



Nebraska State Chapter P.E.O.

May 2025

Topic: May Day—What would you put in your May Day Basket?

I am back in form! I have been thinking for days what I would write about for my second to the last article I will be writing as your state chapter president. As we are in May, I began to reminisce. I remember growing up having fun putting together May Day Baskets for the neighborhood kids. We always put in popcorn and loose candy. It was always the same thing, given to the same households. It was tradition.

Then I started thinking, wouldn't it be fun to put together a May Day basket at an April P.E.O. meeting that would have information about P.E.O. and then add a couple of treats in it (like Baker's Chocolate!) and then on May 1st, go through your neighborhood and drop those May Day baskets at the homes of women who you think would make great P.E.O.s. Instead of doing it secretly, you would have your name in there, with a little message about P.E.O. and that you will contact her in a couple of days! I thought, that could be fun, taking an old tradition and using it in a new way.

What P.E.O. traditions can we talk and put a modern spin on them as to keep things relevant and exciting? We have advanced the usual social gatherings to add in special groups. How many of you are in a P.E.O. Book Club, or a coffee or wine club? Maybe you belong to a P.E.O. exercise club, or some other fascinating group/club to gather as P.E.O.s in a specialty group. Remember our Objects and Aims say we are to aim for general improvement and to seek growth knowledge and culture. We have to go outside the meeting setting to do many of those things. So, get out there sisters! An organization cannot survive without growth and the growth has to come from all of us. And for us to grow, we have to have a mission that is strong (which we do) and programming which makes women want to belong.

My ducks are in a much better place now, I am happy to write. They are paddling about, as happy as can be! Keep reading about great things that are happening with Nebraska P.E.O.



I think I got you all, but do me a favor, if you met the Super Power officer training challenge, send me an email (janevpeo@gmail.com) and the only thing you need to do is in the subject line write, "Chapter _____met the challenge!" that way I won't miss the email!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY: STAR SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES - NOW!!

NOW is the time to find that STAR Scholarship candidate. Don't wait until the fall. If you need help finding a STAR candidate, contact your local school counselor **NOW** to give you names of women in the current junior class who they would recommend for this scholarship. Spring and summer is the best time to contact them, to set up an interview, rather than when they get back into school in the fall and are busy, busy, busy. It allows them time to work on references and essays before starting back to school in the fall.

Keep an eye open and watch for these young women in your community who exhibit the characteristics of leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success. Also, consider younger women and watch them grow during high school into someone who might be a future STAR candidate.



News from you Membership Development Committee (MDC)

The Membership Committee is anxious to see you at the state convention. If you are looking for the Membership Room, we have a surprise for you. Friday night we will honor chapters that have new sisters through initiation or reinstatement and chapters that have NO inactives during the past P.E.O. year (March 1, 2024-February 28,2025)

Here are the new initiations and reinstatements from March 1 through April 21, 2025: **Initiations**; X McCook, AJ Fremont, AK North Platte, AZ Wayne, BQ David City, CS-DK Lincoln, DI Humboldt (4), EQ Blair, FB Lincoln, FQ Lincoln, FS Lexington, FW Lincoln (2), GJ Lincoln, HF Omaha, HK Fremont, HM Holdrege (2), HO North Platte, ID Wayne, IX Kearney **Reinstatements**; BL-FE Chadron, DU Omaha, DW Rushville, FC Scottsbluff, HC Bellevue, HQ North Platte.



PSA Report for May 2025

I'm delighted to share excellent news! International Chapter has verified that 10 Nebraska chapters successfully nominated candidates for the prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Awards in the Fall of 2024. Special thanks to the following chapters for exercising their superpower of vision to identify exceptional candidates and to follow through with thoughtful interviews and impressive nomination letters: Chapter H-Holdrege, Chapter AK-North Platte, Chapter CC-Seward, Chapter EA-Randolph, Chapter ED-Omaha, Chapter EL-Oakland, Chapter ES-Lincoln, Chapter FW-Lincoln, Chapter GE-Omaha, Chapter HW-Lincoln. 100 exceptional scholars from the United States and Canada will receive a \$25,000 P.E.O. Scholar Award as partial support for their doctoral-level study and research during the 2024-2025 academic year, and we all eagerly anticipate news of one or more Nebraska PSA winners!

