

THE P.E.O. SALAD

Excerpts taken from Out of the Heart

“The seven founders of P.E.O. were fortunate in their heritage; theirs was a pioneer and religious background with highly significant emphasis on education. All of the seven founders made practical application of religion in everyday life. They were the kind of people who settled Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and made it a cultural center.”

Today we commemorate the founding of our P.E.O. Sisterhood:

I am sure if our seven founders were attending our luncheon they would have insisted on serving their special salad just for us P.E.O.s. They worked together for years perfecting this salad and it is so special we would like to share the recipe with you now. No doubt they would have called it a “Healthy Meeting Salad.”

Since we are firm believers in visual education, this afternoon we have brought all the ingredients for this “Healthy Meeting Salad.” It would serve anywhere from 12 to 50 people and satisfy an entire chapter’s needs.

The most important secret to any good salad is the quality of the ingredients, so let’s hear what our founders would bring:

1st Sister: Mary Allen Stafford would have furnished the freshest, best variety of lettuce ...she said “lettuce be faithful, lettuce be unselfish, lettuce love one another, lettuce be truthful and lettuce be loyal.”

Speaker: We reflect on the values we have learned from Mary Allen Stafford (*light candle*).

2nd Sister: Alice Bird Babb, an avid gardener, would have brought from her garden fresh peas: “Peas let us show Perseverance Promptness, Preparedness, and Prayer.”

Speaker: We pause in memory of Alice Bird Babb. (*light candle*)

3rd Sister: Hattie Briggs loved carrots, so she would have tossed them in! She said “Care at all times enough to contribute to your chapter, care at all times to come to all possible meetings, and care at all times enough to express a loving concern for each sister.”

Speaker: We gratefully remember Hattie Briggs Bosquet (*light candle*)

4th Sister: Alice Virginia Coffin would have brought turnips. It is an unusual ingredient that often is left out, so she would have made sure that it was included in our salad. “Turn up with a smile and turn up with a new idea and turn up with a genuine dedication.”

Speaker: We honor with our recognition, Alice Virginia Coffin. (*light candle*)

5th Sister: Suela Pearson's favorite ingredient was squash, so she would have brought squash for our salad. She would have said, "You must squash gossip, squash criticism and squash indifference."

Speaker: We express our appreciation for Suela Pearson. (*light candle*)

6th Sister: Franc Roads would have provided mushrooms. "Our sisterhood will mushroom with strength through the medium of our educational projects, affecting not only our local chapter, but families, friends, and communities throughout the world."

Speaker: We recall the insights provided by Franc Roads Elliot. (*light candle*)

7th Sister: Ella Stewart would have said: "No matter how fresh the ingredients for any salad, without the properly blended dressing, you are lost." She then would have mixed her 5 star dressing. We all know what the 5 star dressing ingredients are: let's say them together – Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth. That combination is the Oil that holds and binds everything together. Ella could have said: "It wouldn't hurt to add a bit of thyme...just enough to ensure that we always set aside time for P.E.O. And perhaps some Pepper...just a few twists, for a sprinkle of pep and energy for our chapter and sisters. And finally, add about two sprigs of dill, for diligence in all our efforts."

Speaker: We pay tribute to Ella Stewart. (*light candle*)

Speaker: When the founders had tossed their favorite ingredients into our salad bowl and mixed them with Ella's well-blended Five Star Dressing, a perfect P.E.O. Healthy Meeting Salad was complete.

Our founders would emphasize that it really doesn't matter in what order you add the ingredients...just as we shouldn't follow the same pattern in our habits at meetings. So why don't we try something new at the next P.E.O. meeting that we attend. Here are some suggestions:

1. Sit next to a new sister, one you don't know as well as others.
2. Try something new at a chapter meeting.
3. Just remember to be creative, and mix it up.

With the unique imagination and inspiration that our founders exemplified, it has been fitting that we have honored the memory of each of the seven Founders.

"Wait a minute – we forgot one important ingredient!"
(*reaches into the sack and comes up with a shaker of salt.*)

5th Sister: "SALT, what's so important about salt?"

Speaker: Don't forget to "salt away" MEMORIES of your wonderful P.E.O. experiences.

Submitted by Ohio Chapters BC, CA, FB
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