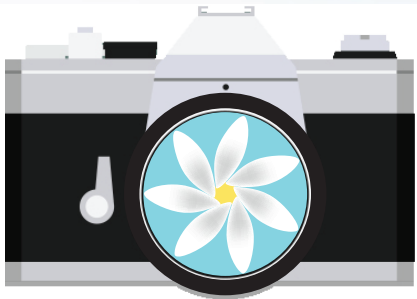


Focusing in...



...on Sisterhood

PEONY PRESS

New York State Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood

Volume 45, Number 3
January 2022

Local Chapter President's Letter

Please email by March 1, 2022 to
president@peonewyork.org

It's that time of year for chapter presidents to craft their annual President's letter to summarize what took place this year. Your letter should include such information as:

- Increase or decrease in membership
- Average meeting attendance, and this year, the types of meetings that you held: in-person, virtual and/or hybrid
- Contributions to P.E.O. Projects and other philanthropic work
- Sponsorship of Project applicants
- Social activities
- Special recognition and honors awarded to chapter members
- Any special joys or concerns that you would like to share

Remember to send this letter out to all chapter members after reading it at your February meeting, and be sure to include your nonresident members so they can keep up with chapter happenings. Send hard copies to your sisters who don't have access to email, and then follow up with a phone call to see how they are doing. You might even consider sending the letter to your inactive sisters to re-establish a sisterly connection.

Please email your letter to NYS President Lisa Blystone at president@peonewyork.org or blystonelisa@gmail.com, as a Word or PDF document, after you have read the letter at a February chapter meeting.

Notes From Lisa

My dear sisters,

As we look to a new year, we have been encouraged by the International Executive Board to **focus** on a single powerful goal for our members and local chapters: ***To reconnect and renew, making our chapters places where sisters engage, show loving concern, and find joy after the challenges of the past two years.***

We can do this! As chapters start to gather in person, please make sure that safety is the number one concern, so that we all stay healthy and fit for the challenges ahead. As a sisterhood, we have, can and will continue to do amazing things by fulfilling our goals of supporting each other and finding and then helping incredible women as they reach for the stars to make their own dreams come true.

In February, we will cascade our State Chapter Goals to our local chapters, and it is our hope that you will embrace these challenges to set goals of your own. Whether it's to finally talk to that friend who would "make a great P.E.O.!", or to email brochures about IPS to a local college or university, every step you take will strengthen your chapter and our organization. **You can do anything you decide to do!**

Happy New Year!

With gratitude and love in P.E.O.,

Lisa

Lisa Blystone, AO, NYS Chapter President
president@peonewyork.org

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. **You can do anything you decide to do.** You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process, is its own reward." -- Amelia Earhart



Member Update (formerly CIM)

The Change in Membership (CIM) form and the Address, Email and Phone update online forms have been merged and are now one streamlined form, now called Member Update. Whether you're updating your contact information, or if you're a chapter officer making updates to members (i.e. initiation, death, transfer), you will now go to the Membership tab and select "Member Update" from the dropdown. Simply enter your member ID and the form will guide you from there.

A few notes for chapter officers:

1. Any initiations, deaths, transfers and reinstatements must be reported. This form replaces the Change in Membership (CIM) form used previously.
2. As before, corresponding secretaries will continue to receive email notifications for address changes, new initiates and members who transfer out.
3. Some documents may still reference the term Change in Membership or CIM as they are being formally revised, and Member Update should be used in its place going forward.
4. Any member can update their contact information with this form. If you are a chapter officer, regularly include the Member Update link in your newsletters and email communications. This will help ensure that all of your members are receiving The Record and other important notices from International.

Annual Report – Treasurers

Now is the time to send dues reminders to your chapter sisters. It is recommended to do so as early as possible so that any necessary follow up can be made. The easier you make it for your sisters to return their dues, the more likely you will receive them in a timely fashion so that you will be well prepared to complete your annual reports. You may wish to send the dues notices via email to those who you know check their email regularly. For those who do not regularly attend meetings, you could send them your notice along with a self-addressed stamped envelope for ease of return.

