

Take the P.E.O. POWER OF 1 Challenge

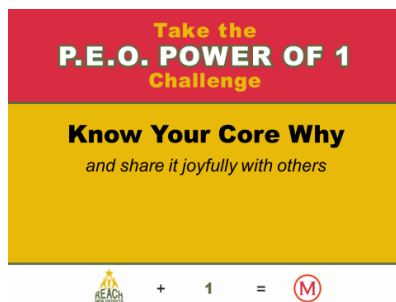
Know Your Core Why

Period of Instruction Presented at Convention of Ohio State Chapter
May 30, 2015 -- Xavier University
Lyn Wilhoite, Organizer

Please note: This script has an accompanying PowerPoint presentation and handout.

Supplies needed: A watch, Know Your Core Why handouts which includes Know Your Core Why graphic and instructions (2 pages), Take the Power of 1 Challenge, and Sharing Your Core Why

Slide #1



Good morning and welcome to the 2015 Period of Instruction. The POI is a workshop held every year at convention. It always focuses on an aspect of P.E.O. which will help us learn about our organization and be better Sisters. Today, we want to explore together why we embrace P.E.O. If we know the answer to that question, our enthusiasm is real and we want to share P.E.O. Joy with others.

Delegates, you will find the colorful “Know Your Core Why” handout in your packet. The tellers are distributing copies to visitors. Does anyone need one? Please raise your hand and a teller will be sure you get a copy. Thank you. We will refer to this during the presentation and you might want to take a few notes. So, have your pen ready.


While the handouts are being distributed, I want tell you about a fun shopping trip my daughter-in-law and I had in Miami Beach last February. We were vacationing together just after I had decided the topic of this presentation. You have to know that I'd rather be barefoot on the beach than shopping. But, to share her favorite pastime, we were shopping on a beautiful, sunshiny day. She popped in to a little trendy store and I followed. So, that's how I came to be half-heartedly perusing the racks of clothes, the small clutches, the scarves and jewelry.

I soon noticed, however, that there were daisies on lots of things! Well, I started to look more closely and this little black dress is what I bought that day. You may be able to see the heart and the daisy on the skirt, but what you can't see is the little daisy on the back with the question "Why?" embroidered over it! So, WHY did I buy this dress?



We often deal with how we come to be in certain places or how we do things. We know what we do and what we need to do. But, we don't often pause to really reflect on the reason we do certain things. Today we are going to explore the how, what and why of P.E.O.

Slide #2

"What is P.E.O.?"




Can you answer this question in the time it takes to ride the elevator?

 + 1 = 



For many years, we have been perfecting a P.E.O. "Elevator Speech". You know, that one-minute synopsis that you have prepared explaining what P.E.O. is so you can easily talk about the good works of P.E.O. to nonmembers.

Slide #3

What is your 1?



Imagine what P.E.O. would look like if every active member did just one thing to strengthen the Sisterhood.

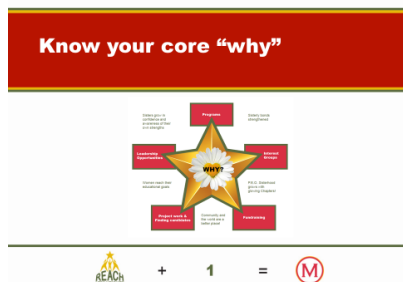
 + 1 = 

During this particular biennium, our fabulous president of International Chapter, Maria Baseggio, has reminded us of the Power of 1. Many of us have already shared with each other what our one thing is. If you haven't, there is no time like right now to really imagine what P.E.O. in Ohio will be like when all 5276 active members do just one thing to strengthen P.E.O. this year.

The third page of your handout is a worksheet that you can use, at your leisure, to help you choose your Power of 1. Note that there are suggested ideas, a couple of empty boxes for you to add your own possibilities, and a pledge card to remind you of the action you plan to take.

Just as important as your Power of 1, what would you answer if someone asked you, "Why are you a P.E.O.?"

Slide #4



This graphic came to the International Membership Team from the organizers of Kentucky and North Carolina. It is based on a 2013 TED talk by Simon Sinek called, "Start with Why." It is a fascinating presentation. You might like to view it on UTube. It will help you understand the research which validates the approach to sharing the story of P.E.O. which I will present today.

Always know your core "why"-- your "P.E.O. why."

Just as our P.E.O. elevator talk and Power of 1 are uniquely yours, only you can answer why you are a P.E.O.

Slide #5



The five points of the star represent “How” we “do” P.E.O. and show the many ways we benefit from P.E.O. membership. These include:

- Programs – We learn from nature, art, books, study and society.
- Interest Groups – We show a loving concern for each other and have fun. According to WebMD, laughter and fun with friends and family is a known health benefit. That’s an extra perk to P.E.O. membership!
- Fundraising – We raise money for our P.E.O. projects and philanthropies. Did you realize that last year alone, Internationally we gave more than 13.5 million dollars in scholarships, grants, awards and loans? That figure does not include our commitment to Cottey College! Ohio alone raised over \$250,000.00 (\$251,141.98) for International Projects, Ohio Scholarships, Cottey Care and Travel and the Sue Baker Fund this past year. Way to go, Ohio!
- Project Recipients – We are the leaders in helping women reach their educational goals. In Ohio we sponsored:

21	ELF recipients for a total of \$266,000.00
1	Scholar Award recipient for a total of \$15,000.00
10	Laureate Chapters for a total of \$5,000.00
17	PCE recipients for a total of \$29,850.00
14	STAR recipients for a total of \$35,000.00
25	Partners in Peace, IPS recipients for a total of \$12,500
111	Ohio Scholarships recipients for a total of \$77,380.00

Gifts and travel reimbursement from the Cottey Care and Travel Fund totaled \$1,263.00

And, Ohio has had four young women reaching for the stars at Cottey College this year!

