

The FORUM

★ Monthly Chapter Newsletter of the District ★

Editor Lola Orcutt [lorcutt.peo@gmail.com]



New President's Message Thanks for the Star and it's Message

Spring Greetings! A special Daisy thanks to our Immediate Past District President A Daisy 'shout out' to our International Rep, Nicole Berner, our Executive Board, our past district presidents, our committee chairs, our Forum rep, our Historian, our Paid Assistant treasurer, our webmaster, our delegates, our fabulous convention hostess chapter reps, our visitors & all here at this in person convention following a two-year hiatus. Please stand up and applaud one another for being here. It's been a long two-year slog with the COVID 19 pandemic. I won't belabor friends and NED! I want us to move

First, let me share a little about oldest of 5 children, attended College. I lost my husband five years someone new in my life for over a three grown sons, and a little white granddaughters know me as 'Meme'. speech-language pathologist in a k-4 on my big girl panties' as President of years. In retirement, I taught online



to become speech-language pathology assistants. I credit my Aunt Sandra Rivard, G ME, Chapter Eternal, for connecting me to the sisters of Chapter C NH. She said: "you are going to just love the mission of this group". Chapter C sisters welcomed me into P.E.O. in 2007. I served as chapter officers, on many chapter committees and served on NED committees. Many of you know I like to have fun and I like bling- anything sparkly! I love classic muscle cars, car shows, and at cruise nights, I am known to ask to sit in a purple muscle car for a photo opportunity. Being outdoors, hiking, reading, knitting, listening to classic rock n roll music are the things that I enjoy in life. My favorite color: purple! Oh yes, I have a 'wicked' Boston accent!

As President of the Northeast District this year, my goals are to keep you all **'in the know'** about NED and P.E.O. International happenings and to show loving concern and care for all NED sisters. Remember, this is YOUR NED so plan on being kept 'in the know' and plan on keeping those of us on the Executive Board 'in the know'. There are many diverse ways of keeping you 'in the know'. One way is to have you become comfortable with using our newly launched website. So, expect someone like Madame

its impact on each of us, our families, forward.

me. I grew up in Lawrence, MA, the parochial schools, including Stonehill ago and am blessed with having year now. I have three sisters and dog named 'Miss Daisy'. My five My passion when I worked was as a public school. I also learned to 'put the district's teachers' guild for 5 five college courses to students studying

Continued on Page 2

Marguerite, to come back to life, to give you tips and information on how to find information or forms or lists on the new district website. A virtual tour of the new website, hosted by our technology gurus is also a real possibility. Another way of keeping you 'in the know' is that we on the Executive Board will be available to meet with you virtually for chapter or reciprocity visits. We will also continue to be your Board Buddies and could meet with you virtually, by phone, or by email. We will continue to share news & updates in the monthly online Forum. When you receive the link for the Forum, please click to learn more about NED or International happenings. Remember, this is YOUR NED.

Each of you in NED are 'worth a mint' to P.E.O., to me, and to all the Executive Board members. Another way of keeping you 'in the know' is to let you know how much we care for you and that we are here for you. You are each a Very Important P.E.O. I hope to demystify what it is that we do on the Executive Board. I want you to know that I am P.E.O. just like you. I want you to know that we on the Executive Board are volunteers, not police ladies. We are mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, wives, significant others. We are a diverse group. Yes, we have other lives besides our lives on the Executive Board. Yes, we do have business to do as Executive Board Members. I want you to know that we are volunteers, and we try to do the best we can. We are approachable and very much want to hear from you about your chapter successes, challenges, questions, comments or concerns. We will lovingly respond to you by phone call, email, text or virtually. You can also help to keep us 'in the know'. Upload chapter posts on the NED Chapters Facebook page. Submit pictures and articles about your chapters to the Forum. It's my hope that you don't just wait for us to get in touch with you. Know that NED belongs to you!



There are many seasons in our P.E.O. lives. Some sisters are unable to come to chapter meetings. With your help, let's find ways that are 'outside the box'. Perhaps we could have a 'traveling tea' to reach out to these sisters. Maybe start a card a month chain or feature a sister's bio in your chapter communications, ask these sisters to be mentors or to advise other sisters in your chapter. They also are worth a mint to P.E.O. and to NED and they should be kept in the know.

