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2020 - 2021

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September 28, 2020

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from the Executive Board of Texas State Chapter! We hope this letter finds you well and that as sisters you are exemplifying the Heart and Spirit of P.E.O. As you have heard a million times already, this year has been a challenge on so many levels. Through it all, Texas State Chapter P.E.O.s have shown the meaning of our letters time and time again. I can honestly say that I am proud to be a member of our Sisterhood here in Texas. In many ways, you have exhibited this year's chapter challenges which are:

- ★ Demonstrate the Heart of P.E.O. by reaching out to all sisters near you, and
- ★ Demonstrate the Spirit of P.E.O. by reaching out to your project applicants

There is a great deal of Texas P.E.O. news to share:

- ★ **LEAD Conference:** In July, Betsy Grimes and I attended the annual LEAD conference held virtually this year. LEAD is for all state presidents and state organizers to learn new information from International Chapter, strategies to help chapters achieve their goals and new ideas from other states to help our state. Much of the discussions this year were focused on chapter vitality, engaging with all sisters and technology challenges. Another LEAD conference will be held in mid-October including the state vice presidents.
- ★ **Cottey College Seminar:** In August, Lara Harris, Betsy Grimes and several others were able to attend the first ever virtual Cottey College seminar. There was a campus tour, multiple workshops and student presentations throughout the three-day seminar.
- ★ **Official Visits:** A total of 70 chapters in Beaumont, College Station, Corpus Christi, Houston, La Grange, Lake Jackson, Lubbock and The Woodlands, representing 25% of our chapters, will be visited virtually this fall by the executive board.
- ★ **Officer Training Modules:** Texas State Chapter offers online training modules for every local chapter officer. This training is required for all officers in the spring of every year. If you have not viewed your training yet, please do so now. We want our local chapter officers to fully understand their responsibilities. A great way to achieve this goal is to view our online modules -- at your convenience, as many times as you'd like. They are on the Texas website under Chapter Tools>Local Chapter Training. There is a brand new training video for Zoom meetings along with a printable instruction sheet!

Interested in serving on the Texas State Chapter Leadership Team? Please complete a *State Committee Interest Sheet* found on the Texas website under State Leadership and send to TSC Vice President Karen Boothe at kboothepeo@gmail.com. Serving on the TSC Leadership Team is a great way to experience another side of P.E.O. and we need your gifts and skills. Appointments for 2021-2022 will begin in December, so it's not too early to express an interest or to learn more.

Interested in serving on the executive board? A letter from the Nominating Committee was emailed in September and should have been read during your September or October chapter meeting. Encourage any member considering board service to review the brochure *A Guide to Serving on the Executive Board of Texas State Chapter* which describes the duties of the executive officers and answers many questions about board service. These items are on the Texas website under State Leadership. A chapter may submit a nominee through December 15, 2020. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet P.E.O.s and be involved at a different level.

Putting the challenges aside, look at all we have learned and gained during this time. We discovered that technology is not so scary and has opened up doors that were previously closed. Many of our sisters who could not be involved before are now in our virtual socials and meetings. Chapters have forged ahead and found project recipients for PCE, ELF and TSOFI. Candidates are filling out applications for P.E.O. Scholar Awards and STAR. Soon, we will have our Adopt-A-Student list and will reconnect with our Cottey students. As you can see, COVID-19 has not stopped P.E.O. in Texas. Thank you for being the sisters you are...your heart and spirit will make this year one of the best!

Lovingly in P.E.O.,
Jill K. Tatum
President, Texas State Chapter
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