



Nebraska State Chapter P.E.O.

August 2024

Topic: Getting Ready; Being Prepared

Let your Super Powers Shine words from Jane

If we were true Super Heroes, we might be able to see into the future, or have the ability to stall time, but those are not powers that we earthly people have. How do we handle our time, knowing that even all of the planning in the world cannot thwart obstacles? Setting Goals! Setting goals or having a mission statement (described as defining goals, values and purpose) is a way to make sure that you are going in the right direction and not caught spinning around wondering what to do or where to go! One of the goals for Nebraska State Chapter in 2024-2025 is: **“Challenge each chapter to increase the number of applicants they sponsor (for a project) by at least one woman.”**

If your chapter has not found a candidate for one of our projects, brainstorm with your sisters, family members, friends and neighbors on possible names of women who are advancing their education. Here are other ways to look for/find candidates.

- ♦ See if you can put something in your church newsletter/publication
- ♦ Post something on your community Facebook page
- ♦ Contact your local community college advisory office
- ♦ Have an article published in your local newspaper
- ♦ Contact other local service clubs/organizations
- ♦ Ask permission to put posters in your grocery store/bank/post office/YMCA
- ♦ Just talk about it!

Please see important dates for the projects in this newsletter. And remember, the International website has great resources to use to find candidates and educate your sisters about our main purpose, supporting women through education. “P.E.O. Where women motivate, educate and celebrate women.”

Getting Ready...Set...Go...Reciprocity Meeting Preparation... info from Jean M.

Can you believe that it is August already??? I remember when I was a kid that summer just went on forever! It sure doesn't anymore!

As vice president, one of my duties is to oversee the Reciprocity Groups for the state. I realize many of you have not given those meetings another thought since they were over last fall, but as we have already established, time does fly!

Even though the following information pertains to the reciprocity group officers, I want to encourage chapter members to attend the meetings as well. You will have the opportunity to meet ladies from other chapters, share information, and just have a very nice time!

The following will need to happen in order to be ready for the fall meetings:

- ⇒ Even if this happened last fall, I need every immediate past reciprocity group secretary to send the minutes from the last meeting to the new president and also to me. Please do so by the end of August.
- ⇒ Same as above, except with the treasurer reports/financial statements
- ⇒ Please make sure that all materials have been passed on to the new officers. Please do so by the end of August.
- ⇒ I have assigned a state officer or proxy to attend each meeting. Please include both of us in your planning.
- ⇒ I will be sending information to each new president to aid in planning and the visiting officer will also be bringing information to you.



Focus for this Month

Purpose: Schedule a social activity this month

Empowerment: Share what super power you would like to have.

Opportunity: Reach out to a friend and invite them to the social!

Beth Anderson, Organizer

P.E.O. Project Update from Amy

Every bag of pecans, note card, broom and pin guard sold makes a difference for our projects! This is who we are and what we do. We raise money for the projects so that women might have the opportunity for a higher education to support themselves, their families and their communities.

- ♦ STAR Scholarship offers a one-time award of \$2,500 to qualified applicants.
- ♦ PCE has a maximum \$4,000 award.
- ♦ IPS/Peace Scholarship Fund has a maximum award of \$12,500.
- ♦ ELF offers \$12,000 for an associate's degree; \$15,000 for a bachelor's degree; \$20,000 towards a master's degree and \$25,000 towards a doctoral degree.
- ♦ Cottey College financial assistance is need based.
- ♦ PSA/Scholar Award offers a \$25,000 merit based award toward a doctoral degree.

As of July 2024 ELF has given out \$249.8 million with no payment due until after graduation. Interest is a small 2%.

Amy Dusenbury, Treasurer

Celebrating Members Birthdays by Secretary Capri McGuire

Absolutely! Birthdays are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and feel cherished. Whether it is a big party with friends and family or a quiet day of reflection, each person's birthday is unique and special. Here are a few ways we can celebrate monthly birthdays at our chapter meetings.



- Decorate a chair for her to sit in (balloons, streamers)
- Give facts about "What Life Was Like the Year She Was Born (gas prices, music)
- Say a prayer or blessing over her to wish her well for the year ahead
- Have each member share a memory about her
- Have each member share what she was doing the year she was born
- Give her a small gift from the chapter (flower, book, candle)
- Have each member bring a small gift (\$1-\$5)
- Have several gifts displayed and have her roll the dice to see which gift she gets
- Play music that she likes
- Personal cupcake or large cake for everyone

Of course, sing Happy Birthday!



Powerful Project Reports

ELF

Hello Sisters, I hope you are enjoying your summer. The Educational Loan Fund has made some changes I want to make sure you are aware of as they will significantly alter the ways we can help women on their educational journey.

New Max Loan Awards & New Indebtedness Limits

Have you heard the exciting news about increased maximum loan awards and increased indebtedness limits for applicants? This information can be found on page 25 of the summer 2024 issue of the P.E.O. Record. These changes were effective July 1, 2024:

Maximum Loan Awards	Indebtedness Limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$12,000 for non-degree* and associate degree programs• \$15,000 for bachelor's degree programs• \$20,000 for master's degree programs• \$25,000 for Doctoral degree programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40,000 for non-degree programs*• \$75,000 for associate degree programs• \$100,000 for bachelor's degree programs• \$135,000 for master's degree programs• \$235,000 for doctoral degree programs

*non-degree programs include trade school, certificate, licensure and endorsement programs

In addition, starting July 1, all loans will be disbursed in one installment.