It's time for us in NED to 'refresh' and 'restart' after two long years of living in Pandemic mode. What better way to do this than to 'Give Thanks to the Star and Its Message'? Think back to when you were initiated and heard the words about each point on the Star emblem. Look at the emblem you are wearing. Think about the words we sing in the 'Opening Ode'. The virtues: Purity, Justice, Faith, Truth and Love are our Core Values as P.E.O. sisters. These core values connect us to chapters, Districts, States and to International. These words are the heart of P.E.O.. They motivate us to 'Raise the Bar to the Stars'. They guide us in honoring our mission of educating women. They guide us as we embrace asking women to join our local P.E.O. chapters. These virtues resonate within each one of us in P.E.O., as we show loving concern for our sisters no matter what their season of P.E.O. might be. So, let's together 'refresh' and 'restart' this coming year of NED. Let's all move forward as we give ***'Thanks for the Star and It's Message.'***

I leave you with these words from Hebrews 10: 24 -25:

"And let us remember how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



Susan M. Holak, C-NH
NEDC President

Message from NED Vice President

Thank you to all delegates, visitors and guests that were able to attend the Celebration of Life at convention. This moving presentation can not be done without each chapter sharing the passing of their sisters with the District. If a sister in your chapter passes please complete the “Celebration of Life Form” that can be found on the new NED website. Please submit the information to me at the address on the bottom of the form. Let’s make the 2023 truly a celebration of our passed sisters.

Barbara Rainville, H-VT
NEDC Vice President



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the 2022 30th Convention of the Northeast District Chapter in Nashua, NH! It was wonderful to see old friends and to meet new sisters. One of my favorite parts of Convention is when we hear about the amazing educational opportunities we have been able to offer women through the P.E.O. Projects.

Over the past year in the Northeast District, 33 women received support through P.E.O. projects! That was an increase of almost 30% from the previous year! Thanks to the support of local chapters in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, \$143,787 was donated to support the P.E.O. Projects- amazing! We certainly were following in the path of stars who led us.

During the Celebration Banquet on Saturday night, our incredible International Representative Nicole Berner, P.E.O. Foundation Trustees, shared the incredible news about the total picture of P.E.O.s supporting our projects. Check out the chart below for the amazing totals:

	2022 Total \$\$\$	2022 Total Recipients	Since Inception Total \$\$\$	Since Inception Total Recipients
Educational Loan Fund	\$4.7M	338	\$236M	50,636
International Peace Scholarship	\$2M	171	\$43.5	6,614
Program for Continuing Education	\$2.2M	970	\$67,594,540	51,230
Scholar Award	\$2M	100	\$32M	2727
STAR	\$2.25	\$900	\$17,233,000	7,000
TOTAL			\$398,196,507	119,265

Thank you for your continued focus on supporting women’s educational opportunities!

When we all work together- we move mountains and change the world!

Tricia Driscoll, C-RI
NEDC Treasurer

Meet our new NED Secretary Jeanine Hoyenski, B-VT

I am an identical twin, my sister Jeanne was born five minutes before me, we already had an older brother and two older sisters. My mother said, "when babies came by two she was all done having babies". We lived in upstate New York until August of 1979, at that time we moved to Newport New Hampshire. After graduation from High School, I attended Franklin Pierce College in Ridge, NH. I graduated with a Bachelors degree in Accounting.



In the summer of 1996 I moved to Vermont to be a chef with my twin at Basin Harbor Club. As you can imagine that didn't work out that well for me, as it was my sister's chosen career, not mine. I remained in Vermont and moved to Burlington. I married in August of 2003 and divorced in December 2010. During the time of the divorce I had a second job for Home Instead Senior care. One night at a client's home, she told me that I would need to leave early, a friend was picking her up for a meeting. A group of women who help pay for education for other women.

