



Nebraska State Chapter P.E.O. Newsletter

The Gift of P.E.O.: ★ Sisterhood ★ Education ★ Leadership"

June 2026 • Issue #12

Notes from the President

Well here we are, just few weeks away from the 136th Nebraska State Convention at the wonderful Younes Center South in Kearney, NE!

As your state president, I have been very busy preparing for this event as has every member of the state executive board! You can bet that Reciprocity VI is excited, too, as they are your hostess chapters this year!

As president, it has been my honor and privilege to serve this past year, and indeed for the past five years! It has been an experience I will never forget and will treasure always. So many of you have contributed to the success of our state and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This convention will be the final event for me as your president making a bit of a bittersweet time! I am looking forward to seeing everyone and participating in everything, but it also makes me a bit sad knowing this will be my last time to experience convention as a board member.

Of course, I am also looking forward to wearing the title of Past State President!!! I will continue to be involved in our great Sisterhood, just in a different role!

I can't wait to see you in Kearney! It will be an experience I promise you will never forget!

-Jean Matheny, NSC President

Things to bring/know if you are attending convention (if you missed it last month!:

- ★ *Bring a light sweater or wrap, sometimes the rooms can feel cold and we want you to be comfortable (We have no control over the temperature)*
- ★ *Bring a refillable water/coffee bottle. There will be water and coffee stations in several locations*
- ★ *Bring your P.E.O. pin and membership card*
- ★ *Chapter delegates should bring a copy of your yearbook with the completed checklist found on the state website*
- ★ *Those delegates who are chapter presidents or vice president should be prepared to review the initiation "Special Works".*

- ★ *All delegates please take time to review the proposed amendments that were previously sent to every chapter. They are also available on the state website.*
- ★ *Convention reports need to be given to your chapter within eight weeks following convention*

What to wear:

- ★ *We want you to be comfortable and while there is no dress code, please look nice. International calls it "Snappy Casual"! The Saturday evening banquet is a bit dressier*
- ★ *Comfortable shoes*

Things to know:

- ★ *As always, the Gift Gallery convention store will be filled with items you will want to take home with you! Be prepared to visit the Gift Gallery*
- ★ *Be sure to visit the Project tables, the History room, all the booths in the pre-function hallway.*

P.E.O.—Where women motivate, educate and celebrate women.

P.E.O. Newsletter *continued...*

Below is an abbreviated schedule for a quick overview of events. The detailed version will of course be printed in the program included in the delegate packet that delegates will receive when they register. Don't worry, there will also be a map to help you find everything.

Convention Schedule Overview

Friday, June 12 Convention Schedule Younes Center South, Kearney

- ★ 1:00 pm - Registration opens (you will also receive room assignments)
- ★ 3:00 pm - Required all delegates Convention Orientation
- ★ 3:45 pm - Required all delegates Amendment Review
- ★ 4:30 pm – Fall 2026 Chapter visitation groups meet with visiting state officer
- ★ 5:30 pm – Dinner including Membership Celebration
- ★ 6:45 – 9:00 pm – Convention Workshops

Saturday, June 13 Convention Schedule Younes Center South, Kearney

- ★ 8:00 am – Registration continues
- ★ 8:45 am – Convention Groups meet with state officers
- ★ 10:00 am – First Session of Convention-All chapter delegates required attendance
- ★ 12:00 pm – Honor's Luncheon
- ★ 2:00 pm – Second Session of Convention-All chapter delegates required attendance
- ★ 5:30 pm – President's Banquet & Philanthropies Night

Sunday, June 14 Convention Schedule Younes Center South

- ★ 8:00 am – Registration Continues
- ★ 8:30 am – Time of Remembrance
- ★ 10:00 am – Final meeting of convention All chapter delegates required attendance

A Chapter (True) Story

As shared with Jean Matheny

One of our Nebraska chapter presidents recently sent out an email to her sisters asking them, "What are we doing that is making our chapter flourish?" Following are the answers she received. I hope you will find them helpful. This chapter has been growing by leaps and bounds over the last five years. Following COVID, they had a frank discussion of their future. The decision? Let's get busy and get going and growing!

