

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Beth Staples, M, 2019-2020

Letting Love Lead has been the hallmark for this officer and for all New Jersey P.E.O.s throughout this year. And, Love has led us in new and exciting directions. This officer with the assistance of her vice-president, Helen Wolfmeyer, AU, began the year with a special on-boarding orientation for three new State Board members. It has been a joy for this officer to watch these new state officers grow in their knowledge of P.E.O. and in their desire to serve the Sisterhood. The work of the Sisterhood could not have been accomplished without the loving dedication of these four women: Helen Wolfmeyer, AU, Robyn Burns, Q, Lois Johann, Y, and Rosemary Seghatoleslami, AK. It was this officer's honor to lead these women in monthly meetings in person and via video and teleconferencing. A hearty thanks is also extended to the chairs and members of our State Committees who have been the loving conduit sharing information across the P.E.O. chain from International to State to the local chapters and back again.

In June, State officers and committee chairs met for a Leadership meeting, led by this President, prior to the President's Brunch. The sisters of Chapter M outdid themselves hosting the event and showing to all present that when love leads, joy, fellowship, and sisterly affection follow. Chapter M has supported this officer throughout her P.E.O. journey and are living examples of the virtues taught by our star.

July, 2019 found this officer winging to Des Moines, Iowa for the LEAD conference and her first visit to P.E.O. Headquarters. Tours of the offices, meeting spaces, P.E.O. museum, Sesquicentennial sculpture, and a preview of the Convention of International Chapter plans were all highlights shared with new Organizer Robyn Burns. There was so much that this officer learned at LEAD, and she had no idea that carrying a flag required so much practice.

This flag carrying practice was put to good use in September when this officer led the New Jersey delegation at the 2019 Convention of International Chapter (CIC) in Des Moines, Iowa. It was a distinct honor for this officer to carry the flag from New Jersey and to join with thousands of P.E.O. sisters to celebrate 150 years! It was a particular joy to put faces to names as this officer met the Board of International Chapter, Executive office staff, officers from other states, and P.E.O.s from everywhere. The highlight for this officer was standing at the back of the arena looking down on nearly 5,000 P.E.O. sisters and supporters as 150 years of service were remembered and honored.

Also, in September, this officer hosted the State Board and the Past State Presidents for a Garden Party on the lawn at her home. The caring and knowledge shared by these PSPs has been an uplifting support for this officer throughout her time on the Executive Board.

This officer was honored to present a report on CIC to various local chapters and was surprised with a birthday party when her presentation coincided with her birthday. She visited as many Regional Reciprocity meetings as her schedule would permit and delighted in learning how sisters were Letting Love Lead them. To remind all sisters that they are VIPs (Very Important P.E.O.s), she continued the practice began in the previous year by sending Valentine postcards to

every P.E.O. sister in the state. She gathered articles for the quarterly Marguerite Messenger, which, this year, was sent to every New Jersey P.E.O. sister with an email address on file at International. This officer also participated in videoconferencing workshops held by the State Treasurer and the State Secretary.

A particular joy for this officer was to witness how love is leading to the formation of New Jersey's newest chapter in Medford, NJ. JoDee Pettine, W/PSP, has been shepherding this flock and sharing her knowledge and love of the Sisterhood with these deserving women. Unfortunately, due to the imposed quarantine, New Jersey was not able to organize this chapter during this officer's tenure, but she looks forward to their swift organization in the coming year.

The hostess chapters for 2020 worked diligently throughout the year to prepare for a May 1-2, 2020 convention. They created a new online registration system for Convention that allowed for the creation of individual invoices for each registrant. Unfortunately, convention had to be cancelled and love has led this officer to dub the non-event, "The Greatest Convention That Never Was!" She thanks these sisters for all of their hard work and willingness to be creative and think outside the box.

This officer made a personal challenge to herself upon assuming the office of President to visit every chapter in the state, and she was on track to do so before the quarantine was imposed. It was in these intimate local chapter meetings that this officer truly saw the strength of the Sisterhood and the love that each sister has for the other. More than a convention, this is the memory that will stay with this officer as she continues Letting Love Lead on her P.E.O. journey.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Helen Wolfmeyer, AU, 2019-2020

It has been a pleasure for this officer to serve as New Jersey State Chapter Vice President for the 2019-2020 year. Following the President's theme to "Let Love Lead" has been endearing and inspiring as she met local chapters and especially as she worked with her Sisters on the New Jersey State Board.

