



# Colorado State Chapter Encourage ~ Inspire ~ Reward

"If you are depressed, you are living in the past; if you are anxious, you are living in the future; if you are at peace, you are living in the present. Lao Tzu"



## SMALL INTEREST GROUPS

### Get one or more going in your CHAPTER!

P.E.O. members want to feel they belong. Friendships and supportive social relationships are important to a majority of members. Small interest groups are an excellent way to build relationships among chapter members - Have fun!

#### What is a small interest group?

A small interest group is a group of sisters who gather outside of P.E.O. meetings to participate in shared activities. Small interest groups give members the opportunity to get to know each other better. They also allow sisters to build and strengthen relationships, enhance the bonds of friendship, and have fun with each other. *"We can learn more about someone through one hour of play than a year of conversation"* (quote from FISH!). Participation in small interest groups is completely voluntary.

#### How many members can be in a small interest group?

A small interest group usually has between 5 and 10 members. If the small interest group is much larger than this, it can become more difficult to form strong, lasting relationships.

#### Can members participate in more than one small interest group?

Of course! This is a personal decision for each member. However, for small interest groups to succeed, members are encouraged to make attending and participating actively a priority.

#### How long do members remain in their small interest group?

Forming lasting relationships often takes a minimum of 6 months. Meeting for a chapter year is an easy way to structure your small interest groups.

### Sounds like a great idea! How do we form small interest groups?

#### Step 1. Decide to try small interest groups

- Elect a group leader to coordinate this process.
- Determine what kinds of small interest groups you will have. Consider circulating a simple survey to identify common member interests, such as books, golf, bridge, and other hobbies. Include ideas for members with young children, such as playgroups and other family-friendly suggestions.
- Using the results of the survey, create several small interest groups.

#### Step 2. Recruit members for the small interest groups.

- Encourage these relationship-building activities during Suggestions for the Good of the Chapter.
- Provide names and contact information of the individuals who are organizing and planning activities for each small interest group.
- Encourage members to notify these individuals if they are interested in participating in a specific small interest group.
- Encourage members to invite their nonmember friends, as this is a great way to introduce prospective members to your P.E.O. sisters.

#### Step 3. Begin meeting in small interest groups.

- Set general guidelines at your first meeting.
  - a. Determine when and where you will meet. Setting a consistent time and place for meeting makes it easy for small interest group members to plan their calendars in advance.
  - b. Encourage all members to make a commitment to attend as regularly as possible. It is more difficult to form lasting relationships if sisters only see each other occasionally.

- c. Decide who will be in charge of organizing the group's activities and how long her leadership will last.

**Step 4. Celebrate** the strong relationships formed during the year.

- Build on your success and make plans for the next year!
- Encourage members to consider participating in a different small interest group next year so they have the opportunity to enjoy deeper relationships with even more sisters.

**Cottery Student Center Initiative Update**

The Cottery College Chapel Renovation and Student Center Initiative is moving closer to its goal! As of January 29th, P.E.O.s and BILs have committed to \$2,476,456 of the \$3.2M needed before construction can begin.



The new Student Center in the lower level of the Chapel Building will house a gathering area for students and faculty, the Chellie Club snack bar (named for a former Colorado State President), and the Cottery Bookstore. Additionally, locker space for commuter students and multi-faith worship spaces will make Cottery more welcoming to an increasingly diverse student body.

There are plenty of naming opportunities remaining, so your donation to the Initiative should be made as soon as possible. Your gift will be a legacy impacting the lives of Cottery students for decades to come. An informative video is available at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search on **Cottery Connect Initiative**. For more information, visit [www.cottery.edu/connect](http://www.cottery.edu/connect) or contact BIL David Denslow at [DADenslow@comcast.net](mailto:DADenslow@comcast.net).



**Local Chapter Workshops Scheduled - Registration Form**

April 4, 2020-Fort Collins , CO - Saturday AM

Check-In: 8:30 am

April 4, 2020-Sterling, CO - Saturday Afternoon

Check-In: 2:00 pm

April 16, 2020--Denver, CO - Thursday PM

Check-In: 5:30 pm

April 18, 2020-Highlands Ranch, CO - Saturday AM

Check-In: 8:30 am

April 24, 2020-Pueblo, CO - Friday Afternoon

Check-In: 2:30 pm

**CPCC Board of Directors has an opening waiting to be filled...by YOU!**

Please mail/email this application and required documents, along with a snapshot or digital photo to the CPCC Nominating Committee Chair prior to March 1st, 2020:

CPCC Nominating Committee Chair  
Lorraine Green, JD PSPCSC  
540 E Sutton Circle Lafayette, CO 80026  
[toucanlorraine@gmail.com](mailto:toucanlorraine@gmail.com)



**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Electronic copies are preferred – use the naming convention of your chapter letters followed by the year – example: EN 2019-2020 and email it to:

**[costatechapter@gmail.com](mailto:costatechapter@gmail.com)**

We so look forward to reading these; every CO state president keeps a special album of these from her presiding year! The letter is a summary of significant events that happened during the previous fiscal year. Remember a copy is saved by you and goes into your Chapter's archives after reading it at your February meeting; The letter may be written in terms of the state theme for the year, or in language that celebrates the local chapter's annual theme.

Consider the following topics for inclusion in the letter:

- Outstanding Programs
- Successful Fundraisers
- Social/BIL Events
- Accomplishments of your members
- Special celebrations: Chapter milestones, weddings, births



*2019-2020 State Chapter Executive Board  
Janelle ~Shari~Lia~ Paisley~Cori*

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