Bylaws will need to be turned
to

Amy Dusenbery in a Word
Document

by the end of March.

Each chapter must turn in their
bylaws this year with the
required changes!



A very special Announcement

Late Breaking News!

IPS Recipient and Cottey College Form Partnership!

Our 2023 IPS speaker, Leah Wandera, has entered into a partnership agreement on behalf of the WEMA Health Foundation she founded in Nairobi, Kenya with Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. The partnership provides for up to five students per year from the foundation to attend Cottey College and obtain their bachelor's degrees. Leah shared with us that she is so grateful because, "I am not only getting the chance to go to school but fellow girls in Kenya are now, too." Leah is currently attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center, studying Epidemiology.

CONGRATULATIONS, LEAH!

Watch for additional information on this partnership in future newsletters.

Heather Adams, EK

Nebraska State IPS Chair

Sherry Erlewine, FU, PSP

Nebraska Cottey College Committee Chair

P.E.O.'s create miracles for women!!



DECEMBER 2023

Nebraska P.E.O. Home, 413 North 5th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310-2902

Phone: 402-228-4208

Email: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

<https://www.nebraskapeohome.org/>

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“Whet your appetite” for reading more about these pieces in the longer article. Click on the link above to access the Nebraska P.E.O. Home website to read more.

Nebraska P.E.O. Home PRE-READING quiz! How many of these will

YOU answer correctly? All are TRUE or FALSE questions!

Answers can be discovered by reading the Newsletter Article on our website!

1. We now have 17 residents at residing at our Home. T or F
2. In October and November TEN residents have moved into our Home.
T or F
3. All residents MUST be P.E.O. members. T or F
4. Our Home is ready for the Holiday Season. T or F
5. Donations are still needed for the replacement of the dining room tables and chairs.
T or F
6. Chapters and individuals can still make arrangements for tours of our Home.
T or F
7. Something NEW at our Home will make it a safe trip from the parking lot.
T or F

We are giving thanks to all of you for your gifts, donations, and prayers for our residents and staff. YOU make a difference in our much-loved Home.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Residents, Staff, and Board of Directors.



P.E.O. Scholar Awards

Because of the exceptional generosity of P.E.O. chapters and individual P.E.O. sisters during the 32 years since P.E.O. Scholar Awards were established, over \$32 million have been awarded to outstanding young scholars to help support their dissertation-year research and writing. So many thanks to each of you who have nominated excellent young scholars for this award, to those of you who are gathering \$500 to become P.E.O. Scholar Award Laureate Chapters, and to all of you who make annual contributions as a chapter to this worthy philanthropic and educational project!

Although I was a graduate student many years before P.E.O. Scholar Awards were established, I can well imagine the impact of the gifts we have been bestowing on these bright young women since 1991. When I received a \$5,000 departmental dissertation year fellowship, it was an unexpected honor and boost of confidence in the merit of my proposed project. After many stimulating and challenging years of balancing coursework with service to the department as a research assistant, teaching assistant, and editor of the department's scholarly journal, and after assuming additional teaching responsibilities to finance a year of research and study in Ireland as partial preparation for specialist exams, the opportunity to concentrate for an entire academic year on just one project, the dissertation, was a priceless gift!

I'm sure our P.E.O. Scholar Award candidates feel equally honored and inspired by the P.E.O. Sisterhood's confidence in their dissertation-year projects, and equally thankful for the opportunity to focus for an entire year on ground-breaking research and writing. We P.E.O.s are truly offering exceptional gifts to these enterprising young scholars through our support of P.E.O. Scholar Awards.

Laura Marvel Wunderlich, HT
Nebraska P.E.O. Scholar Awards Chair
lmarvel@hastings.edu
719-207-3198

Helpful hint for the corresponding secretary

Lost Contact Designation is changing.

Local chapters are no longer responsible for reporting a Lost Contact. Any member who has been inactive for ten years or longer will be removed from the chapter membership roster after the 2024 annual report cycle. Previously, we asked local chapters to keep records of members for 25 years. This designation was typically reported during the annual report process but will no longer be needed.



