



YOUR IDAHO P.E.O. CHAPTER HOUSE CONNECTION

Our goal is to share, educate and enlighten each of you regarding our Idaho treasure, The Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House!

JANUARY 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Lunch & Learn | 12-2pm**

Presenter is Jenny Gould, supervising RN and co-owner of Allegiant Care.

She will discuss signs to watch for when a friend or loved one needs care. Please contact the Chapter House manager at 208-459-3552, for reservations. Lunch is \$12 and is limited to 15. No limit for the presentation.

90 Years & Kicking!!!

Two residents are celebrating special birthdays! Edith Gist celebrated her birthday with family on her December 16th special day. Betty Kinsey will be celebrating her special day on January 16th, with her family providing a dinner in her honor. Best wishes to both of these lovely ladies!

Contact Us

We invite you to submit your stories, experiences and testimonials so that we can spread the word about the Chapter House. Email to peoch@aol.com with your questions or comments. Thank you.

Chapter House Newsletter Team

- Patricia Benedict, BT
- Bobbie Bonaminio, AU
- Mary Buchanan, H
- Barbara Dujanovic, H
- Judy Grunke, T
- Darlene Harryman, BM

A New Beginning

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to be here and begin this new chapter in my life. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and hearing "your story". Some of my best friends are the seniors I have met in the last few years. I've been so blessed and learned so much through their humor, wisdom, perseverance, faith, and courage. I am passionate about all senior citizens being able to continue to enjoy fulfilling lives and have enriching experiences and I love being a part of making that happen.

I have a background in Interior Design, event planning, marketing, and photography. I've also been a florist, worked in the horse industry, and owned a food truck. You can see I like variety!

I was raised in the Buhl/Twin Falls area and have lived in Idaho all my life. I have 3 children and 8 grandchildren that I love spending time with. I have been in the same 3 acre home in Meridian for 30 years so I spend a lot of time outside in the summer - mowing, weeding, watering, feeding chickens and horses, etc. Other hobbies include camping, kayaking, photography and traveling - the Oregon coast is my favorite!

Happy Holidays!

Karen Ray



<http://peochapterhouseidaho.org>

This newsletter has been approved for circularization by the Idaho P.E.O State Chapter Officers.



Did You Know . . .

- Originally, the Chapter House Board of Trustees was 6 in number
- In 1950, there was a need for more assistance, so the Board increased to 10
- In 1953, the number increased, again, to 12 members
- The Idaho State Vice President serves as a liaison to the Chapter House Board
- The Chapter House Board works diligently to maintain desirable, safe and comfortable surroundings for the residents and to maintain our Chapter House in the best manner possible
- When planning programs in your upcoming yearbooks, think of the Chapter House as your program or a place to meet

What is a Chapter House Ambassador?

The role of each Idaho P.E.O. chapter's, Chapter House Ambassador is as an advocate for the Chapter House, recognizing it as a Project of the State of Idaho P.E.O. She educates herself on Chapter House happenings and passes the information on to her sisters.

Her work is considered a Project at Committee Report time and she asks for their consideration at budget planning time. She reads the highlights of the Chapter House Connection newsletter at meetings and she might provide copies of the newsletter to those without email. Her role, also includes, making contact with the Chapter House by sending ideas, suggestions and other information from her chapter.

The Process of Hiring A New Manager

The hiring of a new manager was unknown territory for the current Chapter House Board when Darlene announced her retirement early in 2016. And, it was difficult for Board members to keep the news quiet until after the State Convention! With the help of The Idaho Non-Profit Organization, a Long Range Planning committee was put together and thus, began many hours of meetings. The outcome was a calendar timeline, an updated job description, questions about what kind of manager each staff member and resident might like to have on site and many other aspects relating to general Chapter House issues. With the help of The Idaho Department of Labor in Caldwell, advertising and collecting of resumes was achieved. October 8th was the deadline for prioritizing the resumes and the application time was then closed. The committee read the applications individually and, amazingly, prioritized them in the same order!

In the meantime, other items of business were necessary such as working on a new pay scale as Federal guidelines were due to change. Vacation time and sick leave benefits needed to meet current expectations and a generic Letter of Employment that the CH manager can use when adding employees was written.

The candidates were interviewed using a questionnaire prepared by the committee. After discussions, the committee, again, prioritized their choices and were, once again, nearly the same. At the November Board of Trustees meeting, the committee presented their candidate with background information. The vote was unanimously pro. A new manager was hired!





A Must See!!!

