

CORRECTED
P.E.O. Idaho State Chapter
District I Fall Projects Workshop Notes
October 29, 2018

Twenty nine sisters representing 19 Chapters attended the morning session, and ten sisters representing another 9 Chapters attended the afternoon workshop. In addition, Barb Jensen Idaho State Chapter (ISC) President, and Page Eberhardt ISC Projects Committee member from District II joined me as Workshop presenters. Karen Ray, Chapter House manager was our hostess. Eight of us enjoyed lunch with the Chapter House residents. The Chapter house was a welcoming venue for the Workshop. For several attendees this was a first visit to the Chapter House, and Karen provided a tour for them.

Copies of the agenda, the International Projects Fact Sheet, the ISC Projects Fact Sheet, and the Projects Committee responsibilities were provided. Unfortunately there were not enough packets for all the afternoon attendees. The small waters and cookies at the registration table were welcomed, but not necessary had I coordinated refreshments with the Chapter House. The P.E.O. Fact Chart is online at www.peointernational.org in the Members section under Projects. The Idaho Fact Sheet is at www.peoidaho.org in the members section under Projects.

Both sessions began with self-introductions which included a comment about their favorite project. PCE, ELF, STAR, and Cottey were the favorites. Thus began a discussion of the International Projects beginning with the International Peace Scholarship. Since no minutes were taken, there may be errors of omission or misunderstanding in these note for which I apologize.

- IPS: Idaho State Chapter has no IPS students this year. We have 3 Partners in Peace, Chapter AY, BK, and BQ. A \$500 donation to IPS will designate a Chapter as a Partner in Peace, and pair the Chapter up with an IPS recipient. Chapter AY “skyped” their Partner at a recent meeting to get personally acquainted.

-PCE: Applicants come via the International Office as well as personal contacts. Applications must be received at least 10 weeks prior to the start of the program. Referrals from International are forwarded to individual Chapters by the projects Committee. Chapters are encouraged to contact the applicants! Even if the timeline is not met Chapters can befriend the applicant, help them to apply in the future, guide them to apply for ELF, and/or mentor them. Returnees to school need all the support they can get even if it’s not financial

-ELF: This is an excellent financial resource since loans are granted at 2% interest. A credit score of 625 is a qualification requirement. We discussed ways to qualify if the applicant has no debt such as acquiring a low limit credit card and paying it off after each use, working with financial institutions to establish a score, etc. After the workshop Patty Davis, Chapter I Emmett found a resource: nerdwallet.com/blog/financial/how-to-build-credit which was shared with the District I Presidents.

-PSA: While Idaho has not had much activity recently with this award, as new programs open such as the medical school in Meridian we have an opportunity to expand our outreach to graduate students. **Just Announced:** On September 25th the International Board announced “150 Scholars for 150 Years” with the intent of awarding 150 PSA awards in 2018-2019 as part of P.E.O.’s Sesquicentennial celebration. Check the website for more information using the article tag: PSA 150 Scholars for 150 Years.

-STAR: This now fully endowed program was probably the most popular of the Projects in today’s discussion. Last year Idaho had 17 recipients out of 23 applications. A Chapter can sponsor only one applicant at a time. Contact other Chapters or work with the Projects Committee to find a sponsor when a Chapter has multiple qualified applicants. Look at the new format for sponsoring an applicant, and remember the applicant and Chapter have different deadlines for their submissions.

-Cottery College: Both the International and ISC Project components were discussed. Idaho’s Helen Washburn Fund to reimburse student visits to Cottery has increased to \$1400. The Idaho Cottery College Award together with funds from the Dorcas Revelli and Elizabeth Hoskyn Scholarship Funds is available to Idaho residents attending Cottery . Go to www.idahopeco.org and click on the Projects tab. Other State Chapters have awards for their residents attending Cottery, so let out-of-state friends and relatives know to check them out. The Boise area is in Cottery’s District VI. The representative is Megan Ramey: mjramey402@gmail.com. The Caldwell area is in District III, and their representative is Sharon Hubler: parkper@aol.com. Contact them or a local student or alum for questions.

My thanks go to Barb Jensen for augmenting the Idaho State Chapter Fact Sheet information. In addition to the discussion of Cottery College support by ISC, she explained the purpose and joy behind the Patricia Brolin-Ribi Fund. Patti is our Idaho sister on the International Board. The Chapter asking of \$1.00/member/year is for support of her Presidency beginning in Portland, OR in 2021 and a gift in her name to a P.E.O. Project. Let’s all plan to go to the Convention in Portland in 2021!

