

## *Memo*

TO: State, Provincial, and District Officers

FROM: Executive Board, International Chapter

DATE: July 1, 2020



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### ***THIS MEMO HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL S/P/D OFFICERS AND LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS***

The Executive Board of International Chapter extends their gratitude to you for understanding and appreciating the need to cease all P.E.O. gatherings during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, faced illness and other hardships due to this coronavirus.

Throughout this time, many of you have found new ways to connect via notes, phones and virtual get togethers. Hearing you were able to connect virtually with sisters not able to attend meetings was heartwarming. A focus group was created to investigate how we could best re-open P.E.O. activities and gatherings again. Over 30 sisters from across the Sisterhood gave hours of time and their expertise in helping identify a way to move forward safely. Their recommendations, your feedback over the last few months and a desire to protect the well-being of our sisters are reflected in the decisions made by the Executive Board of International Chapter.

We know some of you are anxious to return to usual P.E.O. activities, while some of you are far more cautious about potential exposure to COVID-19. Since activities were first restricted in March, we have learned more about this global virus. One of the hardest lessons was the risk of exposure is not going to go away soon.

As we move forward to re-opening P.E.O. activities, it will be important for each chapter to be aware of the local health department's advice for their community. Whether your chapter is in Honolulu, Hawaii; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Houston, Texas; or Arlington, Virginia, the advice of your local health officials will differ. With varied exposure concerns throughout the U.S. and Canada, we realize health and safety restrictions will not be consistent across our Sisterhood. Our desire to keep each member safe while still maintaining our special relationships and supporting our projects has led us to create the attached guidance.



We are pleased to announce effective August 1, 2020 and following the parameters established by the Executive Board of International Chapter, State, Provincial and District (S/P/D/) chapters and local chapters may resume in-person social gatherings and executive boards of s/p/ds may meet in-person. Local Chapter Regular Business meetings, Regular Social meetings, and Special Meetings; Organizations of new local chapters; Reciprocity Group and P.E.O. Group meetings and gatherings may resume September 1, 2020 following the parameters established by the Executive Board of International Chapter. The guidance for chapter business meetings, including printed pages for the Local Chapter President's Book outlining a Modified In-Person Regular Business Meeting, Virtual Regular Business Meeting and a Hybrid Regular Business Meeting (with members attending in-person and virtually), will be mailed to local chapter presidents in mid-August.

Acknowledging we each care deeply about the health and safety of each sister, we are confident that even with the necessary temporary changes imposed by COVID-19, the bonds of Sisterhood and focus on our shared mission of women helping women will ensure that our Sisterhood will remain vibrant and meaningful.

Please stay safe!

Our love to each of you,

Brenda, Patti, Cathy, Alix and Kay