

2019 Convention of International Chapter Delegate Report Outline



The 74th Convention of International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood was held in Des Moines, Iowa September 11 - 14, 2019 hosted by the Iowa State Chapter.

Minnesota State Chapter, consisting of 181 members, including delegates, Past State Presidents (PSPs), visitors and spouses traveled to Iowa. Many of the delegation arrived on September 11th and enjoyed getting to know one another at the Minnesota State Dinner that evening.

The next day was filled with learning opportunities, including the three required seminars for voting members:

1. Membership Seminar - Become a Membership Powerhouse
 - a. Know What Your P.E.O. Why is
 - b. Becoming an O&A (Objects and Aims) Woman
 - c. Promote P.E.O. in your community
 - d. Express Gratitude for our chapter sisters
 - e. Sustaining Membership and Preparing for Growth
 - f. Effective and FUN Chapter Meetings
 - g. Finding new members

2. Study & Research (S&R) Amendments Seminar
 - a. Review of resources that govern our organization
 - i. Constitution
 - ii. State Bylaws
 - iii. Robert's Rules of Order
 - b. Review of Amendment and Recommendations (A&R) Process
 - i. Idea → S&R review → State Board → Local chapter votes to send idea to state convention → State Convention votes on proposed amendment → International Convention votes on proposed amendment

Each step requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ favorable vote

- c. Training on the voting process to be used at CIC 2019
3. Finance Budget Seminar
 - a. Reviewed duties of the committee
 - b. Reviewed investment strategy
 - c. Reviewed Cottey financials
 - d. Reviewed project financials
 - e. Reviewed loss of membership/dues impact on the budget
 - f. Reviewed budget

Workshop Offerings included:

- ☆ Mary Jane Mapes lead “You CAN Teach a Pig to Sing” - a humorous and helpful guide on how to deal with difficult people in your life.
- ☆ Carla Snyder gave a cooking demonstration with her recipe for jambalaya.
- ☆ Angela White busted the top myths about women’s giving and explored what motivates women to give.
- ☆ Becky Rupiper-Greene spoke about the importance of making personal connections in both personal and professional settings-and how those powerful connections can help grow the Sisterhood.
- ☆ Melanie Kirkpatrick spoke about the history of Thanksgiving in relation to the inception of P.E.O. The modern-day version of Thanksgiving was founded in the 1860s-the same time as P.E.O. Although not a P.E.O., Sarah Hale was a strong advocate for women’s education at the time and is also considered the “godmother of Thanksgiving.”
- ☆ Katy Michael and Jenn Sloan presented helpful information about how and why P.E.O. sisters can share the news about the good work the Sisterhood does with their local, state and national media. They gave tips on how to make news submissions powerful and relevant.
- ☆ Four representatives from Cottey College spoke about various aspects of the College. President Dr. Jann Weitzel talked about how Cottey students learn to be leaders and problem solvers. The other speakers-faculty at the College-explored WHY a student should choose Cottey, WHO the students are and HOW P.E.O. and Cottey can continue to work together.
- ☆ Dave Carey motivated the attendees of his workshop with his story of surviving a POW camp for more than five years. His lessons on the importance of communication and making the most of every opportunity were inspiring.

Project Displays, Phone-A-Thon, Your P.E.O. Why, Wellness, Shopping and much more were available along Main Street (check out the International website, the MSC Facebook or your own camera for photos).

Thursday September 12, 2019
Opening Ceremonies and Projects Evening

Following the Prelude, Fanfare, Parade of Flags and Processional, International Chapter President Sue Baker made her introductory remarks noting it may have been the largest gathering of P.E.O.s - about 4,500 - in history!

Next, there was a special greeting video from P.E.O. Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa. She expressed her regrets that she couldn't be in attendance and shared her pride in the Sisterhood, our Iowa roots and the work we've been doing for 150 years.

Iowa committee co-chairmen Susan Voss and Glenda Dixon welcomed the record crowd and took a selfie to commemorate the moment.