How Can You be an Elf for ELF?

December is the month of the ELF if there ever was one. As we enjoy the Christmas season, we will be surrounded by Christmas decorations, including elves! Helping to keep the ELF project top of mind for us all. Remember the ELF offers low interest loans to qualified women students to assist them in securing a higher education.

It's also a month of giving and generosity. Is your chapter an Educational Loan Fund LEGACY Chapter?

Every generation inherits its legacy, and it is the duty of each generation to add to that legacy. The legacy of the Educational Loan Fund, P.E.O.'s oldest philanthropy, is to support women in their educational pursuits with low interest loans. Build your own chapter legacy by supporting future generations of women learners.

How can you become an ELF Legacy Chapter?

Any chapter that makes a lump sum contribution of \$500 or more will be designated an ELF Legacy Chapter. If an individual makes a lump sum contribution of \$500 and designates a chapter with that contribution that chapter will receive the ELF Legacy Chapter designation. To receive recognition, the chapter contribution must be received by the state treasurer or paid assistant by January 31, 2024.

Are Nebraska chapters on the receiving end of these ELF contributions?

For the Fiscal Year ending on June 30, 2023 Nebraska had 12 recipients of the ELF Loan with approved amounts exceeding \$180,000. For that same fiscal year Nebraska had contributions of \$35,215.

Use your social outings in December to find your next ELF Applicant.

Networking with community members or catching up with previous scholarship or grant recipients. These are wonderful opportunities to find our next applicant. Previous P.E.O. scholarship or grant recipients might be great ELF candidates. We all know education costs are high. The scholarship or grant was helpful, but most women will need additional assistance for their educational costs. That's where the ELF comes in.

I hope you all get to enjoy hot chocolate, Hallmark movies, twinkle lights, nativity scenes, cookies, family, and friends this month. And don't forget the ELF!

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas season.

Cristy Fryzek, State ELF Chair

Chapter IV, Hickman

cristy.fryzek@gmail.com

Your updated wording suggestion for your bylaws

Bylaws and Standing Rules update for 2024: The following update does not require a vote by your chapter, as this changes are required due to the amendments that were adopted at the 2023 Convention of International Chapter. **Even though no vote is taken by the chapter, these bylaw changes must be made to each local chapter bylaws.**

Increase in Dues

An amendment passed which increases our International dues a total of \$10.00 over the next two years.

Note: If you include changes for both 2024 and 2025, you will be current for the Dues of Members Bylaw for International dues. Unless you have a change in your local dues in 2025, no further updates will need to be made.

The first blank will be filled in with total dues for your chapter members: International, state and local dues. The second blank will be filled in with your local chapter dues.

Dues of Members.

The annual dues for 2024-2025 for all active members shall be \$_____. \$31.00 for International dues which includes \$6.00 for Cottey College; \$16.50 for Nebraska State Chapter dues which includes \$6.00 for maintenance of the Nebraska P.E.O. Home, \$6.00 for the General fund and \$4.50 for the Convention Fund; \$_____ for local dues.

The annual dues for 2025-2026 for all active members shall be \$_____. \$36.00 for International dues which includes \$6.00 for Cottey College; \$16.50 for Nebraska State Chapter dues which includes \$6.00 for maintenance of the Nebraska P.E.O. Home, \$6.00 for the General fund and \$4.50 for the Convention Fund; \$_____ for local dues.

PROVISO: The increase of dues to thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) shall be implemented in two steps; an increase of five dollars (\$5.00) to thirty-one dollars (\$31.00) for the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year; and an increase of five dollars (\$5.00) to thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) beginning the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year.

