

# **Gertrude Porter Tomhave/Nancy Watrud Hoium Cottey College Scholarship Fund**

## **Description**

**From the BYLAWS of the Minnesota State Chapter, P.E.O Article X, Section 9  
and Article XII, Section 2**

The Gertrude Porter Tomhave/Nancy Watrud Hoium Cottey College Scholarship Fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from individuals and the local chapters. This fund is maintained to provide for tax deductible (501c-3) contributions that are invested by the International Chapter P.E.O. Foundation. The amount of the permanent principal balance shall be determined by the state board. Only the interest and new contributions above the principal balance may be used for scholarships for Minnesota students attending Cottey College. An applicant is considered a Minnesota student if she is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card) and has lived in Minnesota for at least one calendar year prior to her first day of class attendance.

## **History**

This fund was originally established as the Cottey Composite Scholarship Fund. Chapter CA, Minneapolis, gave \$350 to help launch this fund. At the 1973 State Convention, the Minnesota State Chapter voted to rename the scholarship to honor Gertrude Porter Tomhave. Gertrude Porter Tomhave, from Minnesota, had served as president of Supreme Chapter in 1953-1955. The fund became known as the Gertrude Porter Tomhave Scholarship Fund. In 2004, at the Minnesota State Convention, an amendment was passed to rename the fund to also honor Nancy Watrud Hoium. Nancy Watrud Hoium, also from Minnesota, served as International President in 2001-2003. The fund became known as the Gertrude Porter Tomhave/Nancy Watrud Hoium Scholarship Fund. At the Convention of Minnesota State Chapter 2011, the delegation voted to rename the fund to more clearly describe its purpose. It is now known as the Gertrude Porter Tomhave/Nancy Watrud Hoium Cottey College Scholarship Fund.

## Brief Biography of Namesake Honorees



### **GERTRUDE PORTER TOMHAVE**

Gertrude Porter Tomhave was the 38<sup>th</sup> president of Supreme Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, 1953-1955.

She was born in Willmar, Minnesota. She attended St. Cloud Teachers College, and The New York Conservatory of Music. For two years she taught music in the public schools of Montevideo, Minnesota. She married John Tomhave, a pharmacist in that city and they had two children, John Porter Tomhave and Jill Tomhave Silver.

Gertrude was initiated by Chapter Q, Montevideo, on January 4, 1921. In her local chapter she held every office. When elected to the executive board of Minnesota State Chapter, she served in every office except that of treasurer. She was President of the Minnesota State Chapter in 1931-1932. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the P.E.O. Educational Fund and concluded her six years of service in 1943. Gertrude was then elected to the Executive Board of Supreme Chapter. She served in all offices and was elected President of Supreme Chapter for 1953-1955, presiding at the Indianapolis convention.

During her years of service to P.E.O. she was instrumental in obtaining the proper zoning for the P.E.O. headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, as well as serving as chairman of The Building Fund and Furnishings Committee. It was largely due to her efforts that the IPS Scholarship Program was begun during her term as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The beautiful B.I.L. Chapel at Cottey College was built during her presidency.

Minnesota State Chapter voted to name the Cottey Composite Scholarship Fund in honor of Gertrude at the 1973 State Convention. The Gertrude Porter Tomhave Scholarship Fund for Cottey Junior College will continue to be a living memorial to one whose life was a testimonial to the faith she professed.

It has been said that in every decision concerning the Sisterhood, Gertrude kept in mind the ideals of our Founders. Her great faith, her courage in making difficult decisions, and her complete devotion to our ideals have had a lasting influence.



### **NANCY WATRUD HOIUM**

Nancy Watrud Hoium was the 61<sup>st</sup> president of the International Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood, 2001-2003.

She was born in Duluth, Minnesota. She graduated from Worthington, MN High School, received an AA degree from Cottey College, and a BS and MS from the University of Minnesota in English Education. She taught English and journalism at the U of MN College of Education and Minneapolis area schools.

In 1955, Nancy was initiated into Chapter BT, Worthington, her mother's chapter (Harriet Watrud, Chapter Eternal). She became a charter member and first president of Chapter DO, Minneapolis, and later a charter member of Chapter EZ, St. Anthony, MN (Minneapolis suburb).

Her husband, Vern, is a retired attorney and real estate investor. They have two daughters: Elizabeth (Betsy), Chapter EZ, a graduate of Cottey College and the University of Minnesota Law School, and Debra Hoium Lindstrom, Chapter AK, Ohio, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, North Carolina State University and the University of Minnesota.

Nancy is the only graduate of Cottey College to serve as president of International Chapter. She stated. "As a child I understood how special P.E.O. was to my mother and it has been a significant influence on my life since my Cottey years. I have been inspired by the women in my chapters and all of those I met through state and International work. The complete love and support of P.E.O.s provides strength and encouragement."

During the biennium that Nancy served as president, her focus was on updating materials for the local chapter. The President's Book was reformatted and revised. The Treasurer's Book was revised and provided an option available for computerized record keeping. Nancy presided at the Convention of International Chapter held in Oklahoma City in 2003.

Nancy is an active member of the First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights, and has served as a Sunday School and Bible School teacher; chairman of Worship Committee; member of church council and volunteer for special events.