



The Daisy Chain

October-November 2023

Editor: Linda Cowan-Youssef

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Dear Sisters,

Fall has arrived this year and with it came the Convention of International Chapter! What an amazing experience! I had the privilege of sharing this event with PSPs, chapter delegates, the State Board, and guests from throughout the state. The full import of P.E.O. was evident during the entire convention and left so many of us inspired to continue our shared journey.

Now on to other business. When Jan Deaner published her Chapter V summer newsletter, I was truly excited. Her cover letter summarized this year's theme beautifully. Jan kindly gave her permission to share this with each of you. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks, Jan.

Kathy Reese's theme, "Journeys of the P.E.O. Heart," appears so simple, yet offers a labyrinth of complexities when viewed in light of all that is P.E.O. The opening of her speech opined, "And now it begins," referring to each sister's initiation. She continues, "before we know it, our heart takes over and the journey becomes clearer, as does our why. We begin to understand our Objects and Aims giving our heart a sense of direction." Oh, how true, each recitation of the Objects and Aims offers a new tidbit to hold within the heart. Our heart's direction is shown by our choices. Our "why" is reinforced by volunteering for committees, hostess, and participation to any degree. Remembering our "why" may fan the embers and rekindle what set our hearts on the journey. -Jan Deaner, V-Lewisburg

As we journey through fall and into the holidays, I am humbled by the love and acceptance of our amazing P.E.O. sisters.

Love, Kathy



Seeking a Special Sister.....

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER ASSISTANT TREASURER

The State Board THANKS Barb Bennett for all her work these past few years. Barb is voluntarily stepping away from the job, and we need YOU!

This position does come with a small stipend for your work.
If you are interested, PLEASE send an email by 11/15/23 to:

Julie Bolin, Board Treasurer, at ajbolin@gmail.com

We will send you a job description and talk with you about the position!

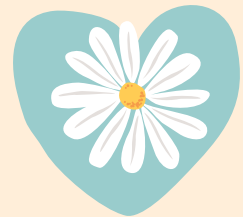
Preferred qualifications include knowledge of current Treasurer online annual reporting and QBE (QuickBooks).



The 61st WV State Convention Boutique is ONLINE and OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

YOU CAN BROWSE AND ORDER THINGS HERE:


<https://www.peowestvirginia.org/latestnews>



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

You should have received your GAME OF HEARTS in the mail. If not, please email Kathy Reese.

Like last year's Bee-ingo game, it will be used for awards at State Convention in April! The game started April 1st and ends in March 2024.



**Cottey Suite Treats
Due October 31st**

**Time to remember your
Chapter's annual \$15 donation
for Cottey College's Suite Treats!**

**Be sure to use the gift transmittal
form on our state website and
send it to Barb Bennett, Assistant
Treasurer, by October 31st.**

**WV, AL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN,
and VA state chapters all band
together to help maintain the
Southeastern Suite
in Robertson Hall.**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**Proposed Changes to Amendments
and Standing Rules Due by
November 1. Please submit
proposals in writing to Chairman of
the Amendments and
Recommendations Committee,
Christine Schimmel, Chapter A by
November 1. WVSC bylaws Article X,
Section 2 states that proposed
amendments shall be endorsed by a
local chapter, the executive board,
or a standing committee of the state
chapter.**



