



## P.E.O. Objects and Aims Program

[Verbiage in blue is from the Objects and Aims. Black is commentary. Red is best read by a second person as a clarification.]

### THE OBJECTS AND AIMS OF THIS SISTERHOOD SHALL BE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT

Hear the words – “general improvement.” The biggest room in the world may be the Room for Improvement. Our Founders gave us a guide for decorating and refreshing this room in the words of our Objects and Aims.

### THE OBJECTS AND AIMS OF THIS SISTERHOOD SHALL BE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT, WHICH SHALL COMPREHEND MORE ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

Step by step, here is the guide.

#### TO SEEK GROWTH IN CHARITY

To seek growth within ourselves through charity... (charity, meaning selfless acts that demonstrate God's love) To seek growth within ourselves through selfless acts to our fellow human beings. Charity is something given with a generous spirit, given without obligation. Charity is born of God's love, selfless, sacrificial, unconditional. Unconditional love.

#### TO SEEK GROWTH IN CHARITY TOWARD ALL WITH WHOM WE ASSOCIATE

To seek growth in simple and bold acts of love, common and uncommon acts of love toward all with whom we associate. Perhaps we have Room for Improvement even with our P.E.O. sisters, with family, with friends...(with neighbors, colleagues, and strangers with whom we associate, the lovely and unlovely, the blank faces, the seemingly unlovable...) those who may appreciate our concern...and those who may not. Sometimes that Room for Improvement gets crowded.

## AND A JUST COMPREHENSION OF AND ADHERENCE TO THE QUALITIES OF FAITH, LOVE, PURITY, JUSTICE, AND TRUTH

And a just comprehension of (that is, to understand) and adherence to (devotion to, support of) the qualities of faith, love, purity, justice, and truth.

Qualities clearly defined in our Ceremony of Initiation, one by one as we move around to each point of our Star. (Listen carefully during our next Initiation.) These qualities have the power to refresh our Room for Improvement.

These qualities are a core part of our initiation ceremony. The words in the ceremony elaborate on each point of our Star. That Star is our emblem and we wear that emblem. And so we must clothe ourselves in these qualities: Faith, Love, Purity, Justice, and Truth. Each one is a habit to be clothed in each day.

TO SEEK GROWTH IN KNOWLEDGE AND IN CULTURE (Culture – refinement of intellect, emotions, interests, manners, and taste.)

AND TO OBTAIN ALL POSSIBLE WISDOM (Wisdom – good judgment, insight, sagacity, perception) FROM NATURE, ART, BOOKS, STUDY, AND SOCIETY;

Wisdom is discernment – God’s voice guiding us. Wisdom involves sound decision-making, good choices, the ability to apply what we learn to enhance our Room for Improvement.

AND TO RADIATE ALL LIGHT POSSIBLE BY CONVERSATION, BY WRITING, AND BY THE RIGHT EXERCISE OF ANY TALENT WE POSSESS.

These are clear goals. Sometimes – with all due respect – we do chuckle at the apparent *erudite obfuscation of the singular determination of our Founders to transmit the tenets of the cohort thus confounding the extrapolation of intent*. That is...our Founders’ words, at times, seem formal and strange to us. But here, in the Objects and Aims, the intent is clear.

I could compose volumes with my good intentions, enough to fill a Room for Improvement. And without a doubt I would like to erase from that room the conversations I should not have had...and words and actions that I regret. But good intentions do not satisfy the action verbs like *seek* and *obtain* and *radiate* along with the solid qualities our Founders gave us.

Our Founders put forth this simple AIM...this simple aim for living:

TO RADIATE ALL LIGHT POSSIBLE BY CONVERSATION, BY WRITING, AND BY THE RIGHT EXERCISE OF ANY TALENT WE POSSESS.

To be a light to the world, to illuminate, to overcome darkness, to brighten days and moods and outlooks and rooms for improvement. And also...

TO AIM AT SELF-CONTROL, EQUIPOISE (that is...balance), AND SYMMETRY OF CHARACTER, AND TEMPERANCE (restraint) IN OPINIONS, SPEECH, AND HABITS.

Our AIM here is balance – balance in all phases of our lives including our emotions. Think of harmonious arrangements. Imagine musical harmony filling your Room for Improvement. Harmony can saturate our entire lives. How bright our world would be if we continuously radiate to the world a beauty that shows through because our character is balanced and harmonious and lacking the discords of unlovely traits and habits.

Our AIM is also what I'll call alignment, (that is, our words and actions must reflect our core beliefs.) Our words and actions must be aligned with our core beliefs; they are demonstrations of *living our beliefs*.

IT SHALL BE THE CHIEF (main, first, primary) DUTY (obligation, responsibility, requirement) OF EACH MEMBER TO CONSIDER THOUGHTFULLY (contemplate, ponder, reflect upon) THE FULL IMPORT (the meaning, the importance, the significance) OF P.E.O.

THIS WILL INCLUDE A SINCERE REGARD FOR OUR INFLUENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF FEELING WHEN SPEAKING,

Could our feelings get in the way of “careful consideration”? Am I upset? Are my emotions balanced, is my equipoise evident? AND have I taken into account the feelings of others? How will my words be heard? How will they sound to others?

AND A DETERMINATION (a firmness of purpose, clarity of intent) TO DO ALL WE CAN, AT ALL TIMES, AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES TO EXPRESS A LOVING CONCERN FOR EACH SISTER.