With these changes, the main being the addition of the Associate Degree/Non-Degree addition we will be able to reach and help more women.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need any assistance submitting a women for the ELF Loan!

Sincerely,

Cristy Fryzek, State ELF Chair
Chapter IV Hickman



PCE

Program for Continuing Education

Did you know that the maximum grant is \$4000!? The grant is need based and provides one-time financial assistance to women whose education has been interrupted and who now find it necessary to return to school and complete a degree.

Did you also know that you can sponsor a woman who lives in another community? If you have a friend or a sister who could benefit from a PCE grant and you cannot find a local chapter to sponsor her, your chapter can! The chapter must still conduct an interview. If an in-person interview is not possible, a candidate may also be interviewed by conference call or video call.

Did you know that there is no application deadline? Applications are processed throughout the year. The applicant must be within 18 consecutive months of completing her educational program, so if she has reached that timeframe (or soon will), your chapter may begin the recommendation and application process.

Did you know that your local chapter can be designated a **Brighter Tomorrow Chapter** by giving a gift of \$500 to the Program for Continuing Education? Your contributions of any amount ensure that P.E.O. can continue to help women in need!

Did you know that the answers to all of your PCE questions can be found on the P.E.O. International website? If you can't find what you're looking for, feel free to contact me!

As the new PCE state chair, I look forward to answering any questions you may have in regard to PCE.

Lovingly in P.E.O., Kris Ferguson * kris10ferguson@gmail.com

Powerful Project Reports

PSA

P.E.O. Scholar Awards

State Convention Highlight—the Philanthropies Banquet! Sarah Kruger, Chapter CC, Seward, spoke at the banquet as a recent recipient of a P.E.O. Scholar Award. She was embraced and applauded by all attending for her post-doctoral professional accomplishments and her heartfelt appreciation of P.E.O.'s commitment to our educational philanthropies, especially PSA.

Celebrating Past Success—Congratulations to all of the Nebraska chapters who have nominated outstanding scholars in the past, and special congratulations to Chapter DL-Lincoln whose nominee, Amanda Nelson-Lewis, was selected as an alternate for the PSA for the 2024-2025 academic year!

Stepping Up to Success in 2024:

Step One. Do you know an exceptional scholar who is currently within two years of completing her PhD or doctoral-level professional degree? 100 such scholars from the U.S. and Canada will be honored with a \$25,000 P.E.O. Scholar Award in May 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year! P.E.O. Scholar Awards (PSA) are based on merit and were designed to recognize and encourage academic excellence and achievement by providing partial support for doctoral-level study and research.

Step Two. Online chapter nominations of exceptional scholars must be submitted between August 20, 2024 and November 20, 2024, so NOW is the time to identify and interview potential candidates for these prestigious and highly competitive awards! As you are preparing to speak with potential candidates for a PSA, you will find a wealth of practical resources on the P.E.O. International website to guide you. Remember that your nominees for the P.E.O. Scholar Award can be from Nebraska but working on the dissertation at any accredited university in the U.S. or Canada, or your nominee can be from another state or province, but working on the dissertation at one of the universities in Nebraska.

Step Three. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about your potential candidate's eligibility, your chapter letter of nomination, or the information on the P.E.O. International website.

Celebrating One of P.E.O.'s Super Powers—Let's work together to help extraordinary young scholars achieve their academic and professional dreams!

Laura Marvel Wunderlich, HT
P.E.O. Scholar Awards state chairman
lmavel@hastings.edu 719-207-3198



We are happy to have Jean Danley as our new assistant treasurer/secretary. Please find her contact information below:

Jean Danley
14440 Heywood St.
Waverly, NE 68462
402-499-5247
jmdnepeo@gmail.com

International Chapter reports that between June 11 and July 22, Nebraska initiated 34 sisters.

Congratulations!

Powerful Project Reports



Did you know that Nebraska State Chapter had 44 STAR recipients in the 2023-2024 member year. Congratulations to all of the recipients and those sponsoring chapters!

STAR

Please click on the [link](#) for the chapter STAR FAQ

From STAR Committee Chair: Important dates to remember

Chapter recommendations must be submitted only between August 15 and October 15. • Required student application items are due no later than 30 days after the student link with application instructions has been sent. • Applicants notified of results by April 30

IPS

Interested in learning more about the International Peace Scholarship? The P.E.O. International website has wonderful resources. Please click the [link](#) for the Q & A on IPS.

Important dates for Project Application

Cotter College: May begin applying in April of junior HS year

ELF: Applications year round. Must be within 6-24 months of graduation

IPS: Eligibility Form must be completed between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15

PCE: Year round opportunity

PSA: Online nomination form completed by local chapter between Aug 20 and Nov. 20

STAR: Chapter recommendation must be submitted between Aug. 15 and Oct. 15. Applicant has 30 days after receiving application link.