A local brass band, Grand Avenue Ruckus, paraded through the arena and got everyone fired up.

Patricia Brolin-Ribi, Second Vice President of International Chapter, made an exciting announcement about the creation of the Savannah Guthrie Honorary Award which will be given to a 2020 P.E.O. Scholar recipient. Savannah received a PSA scholarship to attend law school in the 90s. Following this special announcement, a special video message from Savannah herself was played. She spoke about how meaningful the PSA award was to her and how it made such an impact in her life and toward her career. She expressed her excitement about having her name on a new award and said she was going to write the first check for the award herself!

An inspirational video called "The Heart of P.E.O." was shown before the Projects Night Program began.

Patricia Brolin-Ribi presided over the program, introducing each project chair and giving a brief history of the inception of each project.

The first recipient to speak was Michelle Rofrano, who received a P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund loan to help her pay for the second year of her studies at the prestigious Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute where she was pursuing her Master's in conducting. She spoke about breaking the glass ceiling in the male-dominated field of orchestral conducting. She is proud to be a role model for younger women and wants to help normalize females in leadership positions.

Next, Cottey College student Sarah Van Horn addressed the crowd. She is a senior at Cottey, where she is a double major in criminology and psychology. After graduation she plans to pursue her Master's in counseling and wants to work with survivors of human trafficking. Sarah is a fourth generation P.E.O. She raved about her Cottey experience, citing the

dedication of the faculty, the opportunities and experiences afforded her there and the support of her peers as the three most outstanding factors.

International Peace Scholarship recipient Nathalie Greenfield took the stage next. Nathalie is a two-time IPS recipient. She is pursuing her law degree at Cornell University. She earned her BA at the University of Warwick and her Master's from the University of Cambridge. Nathalie's powerful speech included her personal story of being a victim of sexual assault. After being raped, Nathalie felt shamed and silenced but since has turned her experience into a source of strength and power. Her goals of bringing gender equality to the European Union and working for policy reform for women's advocacy are extremely personal. She is grateful for the large P.E.O. family behind her every step of the way.

Julie Spronk, P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education recipient was supposed to speak but was unable to attend as she was recently hospitalized. Her lifelong friend and P.E.O. Kate Hawkins spoke in her stead. Julie received her PCE grant in 1988 when she was a single parent of two small children and just getting by on public assistance. She understood education was the key to freedom and decided to pursue her nursing degree. She was able to do just that, thanks to the financial and emotional support from PCE.

The P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient spoke next. Lyla June Johnston is a member of the Diné Nation, often referred to as the Navajo. She received her BA in anthropology from Stanford University, her Master's from the University of New Mexico and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in indigenous studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Lyla's studies focus on creating food diversity by using sustainable ecosystems and land management. She uses fossilized pollen records to build contemporary strategies for agriculture. Lyla is also a poet and singer and after her speech performed the song "All Nations Rise" as she played a drum.

Finally, we heard from a P.E.O. STAR Scholarship recipient. Marjada F. Tucker received her BA in biochemistry and cell biology, with minors in humanities and civil leadership from Rice University. She is currently a second-year student in med school at the University of Mississippi in Jackson. Her ultimate goal is to become a doctor serving rural and under-served communities to eradicate healthcare disparities. Marjada said receiving the STAR Scholarship empowered her to own her narrative and turn it into meaningful achievements and experiences.

Friday September 13, 2019 and Saturday September 14, 2019

The next day started with the opening of the business meeting which continued through Saturday.

