

A TIME OF CELEBRATION

In 1988, The P.E.O. RECORD celebrated its 100th year. During that centennial year, articles about the history of the P.E.O. RECORD and the early years of P.E.O. were highlighted. The following "PRESIDENT'S COMMENT" appeared in the January 1988 issue of the P.E.O. RECORD

"Many of us will gather together this month to honor our Founders. Paying homage to the seven is appropriate and fitting. But, shouldn't there be more to the celebration of Founders' Day? Should it not be a time when we who wear the star reassess our commitment to P.E.O., to its ideals, aspirations and projects? What has each one of us done in the past year to improve the organization our Founders left for us?

The real test of an organization comes when the Founders are no more – when the organization must stand on its own, independent of the direct and personal encouragement of those who started it on its way. It is then, that the challenge of future achievement becomes the responsibility of those who follow. Have we not reached a time when mere tribute and looking backward are less than our responsibility to these seven loved Founders should be?

Our Founders were forward-looking, caring women who possessed many elements of unusual strength. Because of the kind of women they were, and the principles they chose, P.E.O. possesses a set of qualities today which challenges each of us to measure up in our day, as our Founders did in theirs.

The future holds challenges that exceed those P.E.O. has faced in the past, and it imposes great responsibilities. There is open before us an unparalleled opportunity to increase our efforts to support and encourage women to achieve their potential. To meet this challenge and continue to be a successful, growing, vital organization will be determined by whether we choose to remain a static organization resting upon its past achievements, or whether we choose to be an organization that renews itself by continually seeking its own general improvement; an organization that dreams, plans, and sets goals for itself, and then works together in harmony to make its dreams come true and its plans come to fruition.

John Gardner reminds us that: "A society is not like a machine that is created at some point in time and then is maintained with a minimum of effort. A society is being continually recreated for good or ill by its members."

By continued commitment to those ideals and principles bequeathed to us by our Founders, our Sisterhood can be continually recreated for GOOD and move forward to greater achievements. There is no better way in which to honor our founders."

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"Special assignments for members of the executive board this biennium are Mary Louise Remy: Cottey College Chairman, liaison to the P.E.O. Foundation and tax

consultant for the executive board; Frances Matney: liaison to the Finance Committee, Educational Fund Board of Trustees and Buildings Committee; Nancy Hall: Liaison to the International Peace Scholarship Board of Trustees, advisor to Reciprocities and P.E.O. Groups in subordinate territory; Vera Koefoot: liaison to the Program for Continuing Education Board of Trustees, liaison for Reciprocities and P.E.O. Groups, working with the Executive Office personnel, liaison to state officers responsible for Reciprocities and P.E.O. Groups and advisor to P.E.O. Groups in foreign countries.”

Lovingly in P.E.O.,

Jo Bradshaw

Joan K. Bradshaw, *President*
International Chapter