The notice recommended to send to your sisters can be downloaded from the international website:

Resources > Local Chapter Officers> Treasurer> Notice of Dues

This notice should include the breakdown of dues per member:

- \$26.00 International Chapter dues
- \$20.00 New York State Dues
- + your local chapter dues

If the chapter chooses to express a loving concern and advance dues for a member whose dues haven't been received by March 1, or the chapter chooses to pay for a sister in need, there are step by step instructions on how to enter this transaction in your records. It can be found on the international website:

Resources> Local Chapter Officers>Treasurer> Explanation of dues advancement for Treasurer Record book entry

Special Recognition Programs:

Chapters interested in participating in Special Recognition programs (Brighter Tomorrow, Constellation, etc.) for the International Projects must have their donations (\$500 lump sum) and paperwork submitted to their state chapter by January 31, 2022, to be included in the spring recognitions.

Annual Reports – Corresponding Secretaries

Annual Reports Mail by March 10, 2022

As we launch into a new year and wrap up our P.E.O. fiscal year, it is time to work on and submit annual reports to the NYS Board. If this is your first time doing this report, don't worry one bit! You have many resources and supports, including your sisters, to help you do this successfully and on time.

In January, presidents of local chapters will receive one combined mailing from International Chapter, which will contain items you will need for your report. Do check in with your chapter president if you haven't heard from her by the end of January to get the forms you will need.

As always, the reports should NOT be completed prior to March 1, 2021, since your chapter's fiscal year ends on February 28, 2022. Please start working on these reports as soon as you flip your calendars to March 1 so that you can mail them to me no later than March 10th. Remember, it is important that the postmark be no later than the 10th! Once your chapter elections are completed, there are 3 important online reports for you to complete on behalf of your chapter:

- Local Chapter Report of Project Chairmen
- Report of Election of Officers of Local Chapter (Remember, even if your officers did not change, this report must be completed every year.)
- S/P/D Convention Delegates & Alternates

If this is your first time serving as Corresponding Secretary or you need a refresher, a good place to start is on our International Website where you'll find a helpful training video just for you!

Resource Library>Local Chapter Officers>Annual Reports> Corresponding Secretary: Instructions for Annual Reports video. There is also a webinar from January 2021 you may find helpful.

If you have any questions or need any help in this process, please don't hesitate to contact me at secretary@peonewyork.org

The New York State Board thanks you for your hard work throughout the year and especially in this home stretch!

Mary P. DuBois
NYS Secretary

Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules - Actions Requested

The New York State Amendments and Recommendations Committee is busy at work and needs your help. Better known as the A&R Committee, this committee is responsible for reviewing and processing proposed amendments to P.E.O. International and to the bylaws and standing rules of NYS Chapter. It is also responsible for the annual review of the bylaws of each local chapter. Many of you were fortunate enough to attend virtually the 2021 Convention of International Chapter (CIC) and witness the voting on proposed amendments and bylaws, many of which began in local chapters.

In addition to your own chapter-generated changes, all chapters should make the following changes to their bylaws to conform with the amendments that were adopted at CIC in September. Please note that these changes do not have to be voted upon:

- Change the word “chairman” to “chair” wherever it occurs in your bylaws.
- All meetings of a local chapter shall be regular meetings. Remove “business” and “social” when referring to meetings of a local chapter. Every chapter should have 12 regular meetings per year, and as many social events as they wish.

It is equally important to be mindful of the deadlines listed below for the submission of proposed amendments to:

- **The Constitution and Bylaws of the P.E.O International Chapter January 1**
- **The Bylaws and Standing Rules of New York State Chapter February 1**
- **The Bylaws of Local Chapters March 10**

Please have your chapter’s recording secretary complete the Annual Report of Local Chapter Bylaws Changes Form and email it, along with a copy of your updated bylaws and standing rules to the A&R Committee (AandR@peonewyork.org) by **March 10, 2022**. Make sure you have indicated your chapter letters on your bylaws document.

The bylaws change form can be found by going to the New York State website: peonewyork.org; click on Member Login and then click on the yellow box at the top of the page which reads ‘Chapter Bylaw Changes? Report them here!’ The form can be completed on your device, and then saved and returned as an attachment as indicated on the form.

If you need a current electronic copy of your bylaws, please contact A&R for help with that.

Jean Landes, CQ, Chair jlandes15@yahoo.com

Sandy Smith, CI sandysmith3878@gmail.com

Jennifer Morris, AK jdmorris76@gmail.com

Focusing in...



...on Sisterhood

Local Officer Training Returning this Spring!