This officer would like to acknowledge the commitment and work of the State Project Chairs. Each one has spent hours communicating through articles on our Marguerite Messenger, helping with applications, sharing news from International and encouraging local chapters. She extends special thanks and kudos to Deborah McNamara, M. P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund chair; Carol Cornwell, AG, P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship chair; Berniece Bright, P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education chair; Diane Reed, AI, P.E.O. Scholar Awards chair and Bonnie Rosa, AL, P.E.O. STAR Scholarship chair.

Funding of our projects through local chapter donations continues to be strong in our State. This officer is grateful to all the chapters who through their unique and oftentimes "fun" fundraising efforts New Jersey continues to support all of our projects enabling more women to become empowered through education.

Serving as Proxy for the State Organizer was as always, a wonderful experience for this officer. She enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the officers, local chapter members, represent the State Board and discuss the chapters strengths and concerns.

Although there will not be a convention this year to present the President's letters officially this year, this officer took great pleasure in reading the letters and assembling the letters to be given to President Beth Staples at a later date. It was clearly evident in reading the letters that the local chapters embraced the President's theme of "Letting Love Lead". Love was shown in programs, caring for Sisters, and overall devotion to P.E.O. and our virtues.

The highlight for this officer was attending the Sesquicentennial Convention in Des Moines in September. She felt such joy to be among 6000 P.E.O.s! The strength of P.E.O. for 150 years was reflected in every aspect of convention and this officer was inspired by the history and legacy we all own. As President Beth Staples and this officer carried the New Jersey State flag on opening night, a surge of P.E.O. pride was felt in the arena.

This officer wants to thank the 2020 Convention Hostess Chapters. While our convention could not go on as planned the many months of planning and effort they put forth will be remembered. She also wants to thank the 2021 Convention Hostess Chapters who are hard at work planning for a celebration in 2021 when we can all be together again. This officer also wants to thank the members of the State Board as well as the PSPs all of whom provide support and love. She also thanks her Chapter AU sisters who give her continual support and encouragement. Throughout this year in many ways, this officer saw example after example of P.E.O.s "Letting Love Lead."! It is truly an inspiration and her privilege to serve.

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZER

Robyn Burns, Q, 2019-2020

Letting Love Lead is the inspiration and focus for the work and service of our New Jersey Chapters of P.E.O. Sisterhood this year. Visiting the rotation of chapters for Organizer's visits during the fall and early winter months, this officer observed evidence of sisterly love shown by highly engaged and creative social interaction, much personal growth and positive actions toward empowerment of women through P.E.O. Projects providing educational opportunity. She observed the prescribed procedures for Chapter Meeting and the exemplification of Ceremony of Initiation practiced with sensitivity and reverence. It is the honor of this officer to be of service and also to receive the welcome and kindness extended by each chapter she visited, from every sister and from each member serving with her on the State Board.

The State Membership Committee, to which the Organizer is advisor, continues to work diligently to communicate with our chapters to maintain and grow our P.E.O. membership.

To reinforce strategies for membership action, we are making use of the online Membership Toolbox and the online digital membership map resource at njpeomembership@gmail.com. Our publications, the Membership Connection, the Hot Spot, and the Marguerite Messenger are posted on our P.E.O. websites and emailed regularly to chapters. Local and International membership initiatives continue with, "Every Sister is a VIP, 'Very Important P.E.O.'" "Membership Begins with Me", "Let's Go Find the Others", and "New Jersey P.E.O. & You Plus 2". Regular email correspondence with International regional advisor Kathleen Feldman has kept the priority of membership development in the forefront of our awareness. Thanks to our membership team for encouraging all of us to be in tune with these recommendations to share the love of P.E.O. for the life of our chapters.

New Jersey P.E.O. looks forward in joyful expectation to welcome our newest chapter AZ in Medford NJ. Plans at the ready are presently on hold because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Organization Ceremony will be rescheduled when it is safe to do. Special thanks to JoDee Pettine PSP, W for her untiring work with all the preliminary requirements to organize Chapter AZ. Thanks to everyone involved for her patience at this very serious and uncertain time.

