



# Nebraska State Chapter P.E.O.

## January 2025

### Topic: Let's be RESOLUTE!

**"...TO BE RESOLUTE MEANS TO BE DETERMINED AND PURPOSEFUL IN ACTION, CHARACTER, OR IDEAS, ESPECIALLY WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULTY. (An AI definition) Words from Jane**

I read the above description, created through AI, and thought 'That fits so well with the mission of P.E.O. In our organization.' We are asked to look for potential candidates for a project, or a potential sister for a chapter (purposeful in action.) Through our Objects and Aims, we are asked to display good character and we have many opportunities to share our ideas and grow in our knowledge. When there are difficulties, we can count on our sisters for support.

The description went on to read...'For example, you might describe someone as resolute if they: Are focused on their education, are determined not to change their mind, have a fixed purpose, and are set in their opinion.' [sic]

I think we all want to have the ability to have our opinion changed, BUT...focused on education, being determined (in general), having a fixed purpose (education) is definitely "our thing!" I don't necessarily look at being resolute coming from facing a difficulty. I mean, that is where the word resolution comes from, you know that thing that some people do in January and give up within two weeks! (Baylor College of Medicine study)

Your challenge this month is to be resolute in your actions, character and ideas. I think another word that helps to define resolute is committed. Let's be committed to help the world be a better place, by giving women the opportunity to further their education, or share with others information about this great group of supportive women known as P.E.O. Here are some steps to help you begin the process.

- ❁ Share the story of P.E.O. with at least one woman a month either through one-on-one conversation, water cooler talk, or social media.
- ❁ If you have been missing meetings, make a resolution to attend more meetings in 2025
- ❁ By using the talents you possess, volunteer for a committee, office or program (local or state level)
- ❁ Send a note to sisters who cannot regularly attend meetings and let them know they are loved
- ❁ Don't give up after two weeks, keep the above goals going!!!

## Important News...Important Reminders!

**Chapter Bylaws:** If your chapter had any bylaw changes in 2024, make sure submit those bylaws to NSC Secretary Capri McGuire. Submit the complete Bylaw and Standing Rules, not just the changes.

**Founders' Day:** Founders Day is January 21. Let other sisters know how you celebrated, by posting your special event on social media.

**International P.E.O. Day:** Along with Founders' Day, chapters all over, will celebrate International P.E.O. Day. Volunteer as a chapter in your community, submit an article to your local newspaper about P.E.O., have your mayor sign a proclamation acknowledging International P.E.O. Day. Get creative!

**Corresponding Secretary:** You may now go onto the P.E.O. International website and make sure that all of your records match to what is online. You have until February 24. (This is your part of the annual report process)

## News from you Membership Development Committee

### Here are the Chapters with new initiates for Oct 18—Nov. 20, 2024

Congratulations to the following chapters for adding to the Sisterhood since November 21: F-Plattsmouth, AU-Peru, BF-Wilber, CE-Arapahoe, CI-Chappell (3), DA-Hastings, DT-Kimball (2), DY-Omaha (2), EJ-Creighton, FJ-Columbus, FR-Sidney, GK-Hastings, HA-Columbus (2), HD-Lincoln, HL-Blair, HT-Hastings, HX-Omaha, ID-Wayne.

What a wonderful gift to give these 22 women. At the Nebraska state convention, the Membership Committee will be honoring all chapters that have had new initiates during the P.E.O. year March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. You have two more months to find those special women to add to our Sisterhood. \*

\*Although you may not add transfers in February, you may initiate.

## Board Notes

### HONORS LUNCHEON



Chapter Sisters,

Convention will soon be upon us and as state secretary it is my honor and privilege to plan the Honors Luncheon. If you are one of the chapter honorees celebrating a milestone year of membership (50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80) you will be receiving an email from me. I would love to have pictures of our honorees, so please email them to me, including name, chapter letters and years of membership.

If you are an honored chapter, you would have received an email from me requesting a photo of your chapter, brief history or story you would like to highlight. These photos and stories will be printed in the Honors Luncheon Program.

Please send all pictures and chapter histories for the Honor's Luncheon presentation by March 15, 2025.

**Remember to register for the luncheon when convention registration is announced.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [capripero@gmail.com](mailto:capripero@gmail.com) or call me at (402)380-2925 and please leave a message if I don't answer. Thank you for your help and I can't wait to celebrate with all of our honorees at convention.





