

Chapter Programs and Social Events

Keep Sisters Engaged

As we look to our North Star, our shared mission of women helping women reach for the stars, we find that it is important for each and every member of P.E.O. to feel a sense of belonging and connection with the organization and her sisters. Membership retention is dependent on this.

Cooking lessons by Zoom (challenge – invite prospective members): send ingredient list and recipe ahead of time – let's say brownies. On Zoom, walk through making the brownies. While they are baking watch a video from the International website and talk about P.E.O. Then – eat!! You can certainly do this in-person at someone's home, too.

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Monthly coffee get-togethers - invite non-members and make sure members show up!! Car-pooling is always good. Follow up with prospective members.

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Host special interest events and invite everyone: book clubs, game days, movie days, bridge, bird walks, Super Bowl party, World Series party, New Year's party, Halloween party complete with costumes, Botanical Garden tour, Fish Hatchery tour, etc., etc. You get the idea!! Include food and it's a definite winner.

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Host summer luncheons and invite scholarship recipients and their moms. Talk about P.E.O.

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Meet at a restaurant, bar, pizza parlor for lunch and do something fun afterwards.

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Meet sisters for a picnic in a park then go for a walk.

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Organize a chapter team in a walk to raise money for charity (e.g, Walk for Water, March of Dimes, Cancer Awareness, etc.) and challenge nearby chapters to join and see who can raise the most money.

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Get a group together and volunteer at the local food bank, homeless shelter, elementary school, library senior citizen center, assisted living home.

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Work with a women friendly business and organize a fundraiser to raise money for P.E.O. and advertise that business.

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When we give love away, we get more in return.

Send Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to members who cannot attend meetings. Added plus – bring the cards to a meeting or social and have as many sisters as possible sign them. The program could even be making the cards.

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Hold a chapter garage sale to raise money for P.E.O. projects (have big displays to advertise the projects).

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Make flower bouquets or buy small plants, decorate and deliver to sisters you haven't seen in a while. Call ahead, and plan to stay awhile and catch up.

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Hold or participate in a canned food drive – challenge other chapters to get involved, too.

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Adopt a family or two for Thanksgiving or Christmas (organizations like Salvation Army have lists of families in need) and collect items to help them celebrate the holiday.

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Get a few Operation Christmas Child boxes and work together to fill the boxes.

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Get a group together and take a class – painting, glass blowing, ceramics, etc.

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Invite others to join you at the Quilt show, the folk festival, a production at the local theatre, a movie, First Friday events, etc. Check out what is going on in town. If you are interested, chances are someone else is, too.

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Use a creative, random way to match pairs of sisters and instruct them to get together at least once a quarter outside of P.E.O. meetings.

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Invite friends and family members to Founders' Day.

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Host a cookie decorating / cookie exchange event. Then – deliver plates of cookies to such places as the hospital, assisted living home, Pioneer's Home or memory care facility to share with the staff and residents.

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Meet at a mobility challenged sister's house and help her weed her garden or put up holiday decorations. Provide food and drinks and enjoy a social time with the sister.

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If your chapter meets by Zoom, ask one or two sisters to go the homes of sisters who cannot attend in person to socialize and help them navigate the Zoom process.

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Arrange a catered overnight or weekend fundraiser at someone's cabin.

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Have pop-up socials.

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Plant bulbs in small pots and deliver to the chapter members.

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Plan more fun BIL events.

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Arrange to have art classes by Zoom – send out a supply list, and have an instructor teach how to draw or paint a picture.

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Invite other chapters in the area to a brown bag social or other special event.

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Take a tour of a local business, e.g. the Food Bank, the Fish Lab, the Fish Hatchery, etc.

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Have cupcakes for the chapter birthday party, and deliver them in advance to sisters who will attend by Zoom so that everyone can participate.

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Have a cookie making party and deliver them to the police stations and the fire departments.

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Additions as of 5/19/2025

Loose change fundraisers, with the slogan “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

“Coins for College”

“Dollars for Scholars”

“Cotley Pig” – a piggy bank to collect loose change at each meeting

“Pennies for Projects”

“Cents for P.E.O.”

A decorated coffee can at each meeting – “Daisy Change,” “Power of Change”

Ways & Means – give each member a Daisy box in May to take home and fill with loose change, and bring back at the 1st meeting in September

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“May baskets” fundraiser (note – can be any month!) – fill baskets with foam blocks, arrange flowers, ribbons, bows, etc., and deliver The chapter that did this charged \$20 each.

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Use summer to connect with sisters as we travel ... lunch with someone who has moved away, tea with a sister that is only in AK in the summer, a luncheon celebrating someone who is visiting.

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Take moment to write a postcard or “thinking of you note” to a sister who is not able to get out.

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Connect with sisters and potential sisters over a trip to the ice cream store

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Walk and talk in the summer weather! Enjoy the birds and the flowers.

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Hearts that beat to the tune of kindness can change the rhythm of the world.