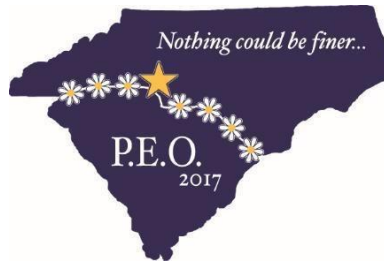


Convention of International Delegate Report



The 73rd Convention of International Chapter was held in Charlotte, NC, hosted by the North Carolina and South Carolina State Chapters.

Minnesota State Chapter, consisting of 51 members, including delegates, Past State Presidents (PSPs), visitors and spouses traveled to NC as a delegation, on September 27th. The delegation enjoyed getting to know one another at the Minnesota Stater Dinner that evening.

The next day was filled with learning opportunities, including the following:

Three required seminars:

From Ordinary to Extraordinary, How to Bring Vitality to Your P.E.O. Chapter. The Regional Membership Representatives spoke about P.E.O. realizing vitality and defined what that means for the organization. They outlined seven practices to achieve vitality:

- Be a good cheerleader
- Embrace opportunities for growth
- Provide inspiring leadership
- Find project applicants
- Live our objects and aims
- Involve your outer circles
- Have fun, be joyful and celebrate!

Press 1 for Pro: The Amendment & Voting Process, covering how an amendment gets to Convention, the rules of debate and how the voting process works.

Dames & Dollars: P.E.O.'s Investments and Finances. Presented significant details about the Sisterhood's investments, financial position and budget.

Several Featured Presentations:

Dr. Elliot Engel presented **The History and Mystery of Wine**. He spoke about the ancient origins of wine beginning with the Egyptians and Greeks, the psychology of the enjoyment of wine and the difference between people who enjoy wine versus those who prefer beer. His seminar was filled with a healthy dose of humor.

Michelle Aldridge, Kate Westercamp and Lucy Thoms presented **Kleenex, Post-It and P.E.O.: Brands that Last** about how P.E.O. is using messaging to create a powerful brand that will last a lifetime and how individual P.E.O.s can communicate the P.E.O. message to family and friends.

Traci Svee, Laurie Collins and Debbie Clason presented **P.E.O. for the Next Generations** where they shared research about the most effective ways to connect with and attract women of various generations to P.E.O.

The Ad Hoc Committee for the P.E.O. Leadership Development Initiative gave a workshop called **Cooking Up Your Next Presentation: Make It Hot!** They offered tips for making effective and inspirational presentations, developing strong material, conveying confidence when speaking and encouraging your audience to take action.

For the Love of Photography was presented by Nils Ribi. He shared anecdotes about how he captured some of his best shots and gave tips for photographers of all skill levels, including lessons in patience, composition, using light effectively and camera settings. Nils encourages photographers to break the rules and not be afraid to try something different.

Greg Hoffman and the P.E.O. Foundation Board of Trustees presented **Roadtrip to Becoming Through Planned Giving**. They spoke about the many benefits of contributing to funds in the P.E.O. Foundation—the tax benefits of giving, tips for estate planning and various methods of philanthropy.

Leadership for Good! was the name of the workshop presented by Susanne R. Teel and Patricia N. Long. They offered practical tips for self-care, how to inspire sisters and how to keep yourself and others motivated. Patricia spoke extensively about a study on happiness and gave tips on upping your personal happiness quotient. Based on research by Shawn Achor, she encouraged attendees to do these five things every day:

1. Have an attitude of gratitude
2. Do an intentional random act of kindness
3. Get physical
4. Quiet your mind
5. Think about something that made you smile or laugh

Suzanne spoke about using leadership to do good and stressed the importance of keeping leadership skills sharp using resources such as webinars, websites, leadership seminars or mentors.

Megan Gebhart's **How 52 Cups of Coffee Changed My Life** workshop entertained and inspired as she shared her story of embarking on a journey to have coffee with strangers around the world. As Megan heard from people who followed their dreams, she was inspired to do the same. She took the many lessons she learned through her 52 conversations to heart and has implemented them in her own life. Her stories were funny and insightful.

Whitney Milhoan and Mary Turney presented a workshop about how **Casting for Recovery is Making a Difference in the Lives of Women**. Whitney started by helping the audience better understand breast cancer—the causes, types and treatments of it. Whitney is a proponent of ecotherapy—outdoor therapies that promote physical and emotional healing. Mary spoke about the origin of the Casting for Recovery program, provided statistics on how many women the program has assisted and gave details about what exactly goes on during the retreats and how that helps attendees heal.

