

OUR P.E.O. OBJECTS AND AIMS

The Meaning Behind the Words

LEADER'S GUIDE: GIVE CHAPTER MEMBERS THE COPY WITHOUT THE QUESTIONS IN ITALICS.

As you recite the Objects and Aims at each meeting, do you think about the meaning behind those words? Let's take a few minutes and look at the Objects and Aims a little more closely.

Elaine M. Swanson, CE, Nebraska, writes:

"P.E.O.'s statement of purpose speaks to our inner qualities and to striving to develop them more fully. It addresses attitudes, behavior and interacting with others." Our Founders, women of wisdom, recognized that strong character is vital to a woman's well being. To achieve true happiness and fulfillment, a woman must cultivate her inner qualities. I believe P.E.O. helps us to achieve this. Those who regard P.E.O. as a social organization and look no further miss much. True, strong bonds of friendship are forged and maintained within P.E.O., but our purpose transcends this by reminding each sister of her spirituality, which is the essence of character."

(The P.E.O. RECORD, March-April 1998)

[NOTE: Possible discussion questions are in italics after each section of the Objects and Aims. Audience participation is encouraged. You may want to add questions of your own.]

The objects and aims of this sisterhood shall be general improvement

Every organization has a purpose, which is often explained in a mission statement. The Objects and Aims can be considered the mission statement of P.E.O. We are reminded at every meeting of this purpose when we recite the Objects and Aims. We can even look at it every day because it appears in our chapter yearbook, which is given to each member.

- 1. Do you think this purpose is outdated? Is P.E.O. relevant today?*
- 2. How has P.E.O. influenced your life?*
- 3. How is your chapter meeting the challenge to offer opportunities for personal growth?*

Which shall comprehend more especially the following points:

The Objects and Aims give us a list of areas, which should be the focus of the organization. These are guidelines by which we should conduct ourselves and which should be a part of our programming.

To seek growth in charity toward all with whom we associate

It is not by accident that this appears first in the listing of how we will achieve general improvement. We should strive to demonstrate love and acceptance toward each other and those outside of our organization.

- 1. Though it may be a bit old fashioned, what does the word "charity" mean?*

2. How does P.E.O. help us reach this goal?

And a just comprehension of and adherence to the qualities of faith, love, purity, justice and truth.

These virtues are important to all P.E.O.s.

- 1. What does each of these qualities mean?*
- 2. Are you able to practice these qualities in your daily life?*

To seek growth in knowledge and in culture, and to obtain all possible wisdom from nature, art, books, study and society,

Education is an ongoing process, which continues throughout one's life. There are many sources of knowledge beyond a formal educational setting. All members need to challenge themselves: this could mean becoming a chapter officer, presenting a program about a topic of interest to you, attending events in your community.

- 1. What types of programming has your chapter done which helped further your knowledge?*
- 2. What do you do on a personal level to seek growth in knowledge and in culture?*

And to radiate all light possible by conversation, by writing and by the right exercise of any talent we possess.

Each one of us has special talents that we can share with others. Some talents are more visible than others. All are equally valuable. P.E.O.s use their talents everyday at home, at work, in the community and within their chapters.

- 1. What talents are you willing to share with P.E.O.?*
- 2. What talents are needed for each chapter officer and for each committee?*

To aim at self control, equipoise, and symmetry of character, and temperance in opinions, speech and habits.

P.E.O.s are challenged to conduct themselves in ways, which are consistent with our ideals.

- 1. What does this sentence of the Objects and Aims mean?*
- 2. What other words could you use to describe this goal?*
- 3. Are these characteristics easy to accomplish?*

It shall be the chief duty of each member to consider thoughtfully the full import of P.E.O.

The final paragraph of the Objects and Aims is a summary of how we can take the ideals of P.E.O. and use them in our own lives. We can accomplish this by doing the following:

- 1. List some examples.*

This will include a sincere regard for our influence in the community, a careful consideration of feeling when speaking, and a determination to do all we can, at all times and under all circumstances to express a loving concern for each sister.

- 1. How are you involved in your community?*
- 2. Are you always aware of how your words affect others?*
- 3. Are you reaching your goals in life?*

4. *What is sisterhood?*

5. *How do you express a loving concern for each sister?*

The Objects and Aims provide a road map for our chapters and our personal lives. Next time you recite it at a chapter meeting, think about the meaning behind the words. Are you meeting the challenges set forth in the Objects and Aims?

Source: Jill K. Sauser, N, Organizer, GA. State Chapter, April 1999.

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Handout for Chapter Members

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