Last June, a group of sisters from Chapter AF, Ontario OR. , made a “pilgrimage” to Caldwell for lunch with the residents of the Chapter House and toured the house and property. We invite you....individually, with your BIL, or with a group of your sisters.....to come visit your Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House!

“On behalf of the members of Chapter AF, Ontario, we want to thank you for the wonderful tour of your beautiful facility. The Mansion is amazing and the Cottages (although we thought were more patio homes) were such a pleasant surprise to all of us! We enjoyed the terrific lunch and please thank your residents for being so kind to allow us to view their lovely homes. It was such a treat to visit with them at lunch, also. Although, many of us had heard about the Chapter House for years at Founder’s Day, touring it made us all so proud of Idaho’s P.E.O.’s supporting such an outstanding facility. It truly shows the love and caring atmosphere that is present with the P.E.O. Sisterhood. We will encourage more of our sisters to visit and will share the positive environment we saw! Thanks, again!”

-P.E.O love, Chapter AF Sisters

Retirement Celebration

The P.E.O. Chapter House was jam packed on Sunday, December 11th, when 100+ people gathered to wish manager, Darlene Harryman, a happy retirement! The weather was sunny as P.E.O. sisters, community members, church and yoga friends of Darlene’s, gathered together. A tribute was made by the Chapter House Board President, Debby Taisey, and there were a few moist eyes as Darlene thanked all for coming and she expressed her love of P.E.O. and especially, the Chapter House.

Light refreshments were served by the four Caldwell chapters and a festive mood prevailed throughout the afternoon.

Meet Your Chapter House Board

The Chapter House Board consists of twelve members, each with a four year term. These terms rotate so that each year three members leave the board making room for three new members. The Board meets bi-monthly, the third Thursday, beginning in July, which is preceded by a retreat. Special meetings may be called. Attendance at every meeting is essential. This Board is definitely a “working” Board, as all members have committee assignments and may, simultaneously, hold an office. Prospective Board members are required to have a recommendation from their chapters.

Volunteering to be a member of a working, non-profit Board requires consistent and thoughtful donation of time and talent. Having some skills in management, planning and group process serves a Board member well. Specific skills are often needed.

Your current Chapter House board includes members from Caldwell, Nampa, Boise, Payette, Buhl and Gooding chapters. Prospective members may contact the Chapter House manager and may be invited to interview with a Board member to discuss further board responsibilities.





A Message from the Board of Trustees

We have been very lucky to have had Darlene as Manager of the P.E.O. Chapter House for 10 years. The Board was asked how they were able to find Darlene. Their response.....*"we prayed a lot"*! The job has changed over the years with Darlene at the helm. There wasn't much she couldn't do, so many tasks often given to a handyman in the past, she just handled. She, also, took over more and more of the bookkeeping as well as the training and management of staff. She didn't realize how much fundraising she would have to do....she put on that hat as well. Darlene became active in the community of local business members as well as the state nonprofit organization. She, also, got the Chapter House involved with Idaho Gives which has added many thousands into the budget earmarked lately for historic preservation. In addition, Darlene has actively promoted the Chapter House giving many programs explaining the benefits of living there as well as arranging guest accommodations for traveling P.E.O.s. Because of all of this, she has been successful in filling the vacancies of newly remodeled units very quickly.

Darlene has always worked very well with the Board and they have always supported her. It isn't easy to answer to a group of 12 bosses, ever changing and rotating from all over the State. She spent a lot of time educating the Board members as to what was

entailed in their jobs. She was able to do that with the utmost patience and kindness, demonstrating once again that she cared about us as well and the ongoing successful operation of the Chapter House. One of her many attributes is communication. She, not only is working with the new manager to ease her transition, she has given the Board direction on how to help a new manager as a Board Member, just as the Board did for her when she began. Darlene has left big shoes to fill, but has guided us well and we are confident that the Chapter House will continue to operate smoothly and will remain the lovely, supportive place to live.

Darlene will be taking a much needed rest and has stated that she will say no to everything P.E.O. for 6 months. Our hope is that she will continue traveling and sharing the story of our Chapter House. We wish her well on her new life experiences! How do you say thank you to someone like Darlene? We each continue the energy and the message of our cherished Chapter House!

And to our new manager, we say welcome! Karen Ray will take over the reins in January. Karen comes with a wealth of experience in many different fields with a special interest in senior citizens being able to enjoy fulfilling lives and having enriching experiences. She is anxious to have a part of making that happen at the Chapter House. And, we are anxious to have her!

Welcome Karen!