A few months later my client passed and I returned to a church we had attended together. I helped out with a chicken dinner that the church held. After helping to clean up for the night I met a new woman and several weeks later I met a whole group of new

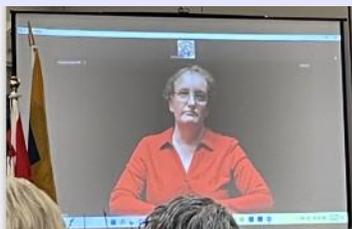
women. In September 2012 I and three other sisters were initiated into Chapter B-VT.

Six months after initiation I was asked to be co-treasurer with my mentor sister. The following season and three after that I sat in the treasures seat. After treasurer I was the president for four years. Currently I am back in the treasurer's seat. My mentor was a golden girl many years before I was initiated and she taught us all many of the in's and out's of P.E.O..

For Northeast District I have served on the Auditing Committee for four years and the Finance Committee for two years.

When I am not doing P.E.O., I love to tend my flower beds, bake or spend a day reading a book. I spend a LOT of time with my twin and my family. My boyfriend of 8 years and I might take a camping trip or just a quick weekend away.

Jeanine Hoyenski, B-VT
NEDC Secretary



The district was granted permission to have Jeanine appear virtually because she had COVID that week and even though Saturday was her 5th day she did not want to risk getting everyone at convention sick.



CHAPTER NEWS



A-NH / Hanover

Chapter A, Hanover, celebrates PCE Recipient

Recently Chapter A/NH gathered on April 18th to celebrate Julia Gonzaga as the recipient of a \$3000 PCE grant. Julia is attending Vermont Technical College and expects to graduate in June with a Licensed Practical Nursing degree. Julia was born in Brazil and told the chapter she has always had a passion for helping others. She expressed her thanks to P.E.O. for helping to make her dream of becoming a nurse a reality.

Ann Gallagher



L to R: Lee Arend, Chapter A Projects Committee Chair, Julia Goonzaga, Brenda Brown Chapter A President.



L to R: Marcia Welsh, Lois Frazer, Joyce Hurd, Vesta Smith, Lee Arend, Brenda Brown, Elsa Lind, Sally Kesseli and Betsey Lenskold.



C-RI / North Kingstown

Chapter C-RI sisters Jenn Spira and Anne Fusco met their IPS Partner in Peace Nellie Amosi for lunch last month at the University of Connecticut, where she is pursuing a PhD in natural resources. Nellie is a native of Malawi, one of the poorer countries in Africa, and hopes to help her country to maximize its natural resources and improve irrigation to prevent mass flooding.

Jenn Spira



L to R: Anne Fusco, Nellie Amosi, and Jenn Spira.

B-ME / Bangor

Refreshing is the word that sprang to mind when writing this Forum article, and that's rather surprising, considering the ugly, dull, cloudy weather we've been having in Maine lately.

And refreshing it is when you enter a room and are greeted by smiling, happy sisters, glad to be out of their homes and able to mingle and share a little slice of life, together.

This month our meetings were Tuesday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 26, both at the Shrine Hall in Bangor.

Hostesses for our first meeting, Duckie Boomer and Pam Coffey-Paine, had the hot beverages and delicious snacks to warm the insides, which were very welcome, since it was chilly outside. And refreshing it is to begin another year of P.E.O. Chapter B Maine, gaveled to order by new president Kim Nagle.

Kim had a new idea for our first meeting program which was, aptly, meant to refresh! "Getting to Know Your Yearbook" was a fun memory test we suggest you try sometime. I think all of us were impressed with how much we do know about our yearbook, where to find it, and what it means. Members were eagerly calling out page numbers as fast as they could find them, and it got to be quite a lively competition.

Our second meeting, by unanimous vote, was conducted by treasurer Lola Orcutt while our president enjoys a well-deserved vacation trip to Portugal. Sitting in for Lola was Kathy Allen. Kay Blanchard oversaw the hostess duties.

Unfortunately, for this meeting, our numbers were down due to the combination of school vacations and a slight Covid uptick among our members who, we are happy to report, are well on the road to recovery.

Among the discussions at this meeting were that of convention and all P.E.O. scholarships, through the guidance of Stephanie Cartwright, our Project Chair.

