



Texas State Chapter P.E.O.



What is P.E.O. ?

We're so glad you asked!

***P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization** where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cottey College; and motivate each other to achieve their highest aspirations.*

How did P.E.O. begin?

Seven students at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa founded one of the original societies for women, P.E.O. on January 21, 1869. Originally, a small campus friendship society, P.E.O. soon grew to include women off campus.

When did P.E.O. come to Texas?

In 1902 Mary Florence Cowell, former treasurer of Missouri State Chapter, brought P.E.O. to Texas with the organization of Chapter A in Whitesboro on September 4. Texas State Chapter was organized in Whitesboro in 1928 with Mary Florence Cowell elected as the first state president. She is known as the "Mother of P.E.O. in Texas." A Texas Historical Marker honoring her can be seen at her home in Whitesboro.

Can you tell me about P.E.O. today?

P.E.O. has grown from the original membership of seven to almost a quarter of a million members in chapters in the United States and Canada. P.E.O. is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa. In Texas we have over 240 chapters and more than 10,000 active members.

What are our Philanthropies?

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is passionate about our mission: **promoting educational opportunities for women**. We proudly make a difference in women's lives with six International educational projects:

- P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund
- Cottey College
- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship
- P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education
- P.E.O. Scholar Awards
- P.E.O. STAR Scholarship

Texas has two state projects:

- Texas Cottey College Scholarship Funds
- Texas Star Oaks Fund, Inc.

To learn more about our International projects please visit the P.E.O. International website at: www.peointernational.org