

# THE HOT SPOT



Membership Newsletter for Local P.E.O. Chapters

March 2022

## MEMBERSHIP MOMENT – Listening Tour

In January, International Organizer Kay Ebert and Director of Membership Jennifer Chittenden, held four well attended Zoom meetings to hear from local members about engaging senior members. Many ideas were shared about how to address the specific needs of members in care facilities, nursing homes or home bound. Among the concerns and best practices offered were create meeting and social spaces that are barrier-free: no stairs, well-lighted environments, and minimize background noise; offer transportation and visual aids; provide clear and specific directions; offer comfortable seating; and reduce tripping hazards and clutter.

## Welcoming Sisters of Every Generation Creating Meaningful Engagements

Does this sound familiar? “We are just not attractive to members of that generation.” It is possible to bridge the gaps if you are willing to be creative and flexible in your approach.

- Younger members are very social. Allow for time for them to know their other sisters and narrow the generational gap.
- Begin meetings with an ice breaker to encourage participation, communication and familiarity. It could be as simple as “Hi! I’m Daisy and I like to garden.” This may lead to discovering more commonalities than differences.
- Involve younger members in committees and officer positions to help develop leadership skills and bring new ideas to the table.
- Hold meaningful programs focused on work-life balance, personal finance management, professional networking.
- Older members may not be as quick to adopt the latest technology. If it is a barrier to participation, encourage partnering with a younger sister.
- Send cards, notes and newsletters by mail to older sisters that may not be tech savvy.
- Ask your more senior members to share experiences in P.E.O., recognize their contributions, seek out their wisdom and perspectives.

Regardless of the ages of your sisters, it is important to support one another, be active in their lives, and stay connected. Every sister is a VIP!



## Local Chapter Membership Toolbox Spotlight

The [P.E.O. Counsel for Membership Booklet](#) has recently been updated. This is a great resource for a prospective member or new initiate to give an overview of P.E.O., our philanthropic programs, traditions, and benefits of membership. There is also an area where you can jot down additional ideas of how to welcome Sisters into your chapter or notate your local chapter traditions for her future reference.

**Programming Ideas** – Organize intergenerational group engagements that reinforce sisterly bonds, build on generational strengths and foster understanding and mutual respect. Activities may include ‘paint and sip’ events, community gardening or brunch. Find common interests in an intergenerational social club, visit museums, cook together or form a bridge/trivia group.