We are especially fortunate that our chapter can take great pride in being able to fully participate in helping fund the mission of our organization: to celebrate, educate, and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

Joni White



Just received word that one of our sisters, Page Eastman, had two photographs chosen in the Maine Open Juried Art Show in Waterville and took third place for her still-life of mussels - called Blue Mystery. The other photo was of turtles, called A Gathering at the Pond.



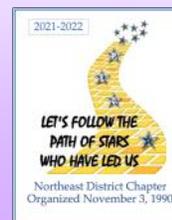
Dear Sisters of the Northeast District,

Thank you so very much for these past five years and all of the support that you have given me while serving you on the Executive Board.

What a wonderful convention we had. Everything was just perfect thanks to my wonderful Co-Chairs, Kerri Poorman and Judith Woodbury, Convention Treasurer, Karen Brouillette, and my very talented Seacoast Hostess Chapters, NH-C, ME-D, E, G, J, and L.

Thanks to everyone who made the convention so very special.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,
Vi Lunderville
Past District President



H-NH / Keene

At a recent Chapter H-NH meeting, Valerie Cole presented the annual Philanthropy Committee Report. She explained that P.E.O. has been supporting women through education from its very founding at Iowa Wesleyan College in 1869. Scholarships and loans have become a part of the mission of P.E.O. and she detailed just how generous each philanthropy has been to women. She concluded her report by giving the following statistics about the generosity of our local Chapter H-NH:

- Chapter H-NH has sponsored 23 women who were successful in receiving \$92,050. That total represents \$68,500 from ELF, \$21,050 from PCE and \$2500 from STAR scholarship.
- Another 12 women were not successful with their applications. But the total number of applicants Chapter H-NH helped or sponsored was 35 women.
- Chapter H-NH provided a total of \$4110 of chapter funds for some of the successful women as well as for some of those who were unsuccessful in receiving P.E.O. philanthropy funds. Therefore, the total Chapter H -NH has either contributed from chapter funds, or has helped women obtain from the P.E.O. philanthropies, is \$96,160. That is quite an achievement for our local chapter since its founding as a chapter in 1984.

Carol Austin



K-ME / Ellsworth

One of Chapter K-ME's sisters has lifted our spirits by sharing her artistic talent. Retired pathologist Cheryl Coffin studied studio art at the University of Maine. She has an exhibit through May 27 in Bangor at the Gallery at 900, in the lobby of the St. Joseph Internal Medicine Building at 900 Broadway. It is part of St. Joseph Healthcare's Healing Arts Program.

Many years of looking through a microscope have given Cheryl a unique perspective. She gave a webinar along with another local artist on "How Conservation Inspires local Artists." It was hosted by the Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the Island Heritage Trust. The webinar is on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL0SXUNYCVQ>.

We always inspired by the accomplishments of our P.E.O.-sponsored scholars. Jessica Rolfe, our PCE recipient, will graduate this May from the University of Maine with a BS in Nursing. Toyin Adekanmbi, a Partner in Peace student cosponsored by our chapter and others, is conducting a research study to assess climate change impacts on potato yields on Prince Edward Island. Toyin is a MSc student in the School of Climate Change and Adaptation at UPEI.

Merry Post

Please remember that the
new website is still in the
beginning stages - - please be patient.
~Same Username/Password~



Q-NH / Kingston

The month of March was full of activity for Q-NH. Of course we elected and installed our officers for the coming year. We also had an Officers' Transition meeting on March 17 in the meeting room at Webster at Rye, the Assisted Living Community where I happen to live. On March 29 we had a New Members orientation session in the meeting room here. At each event we watched the video tour of the Executive Office complex in Des Moines, as an excellent way for us all to gain a view of the scope of P.E.O.'s presence on the world scene.

We are very happy to have welcomed two new members who have transferred from other chapters: Karyn Spears from chapter Y-Wyoming and Diann Osgood from chapter DN, Florida. At the same time we said goodbye to Marilyn Lermond, who moved to Sparta, NJ to be closer to her family. She will remain with our chapter while she gets settled in her new home.

Seven of our sisters attended the Reciprocity meeting via Zoom, which was hosted by chapter C-NH on April 2. We congratulate chapter C for bringing us a very interesting program by oceanographer Jennifer Miksis-Olds, who received a PSA from Chapter C in 2003.