This organizer was pleased to attend and acted as Chaplain at the Organization Ceremony for new Chapter CQ\PA in Philadelphia in September 2019, having made acquaintance with PA State P.E.O. Organizer Jennifer Pioch and PA State President Alicia Redfern at the LEAD Conference, Des Moines, IA in mid-July. Our New Jersey State President Beth Staples and this organizer "flew" from EWR, Newark Airport, to Des Moines, DSM, to attend this annual 3-day educational orientation conference for S/P/D presidents and organizers, sponsored by International Chapter P.E.O. It was an enjoyable, informative experience affording opportunities to tour the P.E.O. Home, to attend formal and informal workshops, activities and meals, and to visit the Conference Center where the 150th Anniversary Convention of International Chapter would be held later in September. Highlights for this organizer included the pleasure of meeting her sister State Organizers and State Presidents throughout the United States and Canada, and of meeting our International officers and staff. She also gleaned valuable information about P.E.O. procedures, leadership development, problem solving and goal setting.

During the year, this officer has attended State Board Meetings, P.E.O. memorial services, Organizer's visits, phone conferences, PSP parties, chapter anniversary celebrations, reciprocity meetings, and organization meetings for a new chapter. Throughout, she has tried to support her sister state board officers as much as possible. Through all these events, she has appreciated the loving concern of her Chapter Q sisters. Their support has helped to assure her strength to serve on the state board level. She is grateful also for the ongoing assistance of State President Beth Staples and State Vice-President Helen Wolfmeyer who have provided special instruction and support from the time of her nomination to office under special circumstances last April. The 2019 traditional Board photo greeting card mailed and posted online proclaims " J O Y ", from Helen, Lois, Robyn, Beth(Piper)& Rosemary – New Jersey State P.E.O. Board. Working alongside these lovely women has been a happy and memorable experience.

This year continues amid very serious health and safety concerns in this time of COVID-19 Pandemic. As a result our New Jersey State Convention of P.E.O. Sisterhood will not be held this year.

Allowing Love to Lead...
to gather together again in P.E.O.

Report of the Treasurer
Lois Johann, Y - 2019-2020

“Letting Love Lead” is exactly what this year's Board Treasurer did. As a first time Board member taking on the role of Treasurer there were lots of twists and turns as one can imagine during this year of so much uncertainty. Learning the inside and out of all financial transactions that take place could not have run so smoothly without the amazing Assistant Treasurer Lisa Chab-Malloy. Working with such a dedicated and love-leading assistant has truly made this P.E.O. feel incredibly blessed. With the Love and support of the board members and PSP's as well as her own remarkable Chapter Sisters, this Treasurer has seen how Love Leads in NJ.

This officer would also like to thank the great women serving on the Auditing Committee who have helped to make sure all our State finances are in order. This dedicated team headed by Marjorie Wendell, AB and committee members Marilynn Hummer, H, Karen Pietrangelo, W as well as advisor Ellie Orman, AA spent the year making sure our additions and subtractions were in order. An important task as this year brings another outside audit for our books. Carrie Dixon, AD and Cheryl Garside, AR of our Finance Committee also worked hard to prepare the budget for the coming year and this Treasurer is completely grateful for their commitment to the Sisterhood.

This Treasurer has also been blessed to serve with the remarkable women of Reciprocity. Led by Chairman Kathy Keim, AW, Vice Chairman Nancy McKeen, AU, Secretary Megan Springsted, AW, Treasurer Carrie Kennedy, AY, and Meetings Coordinator Anne Lackland, AV, these women Let Love Lead throughout the uncertain times and the cancellation of Spring Reciprocity due to COVID 19. Always looking out for sisters and making sure their safety was of utmost importance this officer knows that Love truly led the way. When the new Reciprocity Group is able to take over they will have a good starting plan to work with courtesy of these amazing women.

This Treasurer also had the privilege to work with the New Jersey Cares committee led by Jean Dorr, AP and committee members Nancy Dowd, AO and Judith Schaefer, AD. What a wonderful year in the books Letting Love Lead in New Jersey helping sisters financially. This officer is happy to report that one applicant received assistance and there were numerous reimbursements made to various Chapters on behalf of P.E.O. sisters in need.