- Leadership Opportunities – We learn about P.E.O. through our conventions, workshops, The P.E.O. Record, our website, and serving as officers. Through P.E.O. we are able to challenge ourselves to take on leadership positions in a safe and supportive community of friends. I like to quote a sister who was highlighted in the Record a few years ago. She said, “I didn’t become President of my chapter because I *knew* I could. I became president and then I *learned* I could.”

Slide #6

What happens with active P.E.O. membership

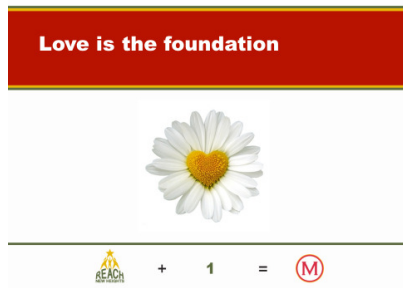
Friendships are strengthened
Membership grows
Communities benefit
Women reach educational goals
Members develop leadership skills

REACH + 1 = (M)

In P.E.O., we also have a strong What component. These are the constructive outcomes we see as a result of our actions. We know what happens when we are practicing P.E.O.s. And, it is all good!

- The bonds of the Sisterhood are strengthened when we spend more time together.
- The Sisterhood grows in membership and with new chapters.
- P.E.O. membership makes our communities better through our generosity and outreach.
- Women reach their educational goals.
- Members grow in confidence and awareness of their own strengths.

Slide #7



But, how we do P.E.O. and what happens when we do it well can become busywork and empty tradition unless we know why, in our bones, that we are P.E.O.s.

I recently read a parable about Joe the janitor from a little book called *Lead... for God's Sake* by Todd Gongwer. Linda Hall shared this book with the Board. Joe's story is a beautiful illustration of what we are talking about this morning.

Joe was an excellent janitor at a high school. He had all the best equipment and the expertise and the efficient procedures to get every job done right. Not only was the school spotless, but Joe's office was neat and tidy with fresh coffee always brewing and bookshelves lining the walls. He had a comfortable chair that welcomed visitors.

Joe could often be found leaning on his mop watching basketball practice. He could sense when a youngster needed a pat on the back or a word of encouragement. Or, he would pop out from behind a trash can with a cheery, "Coach, there's a reason for everything", when he knew the team was struggling. Joe arrived at school very early every morning, poured a cup of "joe" and became the mentor and friend to students and coaches alike.

You see, Joe knew his core why, and it was not to keep spotless floors. His purpose was to take responsibility and use his influence to lead others to cope with and solve the problems they were facing in their lives. Whether it was a student suffering through his parents' divorce or a coach unable to motivate his team, Joe lovingly established the relationships which allowed others to be the best that they could be.

As the story unfolds, the basketball coach was trying hard to put into practice some of the leadership hints Joe was sharing with him. But nothing was working. One morning Joe said to him, "I understand, Coach. You really have worked hard and made all the adjustments one could possibly imagine in a season. But the adjustments you've made have all had to do with the what and the how of leading. In other words, you made adjustments to what you were doing in practice, like running more sprints, or working

more on defense, or adjusting your offense. You also made adjustments to how you were doing what you were doing, like being more encouraging or more patient, or smiling more. And those are all important aspects of coaching. However, they are still not the most important aspect of coaching --- or leading, for that matter...not by a long shot. Coach, the thing that truly separates the good leaders from the great ones starts with a simple, three-letter word: why?"

When the coach found the answer to that question for himself, he, too, was able to influence others in the right ways for the right reasons. The team started working together and, more importantly, shared close bonds of love and support. And, yes, they won the state championship that year.

So, why do you do P.E.O.?

We all know that the foundation of the P.E.O. Sisterhood is love. To keep our membership vibrant each of us needs to know why:

- Why do we choose to attend meetings regularly and why do we choose to spend an entire weekend at a convention? Why does a chapter throw a surprise wedding shower for a sister?
- Why do we stay in contact with our chapter sisters and invite new members to join P.E.O.? Why do we write notes of encouragement or sympathy?
- Why is there never a reason to go inactive? P.E.O. is for life. Why?

Slide #8

Why are you a P.E.O.?

Take a few minutes to consider your Core Why.

REACH + 1 = M

Take a few moments and think with your heart. WHY are you a P.E.O? or WHY do you continue to be a P.E.O? We might even ask, ...WHY do you.... P.E.O.?

Write it down in a few words in the box on the last page of your handout or on a piece of paper. We'll pause here for a couple of minutes to allow time to reflect.

(Pause for 1-2 minutes)

Now, please turn to a sister and quietly share this with her; or just brainstorm with your neighbor ideas about what a “core why” might be.

(Pause for 2-3 minutes)

Slide #9



If you can't come up with your “P.E.O. Why” right now, take time at home to reflect on it. Consider using the “Know Your Core Why” star graphic and instructions as a chapter program next year. When you are giving your Convention Report to your chapter, share it with your sisters. Make sure each member of your chapter knows her own Why.

Slide #10



We are members of the finest women's organization in the world. Our membership is so much more than a number. P.E.O. is changing the world, one woman at a time.

Know your Core Why and Share the Joy!

And, when you get close to me on campus this afternoon and can see the daisy on my back, tap me on the shoulder and ask me “WHY?” I'll be happy to share and would love to hear your “why,” too! Thank you.