This is what it looks like:

2024-2025

International Chapter Dues \$31.00

(includes \$6.00 for Cottey College)

Nebraska State Chapter Dues \$16.50

Includes:

Maintenance of P.E.O. Home \$6.00

NE State General Fund \$6.00

General Fund \$4.50

Local Dues General Fund \$_____

Total \$_____

2025-2026

International Chapter Dues \$36.00

(includes \$6.00 for Cottey College)

Nebraska State Chapter Dues \$16.50

Includes:

Maintenance of P.E.O. Home \$6.00

NE State General Fund \$6.00

General Fund \$4.50

Local Dues General Fund \$_____

Total \$_____

For more **IMPORTANT** information about the other changes and mandates, please [click this link](#).





NEW CHAPTER!!

SPREAD THE LOVE OF P.E.O.!!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SPREAD THE LOVE OF P.E.O.?
WE ARE OFF AND RUNNING! THE INTRODUCTORY MEETING OF A NEW
GRETNA CHAPTER MET ON OCTOBER 5 TH AT 7:00 PM. WE HAD A GREAT GROUP
OF SISTERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING THIS CHAPTER STARTED.
WE HAVE SCHEDULED FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 TH AT 7:00 PM

THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT WATERSEDGE CHURCH, 192nd AND
HARRISON AT 7:00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ABOUT THIS NEW CHAPTER,
HELPING WITH THE ORGANIZATION, AND/OR JOINING THIS NEW CHAPTER, WE
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE CONTACT:

PEGGY BRENDDEL
PEGBPEO@GMAIL.COM
402-672-2800

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, BUT ARE INTERESTED IN
THIS NEW CHAPTER, PLEASE CONTACT PEGGY, SO WE CAN INCLUDE YOU IN
OUR PLANNING/MAILINGS

Dues Reminder from the Treasurer



Time to pay your dues February 1 for 2024-2025. If you are going to be out of town and unable to attend meetings, please remember to pay early or mail your check to your local chapter treasurer. Although dues are not considered delinquent until March 1, *as a courtesy to the treasurer*, please pay them as soon as possible. This will ensure all annual reports are filed by the local chapter officers in a timely manner and you continue to be counted as an active member of P.E.O. If you need help with financing your dues, please speak privately with your chapter president or treasurer. Every member is an important person in P.E.O.

*****Dues increase \$5.00 this year*****

5 Tips for Annual Reports

1. SUBMIT MEMBER UPDATES AS THEY OCCUR.

Corresponding secretaries can save time on the annual report by completing a Member Update form, located on the P.E.O. International website, during the year. This also ensures that important communications related to the change are received. Any reported additions to your chapter (initiations, reinstatements, and transfers in) will automatically appear on the annual report, and reported members who've passed away or transferred out of your chapter will be automatically removed from the report. Anything not reported will need to be manually added or removed while completing the report. All updates must be submitted no later than February 25, 2024, to be reflected on the chapter's annual report. The Member Update form will be unavailable between February 25 and March 1 due to data verification processes.



2. REPORT YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS.

It's important your current president, treasurer and corresponding secretary are up-to-date in the International database; they must have a valid email address in order to access the electronic annual report. In general, chapter officers are to be reported by the corresponding secretary on the Election of Local Chapter Officers online form immediately following installation each year. If any changes occur during the year, resubmit the form with the change. Review and complete any missing officer information for this current year prior to December 31, 2023, as the form will not be available after this date.

3. UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.

All members have the ability to update their own contact information using the online Member Update form, and all chapter officers have access and can do this on a member's behalf, if needed. Chapters will save time from having to make updates on the annual report if they inform and encourage members to review and update their contact information. Provide the Member Update form link in your next chapter communications and offer regular reminders throughout the year.

4. PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR MARCH 1 TO MARCH 10.

The electronic annual report requires the president, treasurer, and corresponding secretary each complete a section between March 1 and March 10. These officers should plan ahead for how they will communicate; plan for a phone call or texting system to keep each other apprised of progress. Remember, officers can log in and work on their section of the report from anywhere as long as there is internet access; this offers flexibility for a variety of situations. All members of the chapter can help the process by ensuring they have paid their dues to the chapter treasurer prior to March 1. The state board of Nebraska is recommending (again) that officers try to do their reports together to ensure timeliness and helpfulness for each other.