Many thanks as well to all of you and your chapters who support the P.E.O. Scholar Awards each year, and special thanks to the 14 Nebraska chapters who made an additional \$500 contribution to PSA between March 31, 2024 and February 28, 2025. As PSA Laureate chapters, you are truly "worthy of the greatest honor or distinction." The following 14 Nebraska chapters achieved PSA Laureate status this year: H-Holdrege, O-Geneva, AJ-Fremont, AN-Lexington, BT-Weeping Water, CF-Nebraska City, DA-Hastings, EC-Omaha, EG-Kearney, FD-Omaha, FS-Lexington, GG-Kearney, HF-Omaha, HX-Omaha. Many congratulations!

I much look forward to state convention in June, and hope that many of you will join me on June 14 for the Philanthropies Night celebrations. Dr. Sara Crook, whom many of you may know as past Peru State University president and as a highly sought-after Humanities Nebraska speaker, is also an early PSA award winner. Dr. Crook has graciously agreed to be our P.E.O. Scholar Awards speaker on what promises to be a memorable celebration of our P.E.O. philanthropies.

Laura Marvel Wunderlich, HT
NE state PSA chair

Board Notes



I love all the colors of May; the flowers are so beautiful. It is important to remember that they did JUST appear: Someone had to plant the seeds and water them, care for them.

Our P.E.O. mission is to help women further their education. To make that happen, we need to be on the lookout for women who need our help. Are there colleges, universities, community colleges, nursing schools, etc., in your area? Reach out to the admission department with information about all the P.E.O. Projects to find ideal candidates. Sow the seeds by interviewing the woman and watch her bloom. You will soon have a beautiful garden of project recipients!

Attention Computer Savvy Ladies!!!

Wanted...a computer savvy P.E.O. to run the AV equipment/computer at the 135th Annual Nebraska P.E.O. State Convention! Experience person needed, please. (Would use your own computer if possible)

Perks:

- ♦ Front row seat at convention
- ♦ Room and Meals covered
- ♦ Enjoy being a part of the convention team



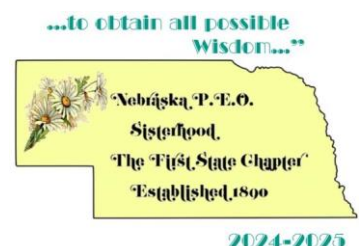
Please Contact:
NSC President Jane Van Horn
janevpeo@gmail.com or
402-278-0526
ASAP

Did you know...

- * That the Nebraska state convention is one of the last conventions of all states/provinces/districts.
- * That the first state convention is the last weekend in April (8 s/p/d held conventions on that weekend)
- * The state convention is a celebration of the P.E.O. year from March through February and that is why we honor and recognize project recipients, honor chapters, Chapter Eternal Sisters, etc... between those dates.
- * To apply for a state officer position, you must have held the office of chapter president at some point
- * The business meeting during convention is scripted, just like the chapter meetings
- * On average, state officers visit 45 chapters each year
- * Local chapters are visited every five years

Announcement, Announcement, Announcement!!!!

We are thrilled to announce that Nicole Berner, PSP GX, was voted to be the chair for CIC 2031 and Renee Piper, PSP AK, was voted to assist Nicole as the vice chair. These two women will do a wonderful job in planning the convention. Be sure to say 'YES' when they phone, text or email you and ask for help!



HONORS LUNCHEON

Greetings from the state executive board! We are so excited about our upcoming convention and we hope you are making plans to attend. This year it is my privilege to organize and present the Honors Luncheon. I will ensure that all honored members' names are included in the printed program

During the luncheon, we will honor those members who will celebrate their 50-year anniversary of becoming a P.E.O.!! What an exciting and wonderful thing to celebrate. Those honored were initiated in 1975. All 50-year members in attendance will be recognized during the luncheon. Please email me one photo of each member for the inclusion in the PowerPoint Presentation.

Also, the name of any member who is celebrating her 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 or 80th anniversary as a P.E.O. will be included in the printed program. I would love to include them in the PowerPoint presentation. Please email a photo of these sisters as well.

Be sure that all photos are clearly labeled with their name, chapter letters and years of membership. Send them, via email, to me at capripeo@gmail.com by **May 15**. In the subject line, please write P.E.O. Honors Luncheon Photo. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call! I look forward to receiving your photos and celebrating with all of you at the Younes Center in June!

