President's Message

In a few weeks, delegates, visitors, past presidents, BiLs and guests will come from east and west, north and south to attend the 84th convention of Texas State Chapter in dynamic Houston; where southern hospitality meets urban chic. During our time together we will hear stories of Bold Dreams and Boundless Love, exchange best practices and discover much about State and International Chapter. Delegates will carry out important business, hear reports from committees and return to your chapter with lots to share. Thanks in advance to all the delegates for taking on the important task of representing your chapter.

For the convention general information and schedule or to review the amendments go to our website www.peotexas.org. Be sure to read the article in this TEXAN from the 84th Convention chairman, Linda Miller.

A state convention can be compared to a family reunion or large pep rally. That is a pretty good description. It is also a place to get to know some very special people from all over the state, your sisters! Hope to see you soon. Love to all,

CLICK ON SUSAN’S NAME TO HEAR A VOICE RECORDING OF HER MESSAGE

REORGANIZATION CONGRATULATIONS!

When Chapter BJ, Corpus Christi struggled with membership and morale was low, they chose the brave option of revitalization and reorganization instead of disbandment just over a year ago. Dedication and hard work by the entire chapter, along with four wonderful mentors from neighboring Chapter AV, Corpus Christi and Chapter EO, Rockport, led to the celebration of a Reorganization Ceremony held on March 14, 2015. Six new members were initiated! Way to go Chapter BJ! Your sisters throughout Texas are proud of you and wish you the very best. This is a great celebration for Texas State Chapter.

Lois Cartwright, Organizer
Barbara Riley

The Nominating Committee of Texas State Chapter is excited to announce that Barbara Riley, Chapter CE, McAllen, is our nominee for the office of Secretary of Texas State Chapter 2015-2016.

Barbara was initiated into her grandmother’s chapter, Chapter CE, in 1984 and brings thirty-one years of P.E.O. experience to the Executive Board of Texas State Chapter. Barbara has served Chapter CE as guard, recording secretary, treasurer, vice-president and president, and also has served as her chapter’s delegate to the Convention of Texas State Chapter several years. She has also held all offices in the Rio Grande Valley Council. On the state level, Barbara has served as the chairman of the Amendments and Recommendations committee, the chairman of the Cottey College committee, and on the Special Committee for Convention Planning. Barbara very capably served as the Chairman of the 2014 Convention of Texas State Chapter held in McAllen.

Barbara works part-time as the office manager and special assistant in her husband Pat’s dental office. She is a graduate of Baylor University and taught school for five years. A needlepoint enthusiast, Barbara also participates in her Bible study fellowship and teaches Sunday school classes for adults. Barbara and her husband enjoy spending time with their adult children, Kathryn Leighann Gutierrez and Brenton Riley.

Barbara will be formally nominated at the upcoming 84th Convention of Texas State Chapter to be held in Houston, April 30th-May 2nd, 2015. Others also being formally nominated at Convention to serve on the Executive Board of Texas State Chapter for 2015-2016 are:

- **President**: Karen Brooks  
  **Chapter**: HJ, The Woodlands
- **Vice President**: Lois Cartwright  
  **Chapter**: JE, Kingwood
- **Organizer**: Betty Thomas  
  **Chapter**: JH, Tomball
- **Treasurer**: Belinda Hargrove  
  **Chapter**: GO, Bedford

Congratulations to Karen, Lois, Betty, Belinda and Barbara!

**2015 CHAPTER VISITATION SCHEDULE – SECTION I**

Chapters in Central Texas, Fort Worth and Amarillo areas are scheduled to be visited in Oct - Nov, 2015.

During convention, there will be an **IMPORTANT MEETING FOR DELEGATES FROM VISITATION CHAPTERS ON THURSDAY, MAY 30th, AT 1:15 P.M., IN FOUNDERS BALLROOM JUST PRIOR TO ORIENTATION AND THE A & R WORKSHOP.** Delegates will meet with their visitation officer and receive a packet of information which will help with their chapter’s preparations for the official visit. If your chapter is being visited this year, you will be notified of this meeting.

**Central Texas:** Austin, Georgetown, Horseshoe Bay, Lakeway, Marble Falls, Round Rock, Temple, Wimberley

**Fort Worth:** Arlington, Bedford, Colleyville, Fort Worth, Granbury, Grapevine, Haslet, Mansfield, North Richland Hills, Southlake, Trophy Club

**Amarillo:** Canadian, Hereford, Pampa
Attention 2015 INTERNATIONAL P.E.O. CONVENTION Delegates and Visitors

Prior to registering for Convention of International Chapter or making travel plans, please attend the meeting for delegates and visitors on:

**Thursday, April 30th at 1:00 pm in Founders I, II, III at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston.**

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Karen Brooks, vice president, at: karenbrookspeo@gmail.com or 281-723-7766.

We want to see YOU in the Convention Slide Show!

There’s still time to send pictures representing the way your chapter has met the 2014-15 Chapter Challenges and photos of your beautiful Golden Girls, even if they may not be able to attend convention.