- ☆ A special presentation of the Objects and Aims
- ☆ Keynote speaker Jen Hatmaker - Get in Formation
- ☆ S/P/Ds with 100% participation in the 150th Fund were recognized - donations can be made through Jan. 21, 2020
- ☆ MSC's own Kae Lynn Caston was recognized along with 19 other descendants of our Founders who were in attendance
- ☆ International Chapter President Sue Baker's State of the Sisterhood:
 - Giving was up 28.4% (does not include giving to the 150 Fund)
 - Over three thousand reinstatements
 - 38 new chapters
- ☆ Celebration of Life
- ☆ Cottey College Update
 - Students from 39 states and 14 countries with 70% of the students enrolled in a baccalaureate program
 - Virtual Tour of Cottey available on the Cottey website; would make a great chapter program
- ☆ P.E.O. Foundation Update
 - Announced that \$1,937,241 dollars will be transferred to the project including Cottey College
- ☆ Sue Baker's remarks (which were shortened; her entire speech will be available in the proceedings)
- ☆ Incoming President Brenda Atchinson's remarks included the following:
 - The builders who came after the Founders and on the Sisters of Today
 - All roles are important and small efforts and decisions of today can make a great tomorrow
 - We each have a role to play and a legacy to build
 - 1/3 of chapters did not initiate
 - Ask again
 - What are you waiting for?
 - An initiate this year will be a Golden Girl in 2069, the bicentennial of P.E.O.
 - Create a family/friend culture of P.E.O.
 - The Executive Board of International will work on a strategic plan
 - Review/renew/rebuild
 - Each sister will have the opportunity to provide input via a survey <https://members.peointernational.org/letstalk>
 - Theme revealed for the 2021 Biennium: Build Your Legacy Make History

Amendment Voting Results:

Amendment #	Adopted/Not Adopted	Results
A-1	Not adopted	Pro 742 / Con 836
A-2	Move to refer to S&R Committee for review and presentation at 2021 CIC	Pro 860 / Con 740
B-1 to B-4 Seriatim	Not adopted	Pro 822 / Con 759
B-5 to B-10 Seriatim	Adopted	Standing vote
C-1	Not adopted	Standing vote
D-1 to D-2 Seriatim	Adopted	Standing vote
D-3	Not adopted	Standing vote
D-4	Not adopted	Pro 705 / Con 881
E-1 to E-2 Seriatim	Withdrawn in time for printing	
E-3 to E-4 Seriatim	Not adopted	Pro 894 / Con 671
E-5 to E-6 Seriatim	Not adopted	Pro 858 / Con 767
E-7	Not adopted	Pro 701 / Con 922
F-1	Not adopted	Pro 485 / Con 1138
F-2	Not adopted	Pro 381 / Con 997
F-3	Not adopted	Pro 880 / Con 493
F-4	Adopted	Standing vote
F-5	Not adopted	Standing vote
F-6 to F-7 Seriatim	Not adopted	Standing vote
F-8 An amendment to refer to a committee was made		
F-8 move to committee	Not passed	Pro 774 / Con 829
F-8	Not adopted	Standing vote
F-9 to F-11 Seriatim	Not adopted	Standing vote
G-1	Not adopted	Standing vote
G-2 to G-3 Seriatim	Not adopted	Standing vote
H-1 to H-2 Seriatim	Adopted	Standing vote
Editorial Resolution	Adopted	Standing vote
Resolution	Withdrawn from the convention floor	

Passed amendments take place immediately but will be officially published in November/December Record

B-5 to B-10:

Changes the submission deadline from January 15th to January 1st for submitting proposed amendments to Part I, Part II, Part III, Bylaws, standing rules, and resolutions to the chairman of the Study and Research Committee.

D-1 to D-2:

Chapter Business Item of Business #13 Balloting

Changes the instructions from the secretary reading multiple sponsor forms at one time to having her read one sponsor form at a time followed immediately by comments from a chapter member about the woman being sponsored followed by balloting instead of the comments being made one after another.

Adds instructions after the first membership ballot for a secretary to read the next sponsor form and adds instructions for a chapter member to make comments about the woman being proposed.

F-4:

Removes the stipulations that a prospective member meet stated family relationship or residency requirements.

H1 to H-2:

Establishes in the Bylaws the Leadership Development Committee including the number and term of members, the duties, and establishes the expenses of the members will be paid from funds of International Chapter. Adds Leadership Development Committee to the list of members entitled to attend Convention of International Convention.

Editorial Resolution:

That the Executive Board of International chapter is authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation and cross references as necessary.