At the end of March a group of five sisters met at Jan Bilodeau's house to put together the Invitations to the 2023 NEDC convention., which will be distributed on May 1 at this year's convention. Jan took the picture of the project as they finished.



L to R: Suzanne Myer Smith, Deb Albee, Jan Geremia, and Grace Myer.

Linda Rousseau

D-ME / Portland

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Boyhood Home in Raymond, Maine became the site of the Centenary Celebration for Prudence Eleanor (Kelsey) Hazen on Saturday April 23, 2022. Prudence was a long-time member of P.E.O. Chapter D, Portland, Maine. Prudence supported our P.E.O. mission and was herself a lifelong learner. Prudence entered Chapter Eternal in 2009. In honor of Prudence's Birthday her daughter, Susan E. Hazen-Hammond and her son, Steven Kelsey

Hazen desire to give Chapter D a generous donation which will create a named grant for the Program for Continuing Education (PCE). Her grandson, William S. Hammond, III, representing his mother and his uncle, presented the donation to Chapter D. Members of Chapter D attending the Celebration were Jean Marquand, treasurer, Barbara Barbarow, president, Kathy Sahrbeck and Molly McCormick.



Molly McCormick

D-RI / Newport For the first time in 2 years Chapter D had an official face-to-face social gathering in late April! There were 21 sisters and guests enjoying drinks and snacks at a favorite local restaurant. Our social committee, Judy Adams, Jane Calhoun and Cathy Veroneau organized the event. Take a look at the photos and you will see that there were many daisies and stars on display. We were all grateful for the opportunity to be together again!

Sandy Barnett



D-ME / Portland Chapter D/ME continues to hold meetings through Zoom. We miss being together, but it has worked well for many sisters. We have sisters joining our meetings from FL, MT, GA, AR, and Malta as well as from many neighboring towns in Maine. Sisters enjoyed a fun lunch in Freeport last month, and we are hoping to do the same in late May. Chapter D is happy to announce we have two new sisters joining us, so we are continuing to grow! Our programs have been a lot of fun, even though we are meeting on Zoom. Each sister takes part in our sharing programs: Summer Reads, Off the Wall (sharing a meaningful painting/picture/photograph), Helpful Hacks & Hints, It's Ornamental (sharing a favorite Christmas ornament), Humor from the Heart (funny story), "Godwinks" and Baubles, Bangles and Beads (a special piece of jewelry). Our Founder's Day program, "Women's Suffrage 75 Years of our Sisters, Mothers, and Grandmothers" explored the 75 years of the women's suffrage movement in the US and how that overlapped with our P.E.O. Founders' lives and the growth of our P.E.O. organization. Another program, "Women Who Kept the Lights" educated us on the responsibilities, trials and tribulations of women lightkeepers. If anyone is interested in any of these programs, contact Molly McCormick (axomolly@aol.com) and we'd be happy to share with you! We'll end our update with an April poem by the prolific writer, Lucy Maud Montgomery, best known for her memorable *Anne of Green Gables*. Happy Spring to all!!

An April Night

*The moon comes up o'er the deeps of the woods,
And the long, low dingles that hide in the hills,
Where the ancient beeches are moist with buds
Over the pools and the whimpering rills;*

*And with her the mists, like dryads that creep
From their oaks, or the spirits of pine-hid springs,
Who hold, while the eyes of the world are asleep,
With the wind on the hills their gay revelings.*

Molly McCormick



On behalf of the Convention Hostess Chapters, thank you for all of the positive feedback on our efforts towards convention. Sisters loved the centerpieces, favors, photo area and displays. The hospitality room was well received and the snacks appreciated. People were registered easily and convention moved forward. It took a lot of teamwork to be able to pull off a convention after three years and everyone was happy to get back to business, including the hostesses.

A few updates - all 13 of the stars were discovered for our BIL/Sister/Guest scavenger hunt. The 'prizes' won were food items made only in Maine and New Hampshire. The prizes included items from Ben's Sugar Shack in Temple, NH and a variety of items from the Maine Diner, Stone-wall Kitchen, Bar Harbor Foods, Raye's Mustard, and lots of maple sugar candy.

