



## **September 2024 Newsletter**

Is it September already? How can that be? Last week it was July, and the week before that we were enjoying convention! Time does have a way of marching on—in a hurry! At least there is (maybe) cooler weather in our near future. I almost felt a breath of cool air this morning. It was hiding behind the humidity of south Alabama, but I'm sure it was there! I hope all of you are enjoying the end of summer and the beginning of school, football, and pumpkin spice everything. Soak it all up because, before we know it, we will be saying "Merry Christmas" everywhere we go and putting up our Christmas trees (and probably still looking for cooler weather!). I send happy September wishes and much love to each of you. —Elaine

### **New P.E.O. Mission Statement**

International has developed a new mission statement that is succinct and easy to remember: P.E.O.—Where women motivate, educate, and celebrate women! Isn't that perfect for what we do and who we are?

### **Welcome New Sisters!**

The month of August has been a busy one for our chapters! Chapter A in Auburn has initiated Nicole Gaillard, Amory Scott, Mary Emma Slawson, and Mindy Street! Chapter V in Ozark welcomes Jayne Simmons, and Chapter W in Dothan has opened its arms to Shearly Chambless. Laura Carey Hunt has also transferred to Chapter AL in Madison from Maryland. P.E.O. Alabama welcomes each of you new Alabama sisters to our family!

### **In Sympathy**

We grieve with Chapter H, Mobile, in the death of former past state president June Williams, who died on June 26, 2024, and with Chapter AE, Anniston, in the death of Audrey L. Vander Yacht on May 11, 2024. We will be searching for their bright stars in the heavens of Chapter Eternal.

Some of our sisters have also suffered great losses during this last month. Susy Philhours lost her husband of over 60 years, and our past state president Wendy James lost her beloved Bill. These are only two of our sisters who are grieving right now. Reach out to all these sisters who need comfort and love them as only sisters can. Take care of each other.

### **Gentle Reminders**

If you have not yet sent in your 2024-25 yearbook, now is the time to do it. Our secretary, Chery Williams, is sitting by her mailbox, eagerly awaiting your hard copy!

Have your project chairs been updated on the International website? If not, go to [peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org), log in, and search for "Enter project chairs." Then follow the directions for updating your chapter's information. If you have problems, contact your Board Buddy.

Speaking of Board Buddies, don't forget that we are always available to help you in any way we can—and we WANT to help you! Need information? Need help with the International or state website? Want to talk through a business or fundraising issue? Then your Board Buddy is the one to contact. If your buddy can't help you, she will contact the rest of the board and we will put our heads together to come up with an answer for you. If WE

can't figure it out, then we will get in touch with the officers at International. Always feel free to call, text, or email your buddy.

### **Project News**

The state STAR committee reports that chapter recommendations are due between August 15 and October 15. Begin your search now for a young woman who meets the qualifications and can benefit from this scholarship. And she doesn't have to be going to a four-year college. Applicants who are planning to attend a technical school will also be considered for the STAR scholarship.

Another exciting change is that women who have completed and submitted their STAR application will receive an offer of direct admission plus a generous renewable scholarship from Cottey College! She doesn't have to receive the STAR scholarship, only complete and submit her application. Now that is a wonderful opportunity!

The International Peace Scholarship (IPS), now in its 75<sup>th</sup> year, has given \$53.5 million to deserving women from 178 different countries! Just last spring, \$2.2 million was granted to 205 recipients. Application information for 2025 will be available on the International website this month, and applications are due by December 15, 2024. Please share the information about IPS with any woman studying in a post graduate degree program who is from a foreign country. Chapters do NOT have to recommend a candidate; we just have to publicize the information and let women know that the funds are available. They will apply online.

Your chapter may be partnered with an IPS student, supporting her through her studies, by donating \$500 and requesting to be a Partner in Peace. This donation is made to our state treasurer, accompanied by the Partners in Peace form.

### **Note from the Treasurer**

When your chapter sends in memorials and/or honoraria to our state treasurer, please be careful to complete all the necessary information on the gift transmittal sheet (found on the Alabama website, [peoalabama.org](http://peoalabama.org)), especially the specific fund numbers and persons to be notified in the case of memorials and honoraria.

### **Fun Times**

If you can, visit Chapter AK's Games Galore and Marketplace on September 24! From 9:00 to 3:00, you can enjoy a day of games, coffee and pastries, shopping, and fashion! Tickets are \$45 per person. For questions, contact Susy Philhours at [sphilhours@att.net](mailto:sphilhours@att.net).

*"Fill the garden of my soul with the wind of love."*

--from a Puritan prayer in *The Valley of Vision*

*We hope the garden of your soul is full of the wind of love. May its gentle caress embrace you and give you peace and strength.*

*Lovingly,*

*Elaine, Cel, Paige, Nancy and Chery*