Project Displays:

The P.E.O. Scholar Awards' booth had a flight theme— PSA is Helping Scholars Soar!

The STAR booth recognized young women of stellar achievement.

The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education booth featured a basketball theme.

The board of trustees at the Educational Loan Fund booth celebrated their 110th birthday with a fun historical photo op plus visitors could play a round of Blinko to win a prize.

The International Peace Scholarship display featured a wall where sisters could leave messages of peace and hope.

The trustees at the Foundation booth helped educate sisters about planned giving for long-term support of the P.E.O. International projects.

Cottey College had a room filled with information, an opportunity to participate in building a photo mosaic and Cottey BILs enjoying time together over coffee.

Carolinas Boutique and Carolinas Room

Our hostess states put together beautiful rooms where Convention attendees could shop and learn about the history and culture of the Carolinas.

Opening Night Ceremonies started with music by BRASS ACT, a local brass quartet, followed by, The Parade of Flags; Introductions by International President Beth Ledbetter; Invocation by immediate past International President Maria Baseggio; the presentation of colors; the United States and Canadian national anthems.

Projects Night Speakers

Nicole Penn, 2016 **STAR Scholarship**, is passionate about female empowerment and recognizing diversity. At her high school in Conway, Arkansas, she created a young feminists alliance to help young women, including herself, gain confidence and self-acceptance. Nicole is now a student at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is majoring in international studies with a minor in economics.

P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient **Rawan Arar** is working to address the refugee crisis in Jordan. She has conducted more than 175 in-depth interviews with Syrian refugees, Jordanians and aid workers. Rawan spoke about being inspired by the resilience of the displaced and impoverished people who have to implement emergency coping strategies to live. Despite these challenges, people strive to make their dreams come true. Rawan earned her B.A. in sociology from the University of Texas, San Antonio and her Master's degree in women's and gender studies from the University of Texas, Austin.

La Tonya Jackson received a **P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education** grant which she used to complete her Master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Kent State University. Raised by a single teenage mother in poverty, La Tonya grew up knowing the odds were against her but she was driven and motivated to make things better for herself. After earning dual associate degrees and her bachelor's degree, she needed money to continue her education and that's where P.E.O. came into the picture. La Tonya is now a member of Chapter DV in Ohio and thinks of P.E.O. as family. She is grateful for the financial and emotional investment in her future and destiny. La Tonya is now the instructor supervisor for the education department at a penal institution and is the author of a children's book.

International Peace Scholarship recipient **Lyudmyla Tsykalova** was born in Soviet Ukraine. She earned her master's degree in international economics from the University of Kiev. She continued her education in Italy where she studied international corporate development. In Italy Lyudmyla spearheaded a program for the adoption of orphans from the Ukraine. Since then her passion has been in the area of child rights and positive youth development. She works with the European Union and non-governmental organizations to combat human trafficking and other social injustices and human rights violations, especially against children. She is currently earning her Ph.D. in international family and community studies from Clemson University. Lyudmyla says the loving support from P.E.O.s has given her the energy and enthusiasm to continue to reach for the stars.

Melanie Dillon from Kent, Washington, is a junior at **Cottery College**. She is working toward her B.S. degree in biology. She is a member of the Golden Key and several honor organizations on campus plus is a 4th generation P.E.O. Melanie extolled the virtues of a Cottery education, including the semester abroad—she traveled to Italy in the spring of 2016. She spoke about the sense of community at Cottery and how that makes for an enriching learning environment where women are in collaboration, not competition.

Educational Loan Fund recipient **Dr. Felicity Fisk** is currently an orthopedic surgeon resident at the Henry Ford Health Center in Detroit, Michigan. Originally from Louisiana, Felicity first learned of P.E.O. when she and her family had to evacuate because of Hurricane Katrina. They stayed with her aunt in New Jersey, who was a P.E.O. Felicity said she always new she wanted to be a doctor but it took her a while to find her niche, which turned out to be orthopedics. She earned her master's degree in anatomy from Tulane University and subsequently was accepted to the Tulane School of Medicine. She is grateful for the loan from P.E.O., which gave her the final push she needed to pursue her dream job, where she is now thriving.