WELCOME TO OUR SISTERHOOD!
NEW INITIATES JULY-SEPTEMBER

Ellen None Golden - H Charleston

Amy Rae Rogers - Q Parkersburg

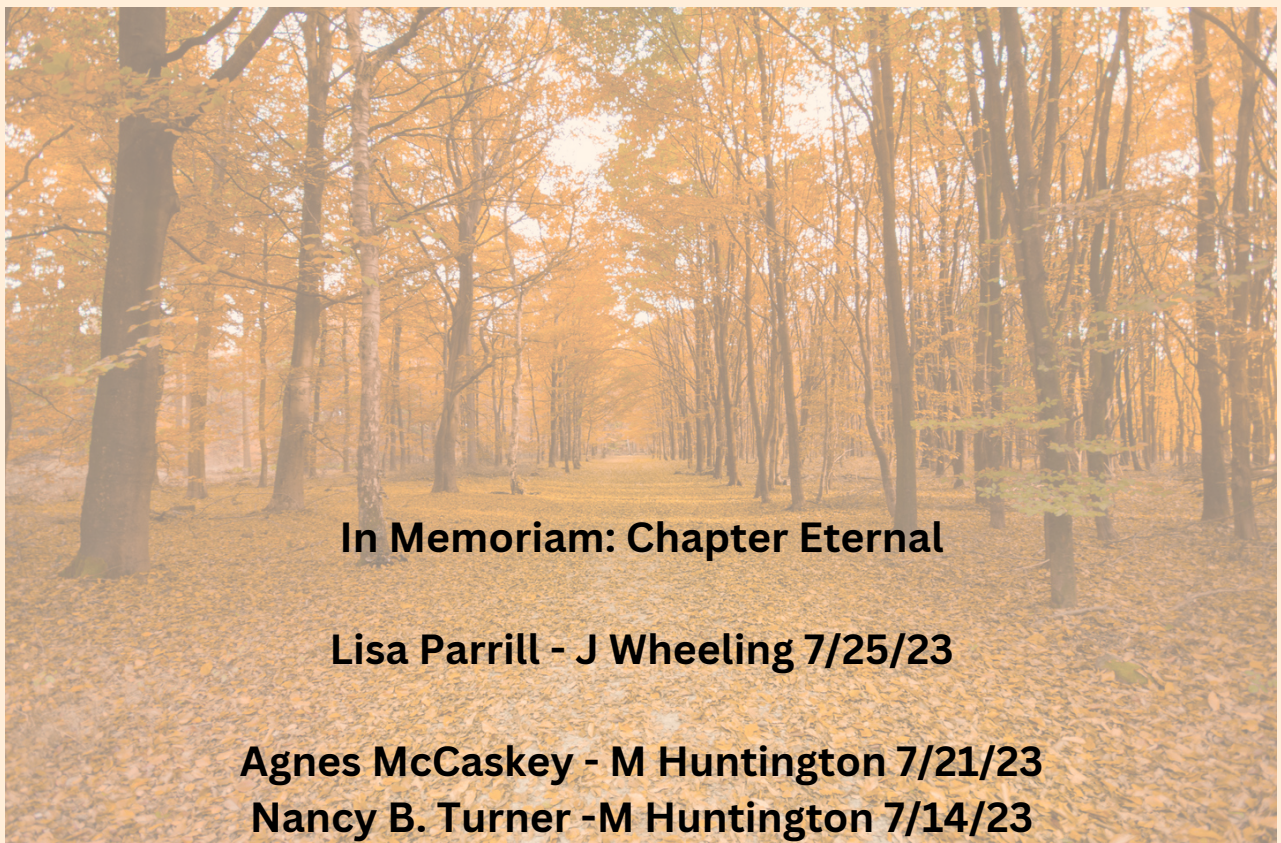
Barbara J. Bonasso - R Fairmont

Amy Grove - S Martinsburg

Brittany Masters, O, Lewisburg

Debbie Shug - X Elkins

Susan Walsh - AC Bridgeport



In Memoriam: Chapter Eternal

Lisa Parrill - J Wheeling 7/25/23

Agnes McCaskey - M Huntington 7/21/23

Nancy B. Turner -M Huntington 7/14/23



LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL SISTER TO JOIN US ON THE WV STATE BOARD

If you really want to make a difference, and you want to serve the WV population of our Sisterhood, please consider applying to be on the State Board.

Boaard service is an honor and privilege.

**Don't worry about not knowing everything about P.E.O.-
we sure don't!**

We just know where to look to find out answers for you.

It is a five-year commitment to the State.

**Traveling requirements can vary,
but is most typically heavy in year 3 - the Organizer year.
You must be available to attend WV State Convention,
the last weekend in April of each year.**

**If you want to talk beforehand, please do not hesitate to call
either your Board Sisters (info in your yearbook),**

or consider calling the Nominating Committee:

Chair: Jane Simmons


Members: Barb Daly and Donna Corbin

Applications can be found on the WV state website:

<https://www.peowestvirginia.org/executiveboardnominatingform>

*Together
We Can!*

Jane Simmons - Smiley3b@aol.com



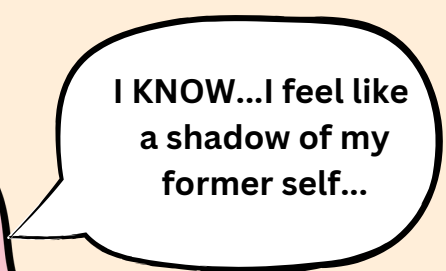
**2023
Convention of
International
Chapter:
A Great Success**

THANKS to ALL SISTERS who attended convention - West Virginia was well-represented, with 40 sisters in attendance! WV had 18 voting delegates: 4 chapter representatives, 12 Past State Presidents, and 2 State Board members- President and VP - all eligible to vote on proposed amendments.

