



The Daisy Chain

WV State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood

September 2021

Jane Johnson, Editor

The Harmony of our Hearts

Oh, those sweet, carefree melodies of childhood. I grew up on a farm in rural northwestern Pennsylvania in the 1950s and 60s and I looked forward to the end of August and the week before Labor Day almost as much as a promised Christmas visit from Santa. Those were days packed with joyful anticipation of the upcoming Erie County Fair, and the soundtrack of my memories plays brightly in a major key and the sounds of the carousel on the midway. It was a time of wonder accompanied by a sense of peace and security. Even though it marked the end of summer, the entire week was filled with the promise that something good was going to happen and it fills my musical heart with joy to this day.

But cue in the ominous sounds of low brass and tympani because change was in the air. My childhood soundtrack would then begin to transition a bit too abruptly to a minor key signaling a different kind of anticipation. School was starting. The rumbles of an uneasy “butterflies in my stomach” feeling began. My “things to worry about” list started to take shape. The feeling of hope and promise faded and was replaced by an overwhelming, and yes, unfounded fear of what might be, or what might *not be*. The gnawing feeling of childhood worry threatened to cloud any hope of wonderful things to come.

Thank goodness that I can fast forward a few decades and say that some semblance of wisdom does come with age. Perhaps it's because we've had enough life experience to teach us that things will somehow work out. There is always hope even in times of uncertainty. We've learned that fretting about the unknown serves no real purpose. Most importantly, there is great freedom in understanding and embracing that the soundtrack of our lives is still a work in progress being written by a composer much greater and wiser than ourselves.

When I said yes to serving on the West Virginia State Board, I quipped to our kids and my sweet husband that I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Our youngest daughter Amanda, who is also a P.E.O., simply smiled and said, “Well, Mom, look at it

this way. Everything will be a wonderful surprise!” I think of Amanda’s sunny response often. It’s easy to dismiss that optimism considering the challenges, disappointments, and discord of the world around us. But I encourage each of us to not let a fear of the unknown cloud the hope of wonderful things to come. How empowering to step out in faith with the optimism that life might bring wonderful surprises and unexpected blessings. 152 years ago, seven young women stepped out in faith with open hearts and in doing so they discovered beautiful new voices, bringing beautiful new harmonies to the soundtrack of P.E.O.

We have no idea what the future will hold, but we know that our sisterhood is *resilient*. When we gather “virtually” for our Convention of International Chapter we will again step out in faith just as our founders did. We have no idea what blessings and “wonderful surprises” lie ahead. But we will celebrate the Harmony of our Hearts because the main theme, the beautiful melody that weaves through the soundtrack of our sisterhood has not changed. The bonds of sisterhood bring the harmony to our hearts as we provide educational opportunities for women. And that, dear sisters, is humbling and fills my musical heart with joy.

With Harmony,

Barb

Celebrating the Harmony of our Hearts!



Our newest West Virginia chapter, Chapter AD, Morgantown recently held their first-ever hybrid meeting at the home of Chris Battin! In attendance were WVSC President, Barb Daly who presented their chapter charter and special guest Chapter W, President Julie Bays who gifted Chapter AD with a beautiful hand-decorated podium.

Pictured left to right: Julie Bays, W; Diane Crocco, AD; Chris Battin, AD; Vicki Auch, AD; Suzanne Pinion, AD: and PSP Kelly Dlugos,AD.

Donation Reminder

Reminder



COTTEY COLLEGE

Reminder

It's time to remember your chapter's \$15 donation for our annual Cottey College Suite Treats! Be sure to use the gift transmittal form available on our state website and mail your donation directly to our assistant treasurer, Barbara Bennett by October 31.

West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia State Chapters are members of a nine-state consortium which is responsible for maintaining the beautiful Southeastern Suite in Robertson Hall.

Our assigned Cottey Suite Treats month is January and we are thrilled to share that last year 100% of our West Virginia Chapters contributed to Suite Treats! Job well done, Sisters!





2021 Virtual

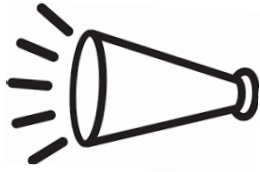
Convention of International Chapter

Our 30-member West Virginia delegation is pumped and ready to connect and engage with sisters from across our entire P.E.O. Sisterhood as we celebrate our shared mission at the 2021 CIC held virtually September 20-25. Along with 11 registered visitors, West Virginia has a 19-member voting delegation comprised of our chapter delegates from Chapters A, Q, U and V, thirteen PSPs and WV State Board officers, Barb Daly and Jane Johnson. This 75th Convention of International Chapter includes a variety of workshops, activities and special events throughout the week plus the required business sessions on Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25.

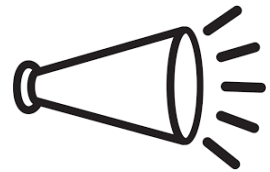
Check out the opportunities for joining the action via a live-stream of events at <https://members.peointernational.org/convention>



Looking ahead... Convention of International Convention 2023 is scheduled for Pittsburgh, PA and local chapters eligible for CIC delegates will be Chapters F, M, N and W.



PEO NEWS



Announcing our 2022 Golden Girls

Chapter A	Amy Williams
Chapter B	Ruth Ann Clark
Chapter C	Beverly Gouer
Chapter N	Henrietta Jackfert

Proposed Changes to Amendments and Standing Rules Due by November 1

Please submit proposals in writing to Chairman of the Amendments and Recommendations Committee, Kathy Gullion, Chapter W 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.



Changes in Membership

Transfer In

Rose Morris. Chapter M

Carol Burnside. Chapter U

Elizabeth Zuchowski. Chapter AD

Initiation by Affirmation

Mary Ujcich Chapter N

Welcome Sisters!

Announcing 2021 WV Project Recognition Award Chapters!



ELF Legacy Chapter Chapters A, L, R, U, and AC

In 2017, our P.E.O. **Educational Loan Fund** (ELF) celebrated its 110th birthday. As of June 30, 2019, ELF has loaned \$213,549,209 to 48,907 women. Contributions and bequests totaling \$36,496,181 have been received since 1907. P.E.O.'s first philanthropy is truly a legacy in memory of our Founders.



IPS Partner in Peace Chapter Chapters L, R, W and AC

The **International Peace Scholarship** (IPS) Board of Trustees awarded 163 scholarships totaling \$1,800,600 in 2021. To date IPS has awarded \$47,088,763.



STAR Constellation Chapter Chapters L, R, W, and AC

Our newest philanthropy, the **STAR Scholarship** has awarded a total of \$15,285,000 to 6114 young women in the past seven years!



Congratulations!!