Email photos to Susan Penrod susanpenrod@ymail.com by April 10th.

East Texas Sister Celebrates 75 Years in P.E.O.

Fran Rector, Chapter HZ Longview, will celebrate 75 years in the Sisterhood on April 16th. She was initiated into her mother’s chapter, EF Peoria, Illinois. She has been a member of nine chapters since 1940. Fran and her daughter, Judy Knox, enjoy being together now as members of Chapter HZ.

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Message from Our Convention Chairman

Why is convention food so expensive? Good question and here are three good answers. The first is that it takes a lot of people and space to get 650 or so meals ready and served all at the same time. Second, high quality ingredients are expensive, and third, state and local taxes. The Royal Sonesta executive Chef, Peter Laufer, sources as much food as possible from local farmers and has a relationship with 44Ranch in Cameron, Texas to provide all his beef and as much produce as possible. Chef Laufer insists on excellence from farm to plate. After food costs, a 15.68% banquet service charge is added to pay hourly service employees, 7.32% managerial fee for supervisory staff who oversee preparation and service, and then 8.25% Texas state and local sales tax for a total of 31.25% added fees.

We are pleased to be able to provide upscale food for our convention and we hope you will enjoy it. If you need vegan, lactose or gluten free simply identify yourself to your waiter.

*Bon Appetit*
MONEY MATTER

Local chapter officers have been installed for 2015-2016, and that means there may be a lot of new treasurers out there! But whether you are a treasurer or not, keep reading! This article will include information which is important for every chapter officer and member to know.

How are chapters to distribute their funds?

This question is asked a lot. Here is the answer, straight from the Policies Section of P.E.O. International's Instructions to Officers of Local Chapters (IOLC):

"In keeping with the mission of P.E.O., the focus of chapter funds and fundraising activities shall be International Chapter projects, followed by state/provincial/district projects. In order to protect International Chapter’s exemption with the United States Internal Revenue Service, chapters must demonstrate the mission of P.E.O. through financial support. Therefore, P.E.O. dollars, offered and earned by members in the name of P.E.O., should be considered primarily for approved P.E.O. projects and/or the P.E.O. Foundation with minimal chapter funds used for outside philanthropic or local educational activities. To strengthen P.E.O.'s visible influence in the community, chapters and chapter members are encouraged to offer their talents and skills, time and service for local philanthropic and educational endeavors.”

We understand that the purpose of our fundraising is to financially support the P.E.O. projects. But must we send 100% of our funds to the projects? How much can (or should) a chapter keep in its bank account?

Kathy Soppe, the P.E.O. Sisterhood’s Director of Finance, has given us the following guideline: “Our general rule of thumb is that a chapter should hold sufficient funds to cover one year’s worth of operating expenses. However, if a chapter is planning to host a state convention, they are certainly welcome to plan for that expense over a number of years and save back what is needed. It is up to them whether to hold this excess in a checking or savings account.”

How much is one year’s worth of operating expenses?
The best way to determine that is to review your chapter’s spending for one year. Preparing a chapter budget is very helpful. Some annual expenses, such as travel to convention, will vary from year to year, but in general, a chapter with 50 members may find $1,000 is sufficient.

Does P.E.O. have any rules or policies regarding the sale of goods or services?

Yes! There is a wealth of information about P.E.O. Fundraising Policies in the Policies Section of the IOLC. Every officer should have this; the most current version is on both the Texas and International websites. Here is just a small portion of the terrific information you will find there:

“Sales of goods or services (including local chapter Bed and Breakfast [B&B]) by local or s/p/d chapters, local chapter groups, reciprocities, P.E.O. Groups or individual members of P.E.O. when acting as representatives of the organization shall be governed by the following requirements:
- Sales must be to individuals only and NOT FOR RESALE.
- All work in carrying on such sales must be done by the members or others for the organization WITHOUT COMPENSATION.
- For Non-Bed and Breakfast Sales, net income must be used for the following:
  - P.E.O. projects;
  - Other qualified educational and/or charitable purposes;
  - Chapter operating expenses;
  - Other activities as approved by the chapter.
- For Bed and Breakfast Sales, net income must be used for the following:
  - P.E.O. projects;
  - Other qualified educational and/or charitable purposes.”

Does my chapter ever need to post or provide any special information about what type of an organization we are?

Yes! According to the Policies Section of the IOLC, in any fundraising event sponsored by a chapter or by a member, it is imperative that the following statement be provided on all event advertisements or communications and distributed to all donors:

“P.E.O. chapters support the educational and charitable funds of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, but are not classified as charitable by the IRS. Therefore, donations to individual chapters do not meet the IRS requirements for a charitable income tax deduction. P.E.O. shall not be liable in any way for any goods and services supplied by third-party vendors or public establishments.”

Who should we contact if we have additional questions?

Your Texas State Chapter Executive Board is here to help you. In particular, Betty Thomas and Amy Dillavou are available to help with financial questions and welcome your phone calls and e-mails. Their contact information is in your yearbook.