The Spirit of P.E.O.,

Capri McGuire, Secretary
Nebraska P.E.O State Executive Board
capripeo@gmail.com
402-380-2925





MAY 2025

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Phone: 402-228-4208

Email: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

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

RESIDENT NEWS: Our Home is currently FULL of residents. Yes, there are 20 residents. The two most recent to move in are Virginia Schlender, Chapter AV, Pawnee City. Virginia grew up in Cook, NE and became a teacher. She taught in Pawnee City. You might remember the name Denise Rathbone, Chapter DI, from Humboldt. Denise was the activities director at our Home for a few years. Denise is doing a short stay at the Home while recovering and healing and she will be going back home when able.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE: Residents, staff, and some family members enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 18, 2025. (Some pictures at the end of this article.) The weather was not the best – cloudy and cool, but all sure had fun. Check the website for more photos than these. <https://www.nebraskapeohome.org/>

SEASONAL NEED: Many thanks to Chris Graver, Chapter EF, Omaha who shared that Nebraska Monarchs has a giveaway of native Nebraska flowers and grasses for businesses and non-profits. We have applied and are eagerly waiting to see if the Home was given 32 free plants. We can always use more flowers, etc. for our yard and small gardens.

BABY CHICKS: NINE baby chicks have been born at the Home! Exciting for everyone to see and enjoy. What a wonderful Easter gift.



2025 Nebraska State Chapter Convention: Very soon we will be gathering at the Younes Center in Kearney for our annual state convention. There are some things we want you to know about what you will find in our delegate packets and display table for the P.E.O. Home.

--The UPDATED Adopt-A-Resident and Adopt-An-Employee form. Each year, the assignments are updated and likely changed. The assignment runs from July 1 to the following June 30 each year. Chapters must complete a new form each year. There will also be a suggested gift list.

--The delegates will also receive an updated general donation form in their packets. You can make copies as needed. A donation form must accompany ANY kind of donation to the Home.

--Information about the just approved "Purposeful Living Chapter" donation. It mirrors the International Projects having a "partnership" donation possibility. **Why is it called the "Purposeful Life Award"?** It is because our residents come from many places, work backgrounds, and interest levels. Their purposes and interests do not end

– they grow, and new interests are discovered. Residents have purposeful lives just as we all strive to have. Whether it is cooking, gardening, reading, exercise, musical talent, taking day trips, playing games – and more, our residents, staff, and volunteers build relationships that help them to learn, grow, and find new interests and friendships in their lives.

The “Purposeful Life Award” will be given to chapters and individuals who donate a monetary gift of a minimum of \$500 (in a lump sum) during the 2025 – 2026 year. At the 2026 convention. those chapters and individuals will be recognized at their “chapter delegate” seats. They will also receive a certificate of having made this special donation. The period to be recognized for these special donations, at the June 2026 convention, begins AT CONVENTION – through March 10, 2026. A special donation form must accompany this special gift.

“Purposeful Life Awards” can be given in subsequent years as well. Perhaps your chapter will set a goal of donating a minimum of \$500 annually to support our Home and receive recognition at the following convention. After this initial year, these special gifts can be given between March 10 and the next March 10 so names can be compiled for convention documents. These gifts will support the purposeful lives of our residents.



We live with purpose so our residents can live with purpose.

YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR: Are YOU spreading the news about our fabulous P.E.O. Home? All Nebraska P.E.O. Sisters are a line of communication about our Home. Though Nebraska women have priority, residents do NOT have to be from Nebraska.

NEBRASKA P.E.O. HOME WEB SITE:

Chapter committees can always find news on the site AND in the Nebraska state newsletters to share at local chapter meetings!
<https://www.nebraskapeohome.org/>

TOURS of OUR HOME, please know these things: Always make arrangements through our Home Administrator: Shari Little – contact info below:

--Monday through Friday works best – morning is rather busy, but afternoon or evening certainly works. Only one weekend, per month, could work as well, ask Shari.

Contact Shari Little, well in advance, please. nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING: The Nebraska P.E.O. Home is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible. Check with your financial planner or tax preparer to see if your donation may be eligible to be deducted from your taxes.

THANK YOU: Heartfelt thanks for loving our Home with your donations, visits, prayers, and care. Your love built our Home, and your love maintains it.