5. REVIEW THE TRAINING RESOURCES.

A training video will be available on the P.E.O. International website after February 1. Officers can watch this at any time and as often as desired. The video will help officers become familiar with the electronic annual report steps, and demonstrate the intuitive design and built-in prompts. Even if you viewed the training video last year, there have been enhancements to the electronic report and you'll want to ensure that you view this year's training video so that you're aware of the changes. Additional information and resources will also be available on the website to guide officers in the successful completion of the annual report.

REMINDERS

Pin Orders!

We are still taking pin orders for the Nebraska State Pin.

P.E.O. & Nebraska combined what could be better?

They are so much prettier in person, each one is hand made by Caramia Justian from CA. A pin or pendant, your choice!

A daisy, star, the Pony Express horse, a tree for Arbor Day, the state of Nebraska all found on one pin. Orders will be going until February of '24! Orders yours today to guarantee your pin arrival at State convention!!! Order forms are on the state website! or click [here](#)



Have you logged into the **state** website?

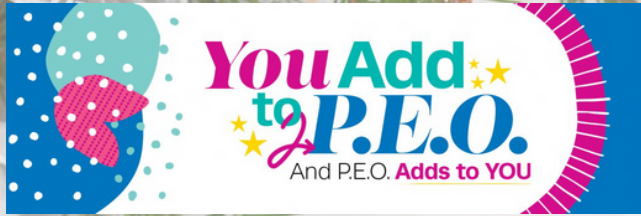
• Login with your Member ID number as the username and PEO_2023!@# as the password. • You will be prompted to enter your email address and create your own personal password. Password requirements will be: 12 characters with at least one upper case, one lower case, one number, and one special character. (A "I forgot my password." link will be available if needed.) • After the successful creation of your password, you will be logged out. You can then log in using your Member ID number and new password. • You are set to go!

This is for the **state website ONLY! www.nebraskapeo.org**



A Phishing Reminder!

Remember, P.E.O. will never ask you for gift cards for charity fundraising. If your chapter chooses to purchase gift cards for specific Cottey students, you can verify through a phone call to your chapter president. Do not send the gift card numbers or any financial information through an email.



*Our membership challenge is still on-going! Remember to Add 2!
Add 2 by initiating or reinstating a sister! We are so close of
reaching our goal for this year! Special recognition
from the membership committee to chapters that have added at
least 2 from June 1, 2023-June 1, 2024! Your chapter will SPARKLE
and SHINE at convention 2024! Stayed tuned to hear more!*

New Chapter Meeting
Gretna- Dec. 7th @7:00pm
Watersedge Church 192nd & Harrison



The outline for your president's letter is available on the state website! Please include the recap information requested and send them to kelliepoeo@gmail.com

Lorrie Bryant
Top Contributor Nov 20 · 📷
Chapter EE, Lincoln, book club met at Carmela's for lunch today and had a lively discussion of the book Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt led by Robin McKelvey. If you've read the book, you will understand why we are holding octopuses 🐙.



Tonight chapter BG decorated a tree for our museum.



Chapter DJ-Albion hosted a Christmas Wonderland Tablescapes and Tree Design Event. We served sweet and savory treats and had a guest speaker who informed us about decorating our Christmas tree. Each table or tree was described in a booklet with in... See more



Nov 10 • Chapter P, Bloomington decorated a tree for the Franklin museum



Nebraska State Chapter P.E.O. Admin Leann Drullinger - Nov 21 - Chapter AK once again decorated a room at the Scout's Rest Ranch as a part of Christmas at the Cody's. This year we decorated the nursery. Many AK members will volunteer to host during the days of event. Being a part of this Christmas staple in North Platte is a great fundraiser for us!



Happy Holidays
from the
Executive Board