
Guide to the

P.E.O. CHAPTER DV COLLECTION 1963-1999

1.5 linear ft.

Accession Number: 9899-110

Collection Number: 29

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro
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CITATION: The P.E.O. Chapter DV Collection, Collection 29, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, one of the first co-educational universities in the United States, was the birthplace of the P.E.O. sisterhood. Established on January 21, 1869, the organization was formed by seven women students attending the university.

P.E.O. began as a small campus society and was the second sorority organized in America. Sometime after being established, the group decided to make the organization independent of the university. As an independent group, P.E.O. grew into a worldwide organization devoted to providing higher education for women. Membership is by invitation.

P.E.O. members believe that education is fundamental to world peace and understanding. In support of this philosophy, P.E.O. has developed national and international programs to provide loans and scholarships to female college students. The P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund was established in 1907 as one of the first educational loan funds to assist women. The fund makes loans available to qualified women who desire a higher education and are in need of financial assistance.

The organization owns and operates Cottey Jr. College, a girls' school located in Nevada, Missouri. The college was founded by P.E.O. member Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard in 1884 and taken over by P.E.O. in 1927.

P.E.O. established the International Peace Scholarship Program in 1949. This scholarship program is maintained by the P.E.O. international organization with the purpose of awarding scholarships to women graduate students from foreign countries who wish to study in the United States and Canada.

The Program for Continuing Education, begun in 1973, provides grants to women who are

returning to school after having been away for a period of time. These loans are available to women who serve as the primary provider for their family and who can complete their studies in a short period of time, resulting in a marketable skill.

P.E.O. also has a Scholar Awards project, which provides cash awards to women who are pursuing advanced degrees or are conducting advanced research.

The Texas state chapter of the P.E.O. was organized in 1928. Irving Chapter DV was established on March 16, 1963. Chapter CN, Irving's first chapter of the P.E.O., served as sponsor of Chapter DV. Chapter CN held its meetings in the evenings, and it was determined that Irving needed a daytime chapter, so Chapter DV was begun. The chapter received its charter on April 23, 1963, at the state convention in Amarillo, Texas. Chapter DV meets twice a month in members' homes. The chapter meeting year runs from October through May, with new officer installation taking place at the May meeting.

Source:

The P.E.O. Chapter DV Collection, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Series Description

Series I. Records, 1963-1991. 2 inches (4 volumes).

Membership book, meeting attendance book, treasurer's records.

Series II. Artifacts, 1990s. .5 inch

Two tote bags from state conventions; a small hat; a colored egg; and one cloth bookmark.

Series III. Scrapbooks, 1963-1989. 1 linear ft. (3 volumes).

Arranged chronologically. Photographs, newspaper articles, organization publications, correspondence.

Series IV. Publications, 1989-1999. 3 inches (7 folders).

Arranged by document type. Folders are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series V. Correspondence, 1996-1997. .1 inch (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically. Correspondence which was loose in the collection.

Series VI. Photographs, 1990s. .3 inches (1 folder).

Where possible, arranged by event. Photos which were loose in the collection.

Series VII. Newspaper Clippings, 1990s. .1 inch (1 folder)

Arranged chronologically. Newspaper clippings found loose in the collection. Undated material placed in back of folder.

Scope and Content Note

The P.E.O. Chapter DV Collection is made up of material put together and collected by the chapter since its inception in 1963. The collection, contained in one record box, one flat box, and one legal-size document box, is divided into seven series.

Series I, Records, is made up of a membership book, 1963-1992, a meeting attendance

book, 1963-1984, and two treasurer's records books covering from March 1963 to February 1987 and March 1987 to February 1991.

Series II, Artifacts, is made up of two tote bags from state conventions, one small hat, one colored egg, and one cloth bookmark.

Series III consists of three scrapbooks spanning the years 1963-1993. The scrapbooks are made up of photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, announcements, and printed material from P.E.O. functions. The pages in volume one are somewhat brittle, but overall, the scrapbooks are in good condition. The scrapbooks have been left intact so the chapter may use them if needed.