Our hostess today is the Chapter House, also an ISC Project. This gracious independent senior living facility serves P.E.O.’s and their spouses (not just those from Idaho) with apartment and cottage living options. Contributions which help support the Chapter House are tax deductible when made directly to the Chapter House. For more information contact Karen Ray, Chapter House manager: idpeoch@gmail.com.

The Sesquicentennial celebration for P.E.O. is underway. Juno Van Ocker is our ISC Sesquicentennial chair. Contact her for ideas and plans: junovan4@outlook.com Chapters are encouraged to participate in the International sponsored “150 Fund” by contributing one time gift of \$150 to the fund. Its purpose is to supplement funding of International Projects; fund a lasting tribute at the Executive Office in Des Moines; and support the maintenance and preservation of P.E.O. history at our birthplace in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The October, 2018 listing of Chapters who have contributed so far is on

the P.E.O. website. Congratulations to the 30 Chapters of the 88 in Idaho who are on that list.

Critical to the success of P.E.O. philanthropies is the funding to support them. On the P.E.O. website in the Members section write “Giving Pyramid” in the Search Box. The Pyramid is the guideline Chapters should follow in portioning out their philanthropic contributions to International Projects; State Projects; and local scholarships. The Pyramid can be found in Instructions to Officers; Local Chapter President Forms; and Local Chapter Treasurer Forms. It’s a very helpful tool to help Chapters prioritize their contributions to Projects they care about and to clear up misinformation that may exist. It’s important to remember that giving goals are established by the Chapter, not by ISC or International. Also, as non-profit entities any Chapter savings should be designated for a purpose including annual operating expenses. The rest is for our philanthropies. Chapters are designated as 501(c) 4 non-profit organizations. As such, contributions given by members at fund raising events or individually through the Chapter are not tax deductible. Contributions given directly to a Project by an individual or to the P.E.O. Foundation are tax deductible 501(c) 3’s. This distinction has often confused members, so ask a State officer during her Official visit or contact Teresa Baillie, ISC Projects Advisor for assistance with any questions or clarification.

Here are some take away thoughts from the Workshop:

- Utilize the resources available to all Chapter members for questions, ideas, facts, and current information. These include www.peointernational.org; www.peoidaho.org; the P.E.O. Record; the President’s Yellow Book; ISC Officers and Committee Chairs (listed on the peoidaho.org website under Forms), and the ISC President’s Guidelines.
- Each International Project has a Quick Link which outlines eligibility requirements; timelines; Chapter resources and a Learn More tab.
- Timelines for Project applicants and sponsoring Chapters must be followed for an application to be accepted for consideration
- All applications and sponsorship forms for International and State projects are to be completed online.
- All Applicants must have a sponsoring Chapter. An Idaho Chapter can sponsor an out-of-state applicant for an International Project. Idaho Projects are for Idaho residents only.
- The good news: Idaho Chapters are generous in giving funds and supporting Project recipients. The better news: The amount given to Idaho recipients last year was twice the amount given by Chapters.
- The number of members on a Chapter Projects Committee is a Chapter decision. Some have one person, some have one for each project, and some are in the middle. Rotating Committee chairs and membership helps everyone in the Chapter get to know more about our Projects.
- Technology can be a great communication assist to Chapters. Skype and Face Time can enable Chapters to interview applicants who cannot be present in person. They also can help Chapters keep in touch with Project recipients who are far away.

- Sponsorship of an applicant/recipient should not end with submission of an application. Find ways to keep in touch and support recipients during their education.
- Applicants for Project awards come from many places. Some are applications sent directly to International, then forwarded to the ISC Projects Committee to be sent on to a potential sponsoring Chapter. Others come from casual conversations when the right question is asked. Personal business cards with Projects and the P.E.O. website on the back are a help here. Some come as referrals from a school counselor with whom a Chapter has a relationship. Some come from direct outreach such as college or career nights. P.E.O. is not a secret organization, and our Projects should not be secret either.

We are a Philanthropic Educational Organization. From our Founding Sisters forward P.E.O. has actively supported education for women by women. By doing so P.E.O. has enhanced the opportunities and successes of countless women. On behalf of the women we will be supporting in the future, thank you for your participation in today's Workshop.

Yours in P.E.O.,

Mary Leavitt
ISC Projects Committee Member
District I Representative.