During my first year as president (2021), we initiated several friends of one of our younger members. Both she and her mom transferred to our chapter from Minden. I remember those young ones at that time deciding that they would be the "Fun Committee," which they really are! They have brought so much joy to our chapter, and I think they really, truly enjoy us older ones!

Sadly, we lost that very special sister to a tragic car accident, and in a very sad way, that has brought us all closer together too. We have lost several older members during the last year, and we always show up to the services as a group and, again, this builds a bond.

I also agree with some of the comments that our 5th Thursday lunch/happy hour and our book club have strengthened our bonds too. Our book club keeps growing, and of course none of us wants to split into two groups because we love all of the people, so we just squeeze into people's homes!

We also go caroling at Christmas. We gather first to put together cookie trays. Then we go caroling to our older members and to some of our older moms (like mine). Then our husbands join us at Alley Rose for dinner after caroling.

We have Oktoberfest in the fall—just a fun party with the husbands. Sisters will tell you that even our now annual garage sale is fun! We really are kind of on a roll, and we all look forward to our meetings and other gatherings. Can you tell I'm very proud of our chapter, and I love my sisters?!

P.E.O. Newsletter *continued...*

Sister 1: I think we do very well as a chapter in proposing names for membership of women that we feel will be active and willing to do their part in contributing toward making our chapter successful.

Sister 2: We have some younger members with lots of friends. I think the 5th Thursday and Book Club are cementing relationships between sisters. Any time we spend together outside the meetings is good. Even the garage sale is fun. Good programs are helpful, but I never come because of a program. Maybe other members do.

Sister 3: We have a very active contingent of younger members- close knit and care for one another Our members are very committed to the success of our chapter and the mission of the organization. Our membership cares for one another and in making a difference as a chapter. Our love for each other has been outwardly expressed in many ways as we come to each other's rescue in trying times (e.g., deaths, illnesses, accidents) And- we like spending time with each other and have fun

Sister 4: We aren't all business!!!! We're sisters who enjoy each other's company! We have get-togethers other than meetings: book club, spur of moment movie meet-ups, 5th Thursday lunches and after-hours, caroling, dinners, etc.!

Sister 5: I think we are putting forth names of people who eagerly want to come and be a part of a fun group. We do fun activities outside of our regular meetings to get to know our sisters more!

Sister 6: My first year has been "just figuring it out". But generally, it's the welcoming feeling I've received from the new group!

Sister 7: What makes our Chapter flourish? I think it is the friendliness and friendships we make with this group. Everyone embraces each member with true interest, whether it is a young member encountering an older member or vice versa. The interaction is fun to watch. Our chapter embraces new ideas and runs with it. The willingness to volunteer for things that need to be done. We share in the joys and sorrows of our sisters.

When I joined P.E.O., I didn't realize that it would be one of the best decisions that I could make and I am so grateful to be a part of my chapter.

Sister 8: One thing that I appreciate is the ability to zoom. It keeps me involved.

Sister 9: I think our upbeat social media presence, our brags and 5th Thursday and impromptu "going if you want to join me" practices are some magical culture elements that serve to deepen our connections, make us a healthy chapter.

The opportunity to meet women at different places in life than just the parents of kids my kids know (those are nice acquaintances, but P.E.O.s want to be real friends with me). Also, the truth of many hands make light work is in our favor as a larger chapter. And that many of our new members have solid existing friendships with the sisters inviting them.

Convention Honor's Luncheon

With convention a few short days from now, I want to express my gratitude for all of your entries of the photos for the Honors Luncheon.

It was very rewarding to see these pictures as they came in and look at these beautiful women that have helped P.E.O.'s and beyond reach their dreams.

Thank you chapters for your help getting them in.

P.E.O. Newsletter *continued...*

A huge thank you to my P.E.O. friend Deanna, Chapter IQ, Hebron, for her help doing the program booklet and getting the pictures organized, and also, Chapter O, Geneva-Karen for her help with the Power Point.

I am Very excited to see and meet all of you at the convention-it is going to be a great celebration of P.E.O.