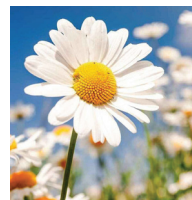
Come one, come all! Your NYS officers will be holding Local Officer Training this Spring – *virtually*. In keeping with the rotation designated by our Grouping Committee – the officers of the Buffalo and Cayuga/Southern Tier are required to attend. *All are welcome – even those sisters wanting to discover more about being a chapter officer.*



Local Chapter Project Chairs Annual Report Survey

Local Chapter Project Chairs Annual Report Survey will be available until March 10 at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9W5X5CY>

We are looking forward to reading your feedback about your experience!



2022 Convention of NYS Chapter

Save the weekend of June 3-5, 2022 for our first in-person Convention in three years! President Lisa Blystone and her co-chairs Janet Keithly, AB, and Katherine Raymond, CR, and the Capital District Reciprocity have big plans for a wonderful, safe, fun and inspiring gathering of sisters from across our great state! It will be such a great way to continue to reconnect, so mark you calendar now, and look for lots more info soon!





We're Looking for a Chapter that wants to have fun!!

Has your chapter enjoyed the State-wide Virtual Race Fund Raisers? Do you have ideas for how to improve the experience and ramp up this FUNdraiser? This year's race will involve running/walking/biking/dancing laps around Lake Ontario and we're on the look-out for a Fun-Loving Chapter that would be willing to take over tracking chapter progress and dispensing weekly messages of encouragement. You invent the weekly competitions and prizes, if any, and the NYS Board provides the buttons!

If your chapter wants to run this program for the April 1st - May 31st race season, contact Carolyn Osborne at cosbornepeo@gmail.com. First chapter to contact me gets the honor of waving the checkered flag at Convention (and many thanks)!

Please note: This year, we only ask that the proceeds go to International Projects - each chapter decides which one(s)!

Password Change

Remember! The password for *both* the International and NYS websites will change as of January 1, 2022. You'll need to update your password to include the new year.

Notes from your New York State Historian

Excitement abounds! The year 2022 will celebrate the anniversaries of these Chapters:

Chapter F, 100 years, Chapter O, 90 years, Chapter AE, 75 years, Chapter AF, 75 years, Chapter AM, 70 years, Chapter AY, 65 years, Chapter BG, 60 years, Chapter BN, 55 years, Chapter BT, 45 years, Chapter CA, 40 years, Chapter CC, 35 years and Chapter CP, 10 years.

Sisters and chapters for 2021 have already been notified and congratulated. I continue to accept all your photos and stories for this year's activities.

As we continue "Focusing in on Sisterhood", please remember to capture your special events. If you wish to share them with all of our NYS sisters, I would be happy to display your photos at the upcoming NYS Convention in June in Binghamton.

My deadline date of February 28th should give me ample time to process them and create the scrapbooks.

Everyone, please take note: New contact numbers for me are:
518-203-6568 • 518-470-1145 • 518-588-9794

Gayle Hinsdill, AM, PSP
New York State Historian
24 Prout Avenue • Troy, NY 12180
gaylehinsdill@gmail.com

- **Low attendance at meetings?**
- **Trouble getting officers?**
- **Can't find younger members?**
- **Meetings long and don't seem to accomplish much?**
- **Can't find potential project recipients?**



Maybe it's time to benefit from a Chapter Revitalization with a Chapter Vitality Coach (CVC).

Want to learn more?
Contact your Board Buddy!

NYS Security Fund - Update

Through the generosity of many chapters, the Security Fund is on a more secure footing, but please don't let that prevent your chapter from continuing to donate! Private donations were also sent from our members. The needs of applicants continue to be for medical bills, utility bills, cell phone bills, and assistance with rent (in one case to keep a mother with three children from being evicted). One applicant had moved and stored her belongings but could no longer pay the storage fee so her things were to be auctioned off. Another applicant had overdue tuition because of the downturn in the economy. She could not register until it was paid, and she had only a few months to complete her work before the program would have major changes.

Eligible applicants are members of New York State P.E.O. Chapters and non-members who reside in New York State – note there is no gender requirement.

Log into <https://peonewyork.org/> and sign in. Click on New York State under Member Home, then click on Funds. All the necessary information is there along with copies of the chapter and applicant forms. The maximum amount that can be granted from the Security Fund is \$3500.00. Each application is considered individually, and the amount requested should be based on what is needed to help in the applicant's particular emergency. The Security Fund cannot cover credit card debt nor can money from the Security Fund be used to pay credit card bills that have gone to a collection agency. These types of debts are beyond the scope and intent of the Security Fund.

The email address for the Security Fund is: SecurityFund@peonewyork.org. As you find someone in emergency need, please contact us with questions.