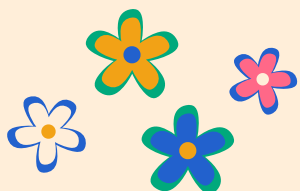
Be on the lookout for a special sister who will be reporting to your chapter regarding CIC in October/November!



wasn't Convention awesome! But I am so tired...



I KNOW...I feel like a shadow of my former self...



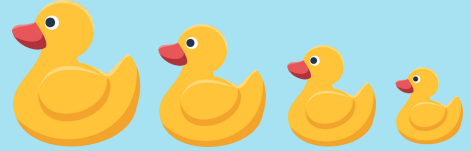
**Have something to report?
Send it to Linda Cowan-Youssef
to include in our
Daisy Chain newsletter!
Stories, news and pics are
welcome!!**

COTTEY

CORNER



COTTEY
COLLEGE



Meet Chapter S's Cottey Grads!

Chapter S, Martinsburg has five, count them 5, Cottey grads who have had successful careers and been very active in the community and chapter.

Nettie Atkinson, nee Gould, class of 1962. A native of Nevada, Cottey was a logical choice for Nettie. After graduation she received her BA in Education from Southern Methodist University and joined President Johnson's Anti-Poverty Program working with inner-city kids. Later working with the Job Corps in Texas she met her husband and they moved to West Virginia. She taught from 1978–1998 and then substituted for 18 years. Her daughter, Anne Marie, also attended Cottey. Nettie is a Charter Member of Chapter S and has held numerous offices.

Barbara Chakmakian, nee Wallace, class of 1964. After Cottey earned her BS in Health Education and Physical Education from WVU in 1966. Barb coached women's softball, track and basketball in Jefferson County, taught in Jefferson county, and organized the Girls Athletic Association all while teaching gymnastics from 1977-1990. She organized and was team coach for the Frederick Gymnastics lab recreation program. Barb is a Charter Member of Chapter S and has served as Chapter President twice, for a total of 4 years!

After graduating from Cottey, **Karen Collins**, received her BS and DDS in 1995 from West Virginia University. She joined the military and served for 20 years as an oral surgeon and orthodontist before joining a private practice in Berkeley county. For over 10 years she has worked at the Veterans Administration hospital in Martinsburg. She is a past president of Chapter S.

Molly Brady, class of 1991, continued her education at Lebanon Valley College, receiving her BS in biology in 1993. And continued her education at George Mason University receiving an MS in secondary education. She taught in Berkeley county and is now a branch manager of the Martinsburg/Berkeley County Public Library system. Molly's four daughters have received the Chapter S local scholarship which is dedicated to the Chapter's first President, Helen Fenton, and was established by her husband when she joined Chapter Eternal.

Lisa Greenly-Doyle, nee Greenly, class of 1993, continued her education at Mary Washington University and earned a BA in Historic Preservation with an emphasis in architecture. Her career with the US Department of State has taken her all over the world, from Asia, to Africa, to Europe, and the Middle East where she has met sisters and held small group meetings! She is active in Chapter S whenever she's in the country.



Sisters, did you know.....

...that West Virginia has its own Cottey College scholarship?

Yes! The Rita Carper Terry Cottey College scholarship is located in the P.E.O. Foundation. The State Board VP is the one who is in charge of dealing with it, and we have a two-person state committee who will read any scholarship applications that come in. We have a completely ONLINE GOOGLE FORM for our application!

PS - Rita Carper Terry was our first WV State President!

....that WV provides a Travel Assistance Program for potential Cottey attendees?

Our state will provide up to \$400 for a junior or senior in high school, to travel and check out Cottey to see if its right for them. More info is located on our state website- look for the TAP - Travel Assistance Program.

....that you can help recruit for Cottey, or donate to the scholarship?

I sent an announcement with the link to the scholarship form to every guidance counselor in WV high schools through the WV Dept. of Education.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL - you are the best resource for finding our next WV Cottey Gal!

LINK to Scholarship Application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN13LYWih25DFn3mK83hmtW_0buSXjMqjXnPsqANKz6vm2eA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Congratulations to the following chapters who were featured in this past Record for the achievement of adding membership:

H, J, O, U, V, Z, AND AA!

Congratulations!