Series IV is made up of P.E.O. publications. Included are a pamphlet, a Founders Day program, material from the 1995-1997 state conventions, three yearbooks, 1996-1999, and a packet of material on the P.E.O. continuing education program. Included in the packet is an application for a loan and the related correspondence.

Series V, Correspondence, consists of four pieces of correspondence to the chapter from members, or from the P.E.O. organization to the chapter. These pieces of correspondence were not attached to any of the scrapbooks. They were loose in the collection. Most of the correspondence in the collection is found in the scrapbooks.

Series VI is made up of photographs that were not attached to any of the scrapbooks. These photos were in envelopes, or loose, throughout the collection. The photos were taken at club meetings, and most are identified in some form; either the subjects' names are given, or the event taking place is noted.

Series VII consists of newspaper clippings relating to the organization or its members that were found loose in the collection. Most newspaper clippings relating to the chapter are found in the scrapbooks.

The material was in no particular order when it was received. The collection processor determined the arrangement for the material.

Provenance Statement

The P.E.O. Chapter DV Collection, accession number 9899-110, was donated to the Irving Archives by Mrs. Fran Dirting on behalf of Chapter DV. Prior to its donation, the material was kept in members' homes.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the P.E.O. Chapter DV Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Container List

Series I. Records, 1963-1992

Box 1

Volume

- 1 Membership Book, 1963-1992
Contains Chapter DV's membership roll book, 1963-1992.
- 2 Meeting Attendance Book, 1963-1984
Contains Chapter DV's meeting attendance book, 1963-1984.
- 3 Treasurer's Record Book, 1963-1987
Contains Chapter DV's treasurer's records, March 16, 1963-February 28, 1987.
- 4 Treasurer's Record Book, 1987-1991
Contains Chapter DV's treasurer's records, March 1, 1987-February 28, 1991.

Series II. Artifacts, 1990s

Consists of two tote bags from Texas state conventions in Amarillo and Dallas. Also consists of a small hat, a colored egg, and a cloth rainbow colored bookmark.

Series III. Scrapbooks, 1963-1989

Box 2

Volume

- 1 Scrapbook, 1963-1980
Contains newspaper articles; yearbooks; correspondence; presidents' letters; photos; constitution and bylaws; and printed material from conventions and meetings.
- 2 Scrapbook, 1981-1989
Contains newspaper articles; correspondence; printed material from conventions and meetings; and anniversary, marriage, and birth announcements.
- 3 Scrapbook, 1989-1993
Contains primarily photographs. There are a small number of newspaper articles included in the scrapbook.

Series IV. Publications, 1989-1999

Box 3

Folder

- 1 Continuing Education Program, 1989
Contains material describing the P.E.O. continuing education program, a loan application, and correspondence concerning the application.
- 2 Pamphlet, 1994
Contains one P.E.O. pamphlet commemorating the group's 125th anniversary.
- 3 Program, 1998

Contains one program from the Founders Day meeting, 1998.

4 State Convention Material, 1995

Contains material from the P.E.O. state convention held in Dallas, Texas, 1995.

5 State Convention Material, 1996

Contains material from the P.E.O. state convention held in Amarillo, Texas, 1996.

6 State Convention Material, 1997

Contains material from the P.E.O. state convention held in San Antonio, Texas, 1997.

7 Yearbooks, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99

Contains three P.E.O. yearbooks.

Series V. Correspondence, 1996-1997

Box 3

Folder

8 Letters, 1996-1997

Contains four pieces of correspondence: three letters from members to the chapter, and one letter from the organization president to the chapter. For additional correspondence in the collection see Series II, Scrapbooks.

Series VI. Photographs, 1990s

9 Loose Photographs, 1990s

Contains photographs that were not in scrapbooks. These photos were loose, or in envelopes in the collection. A large number of these photos are identified either by event, person, or both.

Series VII. Newspaper Clippings, 1990s

10 Loose Clippings,

Contains obituaries, anniversary notices, wedding announcements, an editorial opinion column based on a letter to the editor by chapter member Fran Dirting, and a magazine article from Southern Living on chapter member Dolores Snyder. This material was loose in the collection. For additional newspaper clippings. see Series II, Scrapbooks.