

P.E.O. Sisterhood

All P.E.O. chapters follow the same procedures for business meetings and the initiation of new members. Each meeting is opened with a scripture, prayer and the recitation of our Objects and Aims. Our emblem is the star. The marguerite is our flower and our colors are white and yellow. Each member receives The P.E.O. Record, our bimonthly magazine. The P.E.O. website is peointernational.org.

P.E.O. friendship extends from chapter to chapter. A procedure for transferring provides an opportunity for members to belong to other chapters if they change their residence, or if the time or day of the meeting prevents attendance on a regular basis.

P.E.O. Philanthropies

The P.E.O. Sisterhood supports the following women's college and five educational assistance programs:

Cotter College is a fully accredited liberal arts and sciences college for women offering baccalaureate and associate degree programs, leadership opportunities, and arts and athletic programs. Located in Nevada, Missouri, Cotter is owned and has been supported by the P.E.O. Sisterhood since 1927, making it the only nonsectarian institution of higher learning in the country solely owned and supported by women.

P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund—a revolving, low interest loan fund established in 1907 to lend money to eligible worthy female students to assist them in securing a higher education.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund—established in 1949 to provide scholarships for international female students to pursue graduate study in the United States and Canada.

P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education—established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the United States and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families.

P.E.O. Scholar Awards—established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based financial awards for women of the United States and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral level degree at an accredited college or university.

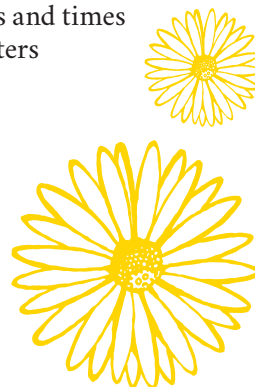
P.E.O. STAR Scholarship—established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional high school senior women to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the United States or Canada in the next academic year.

The P.E.O. Mission Statement

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cotter College; and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

Reasons to Organize a New Chapter

- It is the best way to grow the P.E.O. Sisterhood
- Current chapter meeting days and times are inconvenient for some sisters
- Your chapter is so large, it's difficult to hold meetings in members' homes
- A large number of unaffiliate and inactive members live in the area
- An additional chapter would accommodate population growth in your community
- Multiple chapter sisters live in neighboring community, suburb or town
- There isn't a chapter near where you live
- Additional members will broaden support for P.E.O. philanthropies
- Your state, provincial or district executive board is looking for someone to lead this effort – and you are up for the challenge!



Guide for Organizing a New Chapter



*Women Helping Women
Reach for the Stars*

P.E.O. Executive Office
Phone: 515-255-3153 Fax: 515-255-3820 peointernational.org

Consider Organizing a New P.E.O. Chapter

It may be time to organize when:

- A chapter is too large for many homes.
- Members do not have an opportunity to develop close relationships.
- Members do not feel missed or needed.
- A chapter is hesitant to accept new or transferring members.
- There are many unaffiliates in an area and no chapter.
- A group of members needs a different meeting time.
- A chapter avoids follow-up on introductions of potential new members due to chapter size.
- A chapter has many nonparticipating members.
- There isn't a chapter close enough for a member to attend and participate.

First, contact the organizer for your state, provincial or district chapter. She will serve as a great resource for you. You will receive a Manual of Procedure for a Prospective Chapter.

Next, begin meeting informally with those interested, including:

- Members of nearby chapters who may want to consider transferring for a more convenient meeting day or time or to help support the growth of the Sisterhood
- Unaffiliates in the area
- Potential charter initiates recommended by P.E.O.s



Becoming a New Chapter

During the months prior to organization day you will meet to get well acquainted and to:

- Choose meeting day and time
- Select temporary officers
- Secure members
- Plan preparatory meetings and programs
- Sign petition to organize
- Arrange for letters of recommendation for charter initiates
- Receive letters of intent to transfer
- Prepare chapter bylaws
- Prepare chapter yearbook
- Prepare chapter budget
- Plan fundraising activities
- Plan social and BIL activities

Communicate with the state/provincial/district organizer frequently and request help as needed.

Requirements

The petition to organize a new chapter must be signed by no fewer than 15 women. If more than 20 charter members are desired, consent must be secured from the organizer.

The petition may be signed by not more than one-fourth of the resident membership of an existing chapter without securing consent of the executive board of the state. (Constitution Part III, Article I, Sec. 2.)

A \$50 fee must accompany the signed petition. The organizer will then order the supplies for the new chapter. Plans will be made for the chapter organization and designated chapter letter(s) will be received. The charter will be presented at the next state, provincial, district or International convention.

The History of P.E.O.

P.E.O. is a sisterhood based upon the principles of friendship and loyalty. It began as a small society on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University on January 21, 1869.

P.E.O. soon chose to go off campus and into a broader field of service. Today there are nearly a quarter of a million members in approximately 6,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

P.E.O. Membership

P.E.O. is an organization of women who embrace a great diversity of talents, personalities and age groups. Every member has a place in this growing sisterhood and serves in her own way; in the united effort of all, the Sisterhood is enriched and strengthened. Membership is by invitation. P.E.O. is not a club; we do not merely add members, we choose sisters.

Membership in P.E.O. carries with it responsibilities beneficial to the members, local chapters and the Sisterhood as a whole. Each member is expected to attend chapter meetings, participate in chapter activities and fundraising and assist in any capacity requested as long as there is no real conflict with obligations to her family or religion. Members will be asked to serve as hostess or cohostess, serve on a committee and perhaps give a program or be an officer. Members affirm their belief in God and work together for general improvement of themselves and society.