Penní Bruníng

NSC Secretary

Be Prepared With Your Elevator Speech!!

Have you heard of P.E.O.? Most people say no - and that is the best part for it gives you a chance to share. This is where your elevator speech comes in handy and it should be short from 30-45 seconds. Some options are:

1. P.E.O. is a sisterhood that helps women achieve their educational goals and dreams through scholarships and support.
2. You can tell them a story about the most recent scholarship winner that your chapter had.
3. P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization that has been empowering women through education for over 150 years. We provide scholarships, grants, award and loans to help women achieve their educational goals - and we celebrate their accomplishments with them every step of the way.

P.E.O. is more than an organization - it's a ripple of home that keeps giving and growing.

June is a time of growth and renewal with planting seeds and watching the flower and plants grow. When you leave convention, " Plant the seeds of P.E.O. with your elevator speech!!"

Capri McGuire, EP, NSC Treasurer

Projects Corner

I would like to extend a big thank you to the project chairs that I have had the pleasure of working with this past year. They have done an awesome job with the projects, newsletters, convention displays and of course rounding up speakers for the Philanthropies Banquet.

Please stop by the project displays at convention to meet these chairs and learn more about the projects. Please thank these women if you see them:

ELF- Francie Prier

PCE - Heather Adams

STAR - Charlene Meyer

IPS- Carol Sorensen

Scholar Award - Cristy Fryzek

Also, thank you to Renee Piper for being the Chair of the Nebraska Cottey College Committee!

They are go-getters and an awesome team. Thank you!
Capri McGuire, EP, NSC Treasurer

Tech Tidbit Tech Table at Convention

Do you continue to struggle with P.E.O. websites? Is it difficult for you to find a resource when you need it? Do you feel like you are drowning when you are "surfing" the P.E.O. websites?

This year, I will be available at convention at the "Tech Table" to help answer questions concerning the state and International websites. My goal is to make you more comfortable with the technology that is necessary for the work of your chapter. Let me help you find what you can't!

If you have a question and will not be attending convention, send it along with someone who is! Or email me at leanndrullinger@gmail.com. I look forward to greeting many of you at convention!

Lovingly, Leann



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EVERY SISTER is a VIP
Very Important P.E.O.

Spring Connection Ideas

• EVERY SISTER IS A VIP •

April

- Hold a **"Bring a Friend Brunch"** to build upon social connections and have light programming about our philanthropies.
- April is all about **renewal** – handwritten personalized **"Thinking of You"** notes to nonparticipating sisters letting them know they're missed and maybe even include a packet of daisy seeds.
- Watch a **Ted Talk, YouTube video, or Podcast** on leadership, women's history or another related topic, and break out into rooms for discussion.

May

- Create **May Day** baskets for nonparticipating sisters or for a fundraiser. Check out Pinterest for creative ideas.
- Pack a **"Prep for Finals"** snack bag for Cottey students or teachers. Include notes of encouragement.
- Organize a **Spring Flowerpot Class** at a local garden center or greenhouse. This could even be done virtually!

June

- Cue up the grill for a **"Backyard Movie Night"** – hot dogs, chips, drinks and watch a classic movie like "Sister Act." Don't forget the popcorn and lawn chairs.
- **Strawberry Shortcake Party** – everyone brings a topping!
- Visit a local **farmers' market** or ask if you can host a P.E.O. table to share information about our Sisterhood and promote the **Walk Today for Women Tomorrow**.

Let's celebrate spring by
CONNECTING, CARING & GROWING TOGETHER!

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Nebraska P.E.O. Home
The Home That Love Built

Phone: 402-228-4208 Email: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com
<https://www.nebraskapeohome.org/>

June 2026

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

WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE US:

- ★ Cozy, sun-filled private rooms
- ★ 24/7 professional care with a personal touch
- ★ Freshly prepared meals in a warm, communal setting
- ★ A true sense of belonging rooted in shared values



P.E.O. HOME NEWS FOR CONVENTION 2026:

1. NEW Adopt Forms will be available in delegate packets giving all chapters and sisters the opportunity to Adopt a Resident and/or Employee for the coming year. The NEW adopt year begins July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. You can request the same resident or employee, but it is NOT guaranteed you will be assigned the same – they are assigned in an order based on requests – AFTER CONVENTION. Plan to have your delegate complete that form while attending convention and then TURN IT IN at the Home display table.