And yes, the owner of the lost Toyota car key found their key.

Thank you again for all of your support of the hostess chapters to create a successful convention and making my job as co-chair easier.

Kerri



The Stars Who Have Led Us



Chapter Eternal Honor Roll

CHAPTER	NAME	DATE
C-NH	Dorothy Svenson	December 14, 2014
D-VT	Julia Boettcher	November 8, 2016
H-NH	Barbara Savage-Fraser	May 12, 2019
G-ME	Beverly Kelly	March 29, 2021
Q-NH	Beverly T. Dingle	April 9, 2021
G-NH	Patricia Armstrong	April 12, 2021
H-VT	Janet Fromhold	April 18, 2021
H-VT	Shirley M. Rounds	April 30, 2021
K-NH	Diana Seamans	May 19, 2021
D-NH	Carol D. Latta	May 16, 2021
G-NH	Joni Stover	May 26, 2021
D-ME	JoAnne S. Diller	May 27, 2021
F-RI	Ruth Murray	June 4, 2021
A-NH	Rose Law Miller	June 7, 2021
B-NH	Barbara Geissinger	June 15, 2021
B-NH	Ann H. Winterling	June 29, 2021
E-RI	Mary Jo Lovell	July 1, 2021
E-NH	Barbara Banta	July 3, 2021
B-ME	Betty Comstock	August 27, 2021
K-NH	Joan V. Ward	September 1, 2021
E-RI	Laura Durand	September 4, 2021
J-NH	Nancy C. Horten	September 11, 2021
B-RI	Margaret Demitroff	September 19, 2021
A-RI	Doris Rounds	September 25, 2021
B-ME	Pauline C. Barron	September 28, 2021
G-NH	Elaine Beattie	September 30, 2021
H-NH	Norma J. Sands	October 7, 2021
C-RI	Donna E. Woodworth	November 3, 2021
H-NH	Martha Driscoll	November 8, 2021
E-VT	Sally Singer	November 11, 2021
G-VT	Nancy A. Nelson	November 12, 2021
B-RI	Evelyne Henderson	November 30, 2021
G-NH	Shirley Powers	December 1, 2021
B-ME	Margaret Speirs	December 10, 2021
A-ME	Aiden G. Monberg	December 12, 2021
H-NH	Lynn Heinzman	December 24, 2021
O-NH	Elizabeth H. Batchelder	January 4, 2022
K-NH	Andrea Heinlein	January 25, 2022
M-NH	Ann C. Larrick	February 12, 2022
A-NH	Susan V. Matless	February 17, 2022
E-RI	Dee Fredericks	March 27, 2022

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
 I'd like to leave an after flow of smiles when life is done.
 I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways.
 Of happy times and laughing times
 And bright and sunny days.
 I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
 To dry before the sun
 Of happy memories that I leave
 When life is done



NORTHEAST DISTRICT 30TH CONVENTION

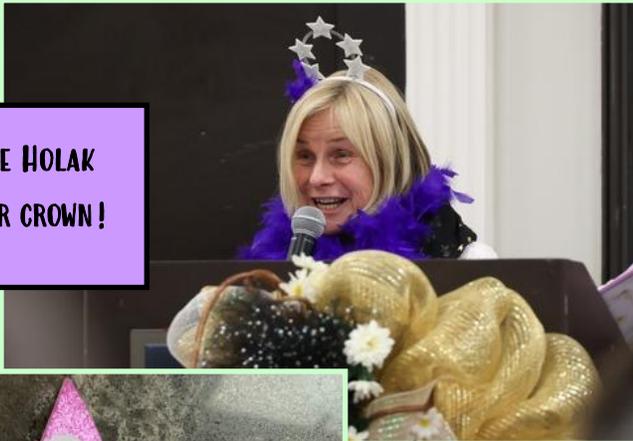


SISTER SLEUTHS SKIT



GOLDEN GIRLS

**PRESIDENT SUE HOLAK
WITH HER STAR CROWN!**



DIAS CENTERPIECE



2023 NEDC CONVENTION INVITATION !!!

**More Convention
Pictures in the May
newsletter!**