**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2025**  
**RECORDING SECRETARIES AND LOCAL**  
**CHAPTER BYLAWS COMMITTEE**  
**CHAIRS**

It is time for your chapter to inform Nebraska State Chapter of the status of any bylaw changes your chapter has made this year.

Please send your bylaws and standing rule changes to Nebraska State Secretary Capri McGuire at [capripeco@gmail.com](mailto:capripeco@gmail.com).

If you have not made any changes please email "No changes" to me. Please make sure you have your chapter letters on the email so I can "mark" that I have received your information. These are changes made between March 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.

With the holiday season now behind us, this is something to think about now, so you are prepared by the February deadline.

Your Nebraska State Secretary,  
Capri McGuire



## Resolutions

There are a lot of commercials on television right now encouraging people to search out their ancestry to find out more about themselves. In P.E.O., January is the month we look back at our seven founders. We look at who they were, what their goals were and how they relied on their faith and each other to form a sisterhood that has lived for over 150 years! What a legacy!

It is also good to take time to look back at your chapter's history, (your president should have Nebraska history books for you to research), remember the traditions that make your chapter unique. If some have been lost, bring them back, make goals for where you want to be.

Maybe participating in the International P.E.O. Day on January 21, 2025 is a good way to start. We have a rich heritage and each of you add to it! What a good resolution to share our P.E.O. heritage.

Beth Anderson

**2025**  
*Happy New Year*

## Founders' Day Facts:

P.E.O. was founded on January 21, 1869, by seven students at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. This circle of kindred spirits – bonded by their enthusiasm for women's opportunities – eventually expanded to include women off campus as well.

**January 21, 1869** – P.E.O. is founded by Hattie Briggs, Alice Coffin, Ella Stewart, Suela Pearson, Franc Roads, Alice Bird and Mary Allen. Franc and Hattie were sitting on a wooden stile at the southeast entrance of campus when Hattie suggested they start a society “of our own.” Franc concurred and they found the others. The seven women gathered in the music room at Main Hall and took a 35-word oath written by Alice Bird.

**January 23, 1869** – The first P.E.O. meeting is held at Mary Allen’s home.

**1884** – The first Convention of Grand Chapter is held in Centerville, Iowa.

**1889** – The first issue of The P.E.O. Record is sent to 400 members in 21 chapters.

**1890** – Nebraska is organized as the first state chapter.

**1907** – The P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund is established with money left over from P.E.O. Day at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (St. Louis World’s Fair).

**1911** – The first Canadian chapter is organized – Chapter A, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**1927** – Mary Allen Stafford attends the groundbreaking of the P.E.O. Memorial Library at Iowa Wesleyan. She is the last living founder.

**1927** – P.E.O. accepts the gift of Cottey College from Virginia Alice Cottey.

**1942** – The P.E.O. United Victory Fund is established to help with the war effort.

**1949** – The International Peace Scholarship Fund is established with money left over from the United Victory Fund. Its stated goal was to promote peace through friendship and understanding among the peoples of the world.

**1960** – Construction begins on the P.E.O. Executive Office in Des Moines with plans to move the business of the Sisterhood from Mount Pleasant.

**1961** – The P.E.O. Foundation is established.

**1969** – Buzz Aldrin carries his aunt’s P.E.O. charm to the moon.

**1969** – The P.E.O. Centennial Center in Des Moines is dedicated on the final day of the Centennial Convention.

**1973** – The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education is established. It was described as an opportunity for P.E.O.s to “realize their Objects and Aims through projects and programs designed to equip women to live responsively and responsibly.”

**1976** – The first P.E.O. Bed and Breakfast opens in Massachusetts. The program continues today.

**1979** – Supreme Chapter is renamed International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

**1991** – The P.E.O. Scholar Awards is established as women were increasingly pursuing advanced degrees.

**1997** – The first P.E.O. website launches.

**2009** – The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is established in response to a survey indicating the Sisterhood’s desire to help young women graduating high school.

**2019** – P.E.O. celebrates 150 years with the largest Convention of International Chapter ever. The convention is held in Des Moines, Iowa, the same location as the 1969 centennial convention.

**2020** – The first virtual P.E.O. chapter meetings are held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2021** – The first virtual Convention of International Chapter is held.

Information from the P.E.O. International Website