You have no idea how much the Adopt Programs bring important, bright moments to our residents and staff. Thank you for participating!
You may sign up, at Convention 2026 to participate again in 26-27.

This year of adoption ends on June 30, 2026. The new adoption year NEW ADOPTION REQUESTS must be completed.

2. Be sure to stop by the Home display table – to meet home staff, board directors, and see all on display. We encourage chapters to turn in any special donations at our display table.

3. Except for requesting a P.E.O. Home Program, ALL DONATIONS will use the SAME FORM. Whether it is a monetary donation for a home update item, or to be part of the "Purposeful Life" Award (gift of \$500), you will now be completing a GENERAL DONATION form – beginning at convention 2026. Read it carefully as there are some important spaces to fill in depending on your request for the donation to be used.

NEW WAY TO DONATE -- AMAZON WISH LIST

What an easy way for individuals or chapters to donate to our Home. Many of us shop on Amazon and have the "prime" account for free shipping.

--Order as usual for the Home BUT, you change the "ship to" address to:

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

P.E.O.—Where women motivate, educate and celebrate women.

P.E.O. Newsletter *continued...*

PLEASE be sure you check that you want “Gift Tag” so you can add – FROM Your Chapter letters, and your name so we can send a thank you.

This will take the hassle out of purchasing and then having to deliver items OR pay any additional shipping.

REMINDER: THREE PROJECTS THAT ARE IN THE WORKS (or will be soon):

1. Redecorating the private dining room in the basement – monetary donations, please
2. Work on the pergola will continue
3. Planting season is coming – seeds for green beans, carrots, tomatoes, radishes, kohlrabi, other types of lettuce –**NO** green peas. Herbs – **NO mint of any kind** (that is already available) rosemary, sage, basil, thyme, lemongrass.

REQUEST FOR P.E.O. HOME PROGRAM IN YOUR CHAPTER:

Information and a “Request for a Program” form can be found on the Home website: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com
Contact Lisa Helmick if you have further questions – lisapeocoxnet@yahoo.com

OUR CURRENT NEEDS FROM AMAZON.COM

Copy and paste the following link into your browser to find all the beautiful items that can be donated to our Home. <https://a.co/084as0Fo>

NEED: Spring (pastels) placemats and Cloth Napkins. Moukeren 12 Pcs Easter Cloth Napkins 18.5 x 18.5 Inch Dinner Napkins Solid Plaid Easter and Spring Fabric Reusable Cotton Kitchen Towels for Holiday(Classic)



Artoid Mode Daisy Eucalyptus Lavender Floral Leaves Spring Placemats Set of 4, 12x18 Inch Seasonal Table Mats for Party Kitchen Dining Decoration. Any plain or patterned placemats and cloth napkins – pastels! OR Red/White/Blue for the 250th Birthday of the United States of America! **Have fun choosing!**

Tour Our P.E.O. Home

You and your Chapter are INVITED!

Contact Shari Little, well in advance, please.

nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

ALWAYS plan through our Home Administrator: Shari Little – contact info above.

Monday through Friday works best.

Mornings are rather busy, but afternoon or evening certainly works. Only one weekend, per month, could work as well, ask Shari.



*When planning for a tour, please be as accurate as possible on the number visiting.

*Please check back a week BEFORE your tour to be sure all you requested has been arranged.

*Please arrive on time – make a phone call if you are going to be late.

*Chapter meeting planned? Make those arrangements when you set up the tour.

***Extremely important** that anyone who is not feeling well – sore throat, runny nose, cough, unusual fatigue, temperature, etc. should refrain from visiting at this time. An ill guest can visit another time.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

The monthly schedule can be found on the Home website: nebraskapeohome@outlook.com

You will always find updated information on the website.

Check it out on a regular basis – at least once a month.



We thank you for your love and generosity for our much-loved Home!

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.