**YOU ADD TO
P.E.O.,
P.E.O. ADDS
TO YOU**



Fall Journeys of the P.E.O. Heart

It starts with mums

**then on to football and pumpkin spice lattes,
the burnishing and turning of the gardens;**

**the leaves falling from canopies of trees through the
exquisite mountains-our home among the hills
we drive and walk slower through the pathways of life**

--savor a little bit more

**We gather together and recite odes, meet up for coffees,
plan scholarship meetings, game nights, Founder's days,
outings, book clubs, Organizer visits and Thanksgiving.**

Then it's December - cocoa and cocktails and holidays,

when we all try to remember where the time went

until a new year is at the horizon.

***Please take a moment to reflect upon this essay,
written by State Board Treasurer Julie Bolin.***

Imagine for a moment that a decked-out Delorean has just driven up to your house and the driver states that she is to take you back in time to two different points in your youth. First, she will take you to a time when you were in seventh grade. Then, she says she will take you to when you were at the cusp of adulthood. You climb inside, fasten your seatbelt, and she whisks you away from your mundane life. As the vehicle rolls to a stop, she advises you that you are only sent to observe...you cannot interact with your younger self. The first stop is at your Junior High school. She walks you to the cafeteria and you begin to watch your younger self. Oh! The girls are mean! Your heart breaks as you watch your younger self get excluded from activities. You remember that shy youngster vowing that she will never be that person; the person that is mean and excludes others.

The driver states it is time to leave and soon she is whisking you away. This time when you land, you observe yourself when you were on the cusp of adulthood; filled with energy, hopes, dreams and grand ideas. This younger version seems to remember how she felt as that seventh grader and is working hard at being the person that empowers other women instead of breaking them down. You wonder aloud as to why the driver has brought you here to this specific moment in time. She answers, "I wanted you to see the hope you felt when you wanted to change the world and make everyone feel welcome. I know that person is still deep down inside you, even though you have become cynical as the years have passed."

As a member of P.E.O., we are all familiar with the legend of our founding. How seven friends formed a new society of women when some of their group was excluded from membership in a new sorority.

We should remember that those seven ordinary women started something extraordinary back in 1869! They renounced the exclusionary and instead formed a society that included their friends. In the 153 years since, it has been the goal of P.E.O. members to seek others that value the virtues of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice, and Truth and include them in our organization.

**These are the values of inclusion. These are the values of diversity.
These are the values of equity.**

These are the values of belonging.

**This is what our sisterhood is about...seeking others who value these five virtues and make a welcoming place for them in our organization.
A place where they belong.**

As a chapter member, and as one of your State Board members, I have fielded some questions from sisters around the state about the role of Christianity and “DEI” (diversity, equity and inclusion) and I felt that this would be a good way of answering those questions.

First, P.E.O. is not a religious organization. It is not a Christian organization. Our International website has many resources regarding this topic. Secondly, I have heard sisters express concern over diversity, equity, and inclusion. I would like to share how I view these topics:

Diversity...

Would you want all of the sisters in all of the chapters around the globe to be carbon copies of yourself? Wouldn't that be a little boring?

Diversity allows for growth in knowledge and ideas (*sounds like something from our Objects and Aims*), because when you have a diverse chapter, it is open to new ideas and exciting experiences.

Equity...

Think about your chapter. When you select a location or time to meet, does it allow for all of your chapter sisters to attend? Does the location or time exclude the working sisters or the sisters with visible and hidden disabilities? Does your chapter have “fees” instead of allowing each sister to give of their time and talent? Equity is not about equality but ensuring each sister has what they need to thrive. Remember that each sister is in a unique time in her life.

Inclusion...

Remember the legend of our founders. Are we an exclusive club or a society that focuses on growing and including those women that share the virtues of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice, and Truth? This is why P.E.O. is asking chapters to reach out to sisters that are diverse...to remember that our virtues do not belong to any one religion or one demographic. Our virtues are universal...and there are so many women that will make great P.E.O. sisters...we just need to recognize that those potential sisters are already among us, waiting to be invited to join us in our sisterhood.

Try not to be the chapter that excludes women from backgrounds or religions that are different from the rest of the chapter. Be the sister that reaches out to find the woman that will cherish the bonds of sisterhood. That is why we seek growth in knowledge and culture; this is how we improve ourselves and our world.

This is how we bring the “Object and Aims” to fruition and grow a thriving sisterhood where we all feel like we belong.





**Happy
Halloween**



**give
THANKS
WITH A
GRATEFUL
heart**

**Happy
Thanksgiving
Day**