

## Memo

TO: State, Provincial and District Chapter Officers  
FROM: Executive Board, International Chapter  
DATE: January 4, 2021  
RE: 2021 Convention of International Chapter



Growing up we all had traditions in each of our families; celebrating birthdays, holidays, graduations and an occasional “once in a lifetime” or perhaps yearly family reunion. As families grew, each new member brought their new traditions into the mix: special meals with all the fixings, reunion themes, favorite games and family discussions.

At times, our memories of the past bring back a longing for what was. As we enter our 152<sup>nd</sup> year since the founding of P.E.O., our minds take us back to that family reunion of sisters with the organization of Grand Chapter in 1883. Fresh in our minds, we are swept back to September 2019, the Sesquicentennial Celebration and the 74th Convention of International Chapter held in Des Moines, Iowa.

P.E.O. truly is family – some of us have family members who are P.E.O. sisters, and others have P.E.O. sisters and their significant others who have become our family. We love the idea of seeing sisters, family, from all over Canada and the United States every two years and each Convention of International Chapter has been a family reunion for many of us. We rejoice! We have lively debate and discussions with the nurturing and loving concern from our sisters as one of the foundations upon which P.E.O. is built – and upon which we rely. Just like that family reunion, our differing backgrounds and experiences also allow us to help each other grow. It is that loving concern for our sisters and your health and safety which has led the Executive Board of International Chapter to make the following historic decision.

**In December, the Executive Board of International Chapter approved by unanimous vote that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the 2021 Convention of International Chapter will be held using a virtual format and in a manner pursuant to which the members of convention with voting privileges have the opportunity to see, read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrent with the occurrence of the proceedings, contemporaneously vote on matters, pose questions and make comments.**

As with family reunions, there are many plans that need to be made, keeping traditions in mind yet looking at possible silver linings such as increased attendance for many of the events, no room capacity limitations, no travel days and expanded participation from sisters throughout the United States, Canada and the world. Our sisters of Oregon State Chapter will be sharing their talents too.

The biennial theme “Build Your Legacy! Make History” will guide us as we celebrate our amazing Sisterhood together at the 75<sup>th</sup> Convention of International Chapter.

State, provincial and district chapter presidents and vice presidents will be receiving additional information the week of January 11, 2021, regarding leading delegations from Convention and Special Events Manager, Rebecca Bruce.

An announcement message, including a video, will be placed on the P.E.O. International Member Website on January 6, 2021, followed by social media posts on the International Chapter Facebook page. Once International Chapter has shared this message on the website and social media, **please share this important message with your local chapters via your s/p/d website, social media and other communication opportunities you may have. They appreciate hearing from you!** Here is a link to the video: <https://vimeo.com/493837319/c7453e8248>

Our love to each of you,

Brenda, Patti, Cathy, Alix and Kay