You can be a part of the Nebraska P.E.O. State Board!

Is it YOU? Send in your Willingness to Serve form! OR You might know a Nebraska P.E.O. sister who would be a fabulous addition to the Nebraska state executive board. Have you talked with her, encouraged her, and asked if she might be interested? Do not wait another minute—talk with her TODAY! The incoming Nebraska state executive board secretary will be installed at the 2025 Nebraska State Convention.

PROCESS FOR FALL 2024:

- Complete a "Willingness to Serve" form found in the 2024 convention delegate packet or on the Nebraska P.E.O. website at www.nebraskapeo.org, under the heading of "Future P.E.O. Leadership". **Send this form to Peggy Brendel, Nominating Committee Chair** at pegbpeo@gmail.com and **Jean Matheny, NSC Vice President** at jean.peo.nebraska@gmail.com
- Contact Peggy ASAP indicating your interest and she will send application materials to you.
- Complete an inventory of skills, experience, etc., the chapter letter of support, and submit all to Peggy Brendel by no later than being **postmarked Wednesday, November 1, 2024**.
- Interviews will take place, likely via Zoom, in mid-November, if possible.
- Decision made and applicants notified by no later than February 28th, 2025.

For more information about the process, and request materials, please contact:

Peggy Brendel, Chair of the State Nominating Committee
15211 Summerwood Drive
Omaha, NE 68137
Cell: 402-672-2800

EMAIL: pegbpeo@gmail.com (Preferred method of contact)



AUGUST 2024

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/>

NO MORE DONATIONS OF GREETING CARDS – PLEASE.
No more space to store them. Will let you know when we need more.

RESIDENT NEWS: Please join us in sympathy and prayers for the family of Maxine Wicks who passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Our administrator, Shari Little, is continually updating and adding prospective residents to the waiting list for our Home. We currently have 17 residents so please help us, as ambassadors of the Home, to spread the news about how happy our residents are to be cared for in our Home.

TOURS of OUR HOME: My, oh my! SO many chapters are setting up times for tours of our Home. If your chapter is interested please know these things:

- Contact Shari Little via email to set up a time – email is below – WELL IN ADVANCE, please!
- Monday through Friday works best – morning is rather busy, but afternoon or evening certainly works – chapters can have a meeting in the Home chapter room
- They do have to limit weekend tours – the residents enjoy their weekends as well and like relaxing or visiting with friends and family members ... BUT,
- There will one weekend, per month, that you can check on for a tour on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. (Shari DOES fill in for staff when needed on the weekends which are also her days off.

Contact Shari Little, Administrator to set up a date and time.

EMAIL SHARI LITTLE: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

JULY 2024 ACTIVITIES:

Activities Director, Cindy Zajicek always plans many activities and July has been no exception. Many games, such as card games, trivia time – travel and sports trivia, Wii, Cornhole, and, of course, Bingo were available in July. Fireworks on July 3rd were enjoyed by everyone. Lelebeth (dietary) brought her young daughter who “helped” Nic fire them off! This was also the month for the “Home Extravaganza”. There are some photos at the end of this article.

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

Find photos under the “NOTES” heading on the Nebraska P.E.O. Home website.

CHAPTERS, PLEASE DO NOT FORGET: You must complete new Adopt forms each year. You may **request** the same Resident or Employee.

It is not a guarantee you will have the same person.

The Adoption Form you turn in must have the years: 2024-2025 at the top. Please do NOT send in any other form other than the official one distributed at Convention 2024.

The ADOPTION Year begins July 1 annually.

These forms were in the Delegate Packets at the 2024 Convention at the Younes Center in Kearney, NE.

Completed ADOPT FORMS ONLY are to be sent to ROSE FETTY at her PERSONAL

HOME ADDRESS which is:

Rose Fetty, Board President

421 North 15th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310

All RESIDENT and/or STAFF gifts and cards are to be sent directly to:

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

SURE THE RESIDENT or STAFF MEMBER NAME IS ON THE ENVELOPE!

THANK YOU: You have no idea how much our Home appreciates your generosity in helping us to maintain our Home and offer the best care possible. Your monetary gifts are so very helpful. All Nebraska P.E.O. Sisters take ownership as part of the Nebraska State Chapter of this fabulous assisted-living facility. Thank you so very much!

Another Reminder: THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING: The Nebraska P.E.O. Home is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible. Please check with your financial planner or tax preparer to see if your donation may be eligible to be deducted from your taxes. We have been blessed that some sisters and the family of some residents have done some estate planning giving generous monetary donations to help maintain our home. We can all be thankful for these gifts as the Board of Directors carefully assists to keep our investments healthy. Our goal is to keep our Home viable for many years to come. You might want to consider such a gift knowing that our Home staff and Nebraska P.E.O.'s care lovingly for our residents.

HEARTFELT THANKS: *Thank you, for loving our Home. Your love built our Home, and your love maintains it. THANK YOU!*



Fireworks



Yes! Cotton Candy!



Summer kick-off party