



## Jan Hornack's Outgoing President's Remarks June 5, 2022

As we come to the close of this fabulous weekend, I must tell you that I am blown away with the amount of work and dedication all the hostess chapters have given to make this such a memorable convention. They have overcome the challenges thrown in their path, and found new ways to do things. They have created beautiful table decorations for every event and even a specially designed piece of jewelry for this year. I hesitate to name all those who have worked so hard because I would not want to inadvertently miss someone, but I do need to single out Caryl Kiser for her leadership during this planning process. I could always be sure that she was taking care of whatever it was that came up. I also would like to give a special thank you to Nikki Ohms for all her efforts here at OU. She has been with us from the beginning as a representative of OU, but is also now with us as a sister in Chapter DD, Athens.

As I step down from the Ohio State Board, I can look back on some very challenging times, as well as some very rewarding times, over the past five years. Certainly, one of the greatest rewards is the friendship that I have shared with the present board members and those others with whom I served during my first four years. I had wonderful role models in Linda Coulles, Kylie Smith, Marty Billing and Nancy Shelton, each of whom brought their own special strengths and personality to their board service. This year Jane Koch has been there for any and all requests for assistance that I have asked of her. She will miss my many early morning phone calls. Julie Brooks has taken on the role of Organizer with total dedication, working with the Membership Committee to support the Ohio membership to reach its highest potential. This work will continue now with Kristen Gebhardt who, as secretary, was diligent in completing all of her duties and making sure the rest of us did the same. Thank you to Katie Osborne for taking on the office of treasurer and Deb Schirm as secretary. I am confident that they will bring many talents and renewed energy to the board.

Last year, in my incoming remarks, I spoke about how we all have so many stories, both personally and as members of P.E.O. I spoke of how these stories have molded us to be who we are today. I also asked you to think about what you want your story and the story of P.E.O. to be ten years from now, because what we do today leads to what we will be in the future. This year, as I leave the board, I would ask you what role are you going to play in that story.

In literature, there are different types of characters that populate the story line. The main character is three-dimensional, dynamic with a compelling back story. Think of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Pip in *Great Expectations*. The supporting characters can vary from being side-kicks like Samwise Gamgee in *The Lord of the Rings* or Sancho Panza in *Don Quixote* to arch-enemies as with Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter books. There are also what is termed tertiary characters. These are characters who play minor roles to carry the story line forward, but are not the main focus of the plot. Then there are the flat characters. In films, these characters would be just part of the crowd, basically by-standers, who are not invested in the action or purpose of the story.

What type of character are you going to be in your local chapter's story and in the story of Ohio State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood? Not everyone is meant to be a main character, but everyone can be a supporting character, providing ideas and energy to the functioning of the chapter and of the state. When each person does their small part, it creates a greater whole. One type of character we really don't need are the by-standers; those members who don't invest time or energy toward reaching the goals of your chapter or of our sisterhood.

As I leave the board, I challenge you to become a part of the action. Whether it is as a committee member or officer in your chapter, or taking on a state level position, we are looking forward to the great things that can be accomplished when we all play our part in

*Carrying Our Story Forward.*