This officer is incredibly thankful for the support of the New Jersey State Board , the Past State Presidents and their advice and most importantly for Chapter Y sisters for their love and support throughout the year. She looks forward to the coming year and is thankful for each and every New Jersey sister for their support and friendship throughout the year.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Rosemary Seghatoleslami, AK, 2019-2020

When this officer was installed as New Jersey P.E.O. Secretary in May, 2019, she never imagined what would be happening throughout the world by May, 2020. Who could ever imagine that Convention 2020 would be cancelled and that this officer would not be giving her report in person to the Convention delegates, alternates and the Past State Presidents.

This officer had no idea when she agreed to the Nominating Committee's request to run for office the amount of work involved, but she has found it a very worthwhile experience with many learning opportunities. She has mastered most of the acronyms of the job, such as IOSC, CIM and ARCS. Having never been her chapter's Corresponding Secretary, she found it very interesting and somewhat odd to be giving a tutorial via Zoom on how to process the Corresponding Secretary's Annual Report. This tutorial was successful, and she recommends continuing it in the future.

As New Jersey Secretary, this officer acts as the Corresponding Secretary for the Disbanded Chapters in the state. She received the Chapter Membership Summaries for these chapters from International and filled out the Annual Report of the Corresponding Secretary for the chapters. These were then processed along with the forms sent by the active chapters and sent on to International.

As part of her duties, this Secretary acts as advisor to the Cottey College Committee and the History Committee. Both committees are thanked for all the work they have done in the past year.

The Cottey Committee consists of Julie Bliss, Chapter M, as Chair, along with Bonnie Shrut, Chapter G and Stephanie Widdoes, Chapter AN. They have kept the membership updated on happenings at Cottey through articles in the Marguerite Messenger.

Barbara Battles, PSP and Carol Hyde, Chapter A-B again served on the History Committee to continue the work done compiling the archival material and distributing the New Jersey 75th Anniversary book. They were also involved with the Sesquicentennial Committee and the 150 Fund, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

This secretary took the minutes at each Executive Board Meeting and distributed them to each of the Board members. She also processed the monthly New Jersey Change in Membership report and distributed it to the Board members and the Chair of the Membership committee. She sent welcome letters to new initiates and their chapters, sympathy letters to the chapters of deceased active members and letters to the chapters of members transferring into a New Jersey chapter. This secretary sent cards from the State Board to the Past State Presidents on their birthdays as well as to the Board members.

As her final duty as secretary, this officer is composing a virtual Time of Remembrance for the New Jersey P.E.O. website.

This officer thanks all the New Jersey P.E.O. sisters who have helped her complete her duties for the year and for the wonderful experience of serving on the New Jersey P.E.O State Board.



International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood
P.E.O. Membership

New Jersey State Chapter
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP OF DISBANDED CHAPTERS
March 1, 2020

Secretary New Jersey State Chapter

1. Number active members March 1, 2019 (see last year's report)	34
Increase since March 1, 2019	
2. By Initiation	0
3. By Transfer (members not previously enrolled in chapter)	0
4. By Reinstatement	0
5. Total Active membership during year	34
Decrease Since March 1, 2019	
6. By Transfer	0
7. By Death of active member	2
8. By expulsion of active member	0
9. By becoming inactive March 1, 2020	0
10. Total decrease in active membership during year	2
11. Number active members March 1, 2020	32
12a. Number classified lost contact or	
12b. Inactive members lost by death since March 1, 2019	9
Summary	
13. Total number initiated from date of organization	871
14. Total enrollment from date of organization	1,463
15. Total number of inactive March 1, 2020	135

DISBANDED CHAPTERS

Chapter	Date of Origination	Date Disbanded
E Westfield	05/12/1934	03/01/2016
F Summit	06/03/1936	03/01/1998
J Ridgewood	04/08/1941	03/01/2018
K Nutley	05/16/1942	03/01/1966
N Westfield	03/17/1943	03/01/2004
O Summit	01/31/1946	03/01/2013
P Tenafly	03/01/1947	03/01/1991
T River Edge	03/24/1950	03/01/2018



International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood
P.E.O. Membership

New Jersey State Chapter
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP OF DISBANDED CHAPTERS
March 1, 2020

Secretary New Jersey State Chapter

U	Westfield	04/05/1950	03/01/2017
V	Plainfield	04/22/1950	03/01/1976
X	Maplewood	01/26/1957	03/01/1992
Z	Tenaflly	04/10/1958	03/01/1974