The next day saw the first business meeting opened with Kara Boyer Lim singing Patsy Cline tunes. Convention was called to order and the following business occurred:

- Alaska State Chapter received their Charter
- Cordia Harrington, aka the Bun Lady spoke about her career path, accomplishments and giving back to her community
- A report on the Sesquicentennial Celebration
 - Programs will be uploaded to the International website beginning in January of 2018
 - Each chapter is encouraged to give to the 150 Fund
 - These monies will supplement our projects, build a lasting tribute at the P.E.O. office and help to maintain and preserve the birthplace of P.E.O.
 - A charm in several metal types ranging from \$20 - \$500 will be available Spring of 2018
 - A hardbound coffee table book will be available for pre-orders Spring of 2018
- Budget was adopted
 - Important to note that we have a decrease in membership but not in donations
- The slate of officers for the 2017 - 2019 Biennium were elected
 - President - Sue Baker
 - 1st Vice President - Brenda Atchison
 - 2nd Vice President - Patricia Brolin-Ribi
 - Organizer - Cathy Moss
 - Recording Secretary - Alix Smith
- President Beth Ledbetter gave the State of the Sisterhood
 - Financially sound and debt-free with a surplus
 - Chapter Vitality
 - 3 states with no disbanded chapters - MT/WY/AL
 - 30% drop in disbanded chapters from 2015 - 2017 Biennium
 - Philanthropic Vitality
 - 20.17 STAR challenge allowed for the STAR fund to become self-sustaining in half the time than expected, (8 years)
 - PSA increased the number of awards to 100
 - Philanthropies are performing well despite decrease in membership
 - Brand
 - Beth gave us permission to take a break with our choice of beverage every two months and read the Record all the way through

- 17K FB followers
 - 14K Twitter followers
 - Leadership and Training
 - LDI Committee to become permanent along with ½ staff member
 - Cottey College staff provided some of the training materials
 - Finance and Operations
 - Took a look at the two biggest expenses, Technology and Legal Services
 - Technology has moved in-house saving 300K+
 - Working with states to reduce convention costs
 - Lowering costs for visitors to CIC
 - Preserving our home grounds
- Amendments:
 - Those adopted go into effect immediately but take no action until they have been published in the Nov/Dec Record
 - A-1 was not adopted - Pro - 726/Con - 767
 - B-1 through B-5 in seriatim were adopted - Pro - 1465/Con - 32
 - C-1 through C-2 in seriatim were not adopted - Pro - 299/Con - 1201
 - C3 was not adopted - Pro - 299/Con - 1205
 - C-4 was not adopted - Pro - 547/Con - 952
 - C-5 was not adopted - Pro - 886/Con - 610
 - C-6 was adopted - Pro - 1420/Con - 65
 - D-1 was adopted - Pro - 1083/Con - 58
 - D-3 through D-4 in seriatim were adopted - Pro - 1451/Con - 39
 - F-1 was adopted - Pro - 1295/Con - 185
 - F-2 was adopted - Pro - 1166/Con - 310
 - F-3 was adopted - Pro - 1377/Con - 115
 - F-4 was not adopted - Pro - 675/Con - 818
 - G-1 through G-2 in seriatim were not adopted - Pro - 664/Con - 821

Saturday started with a beautiful tribute to those PPIC and PSP sisters who transferred to Chapter Eternal during the Biennium. This included Minnesota State Chapter PSPs, Harriet Rebecca Jones, Eleanor Steffens and Rebecca Templeton.

Convention Business continued with reports from Leadership Development Initiative, Cottey College and the P.E.O. Foundation.

We were invited to the 2019 CIC in Des Moines where we will be doing a lot of celebrating of our sisterhood and its 150 years. As well as the 2021 Convention of International Chapter in Portland, OR.

Beth Ledbetter gave her remarks, thanking her family and friends for their years of support as well as reminding us to thank our own family and friends network for

their support of our work for the sisterhood.

Incoming President Sue Baker gave her remarks and announced her theme for the 2017 - 2019 Biennium, With Gratitude and Grace Lead Forward. The goals for the Biennium build upon our previous work.

- 2 Initiates per chapter per year
- 0 Inactives per chapter per year and 0 disbanded chapters per year
- 1 new chapter by 2019 and 1 new chapter in progress
- Continue to show loving concern for our sisters

Throughout the time spent in NC, the Minnesota State Chapter delegation had the opportunity to connect with sisters during fun events such as, Daisy Dash, Gentle Yoga, and seeing the city's sites.