

Founders Day “Purse” onalities

This short skit is intended to be a snippet into the lives and personalities of our founders. (about 10 minutes long) These are the props that you need to present the skit: a business bag, a homemade purse, a backpack, an evening clutch, an oversized purse, an alligator purse and a plain brown purse) With the help of seven sisters, you can have a runway type skit. Have fun with it!

Welcome to Georgia P.E.O. Accessories Exhibition 2024. Our founding sisters have come to visit us today and show us their style and purse-onalities. We will see how their personalities come thru in their accessories.

Our first sister is Mary Allen:

Mary brings poise and dignity to P.E.O. She is concerned with the importance of using proper procedures when conducting a meeting. Today we see Mary sporting a **business bag**. It is sleek and simple and has room for all the necessary papers plus supplies for each meeting. Mary is always organized and ready to help. Oh, that we could all be more like her. Mary Allen's home hosted the first P.E.O. meeting. Mary Allen is the one who coined “two words express the spirit and purposes of our Sisterhood: fellowship and service...in simpler terms...Love in Action! Thanks Mary Allen for your business sense.

Next we have Hattie Briggs:

Hattie brings to P.E.O. its homemaking qualities. She has that rare gift of making everyone feel at home, comfortable and loved. Hattie is carrying a **homemade bag** that she made herself. Note the fine stitching and the room for all the items she might need. There is plenty of room for all the necessities that any true P.E.O. might need...fabric, scissors, recipes, you get the idea! Remember Hattie was our founder who declared...”Let us start an order of our own.” Thank you, Hattie Briggs, for bringing the comforts of home to P.E.O.

We now have Alice Coffin:

Alice is a woman after my own heart. She is interested in the education of self and others. Being a teacher she loves to enrich the minds of her students and bring new knowledge to others. She finds great joy in teaching. Of course we find Alice with a **backpack** filled with books, pencils, manuals and candy. Possibly a frog or two left there by a young student. Remember Alice suggested the five-pointed star for our emblem. Thank you Alice Coffin for your efforts in education.

Suela Pearson is our next founding sister!

Suela is the butterfly of the group. She enjoys parties, socials and having fun. She lifts the spirits of her sisters and brings fun to the life of others. Since Suela enjoys an evening out with friends, she is holding an **evening clutch**. Of course the contents hold lipstick, a key and hair comb for a night out on the town. It is said that Suella was the founder who proposed our password. Thank you Suela Pearson for your enthusiastic spirit.

Here comes Franc Roads.

Franc is our visionary and activist. She has a crusading spirit and actively takes part in many movements. She is for Women's lib and you may find her out saving the whales or owls. Franc is ready to save the world. She does need lots of compartments (**oversized purse**) to hold pamphlets for her many causes plus a little space for her art supplies. While out saving the world, she loves to sketch and draw. Franc gave the vision of a better womanhood. Franc put her artistic skills to work and mastered the art of china painting. Some of her work is displayed at Centennial Hall in Des Moines. Thank you Franc Roads for setting us all on fire to help good causes where we can.

Now comes Alice Bird.

She is a noted speaker and writer. Much to Franc's chagrin, Alice knows that any professional writer must have an **alligator bag** even if it is just a faux one. One cannot stand in the presence of other writers without it. She also needs room for the latest books she is reading and notes from her most recent speech. So, no small purse for her. Alice wrote a 35-word oath that is still embedded in our initiation ceremony plus our first brief constitution. Thank you, Alice Bird, for bringing to us your love of literature.

And last but not least, we have Ella Steward.

Ella is one of those kindhearted women who is always looking out for the needs of others. Her life is dedicated to serving others, from her family to troubled youth. Ella doesn't need a flashy bag. A simple and functional **plain brown bag** with band-aids, lotion and other items to help "those in need" is what she carries. Ella was the only founder not to graduate but she helped delinquent boys with lessons of right thinking and living. Juvenile courts came into being out of her pioneering service. She chose our colors of yellow and white for P.E.O. Thank you Ella Steward for teaching us to serve one another.

So, there you have it, the seven founding sisters and their wonderful but diverse "purse"onalities. What does your purse say about you?

2024 Sept Edited by Julie Thomas BM\GA.

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