**A Minute for Membership – August 2023**

**Alabama P.E.O. State Membership**

Local Chapter Membership Chairs:

Greetings from the Alabama P.E.O. State Membership committee. We hope that everybody is staying cool in these hot days of summer. It is hard to believe that schools (K-12) and Universities will be starting back this month. With these thoughts it might be a great idea to highlight at your meetings (especially for the new members) some of the National P.E.O Educational Philanthropies.

**P.E.O. Philanthropies**

Our Sisterhood proudly makes a difference in women’s lives with five programs that provide higher educational assistance, and stewardship of Cottey College.

1. **Educational Loan Fund** (ELF) – makes low-interest loans available to qualified women.
2. **International Peace Scholarship** (IPS) – provides scholarships to women from other countries for graduate study in the U.S. and Canada.
3. **Program for Continuing Education** (PCE) – provides need-based grants to women whose education has been interrupted.
4. **P.E.O. Scholar Awards** (PSA) – provides educational awards to women pursuing a doctoral level degree.
5. **STAR Scholarship** (STAR) – provides scholarships to exceptional high school women for post-secondary education.
6. **Cottey College** – a nationally-ranked, fully accredited, independent liberal arts and sciences college for women.

The five philanthropic projects, each a qualified charitable organization, 501(c)3, are administered at the P.E.O. Executive Office, Des Moines, Iowa, with each being supervised by a Board of Trustees. Grant, loan, scholarship and award recipients, as well as Cottey College students, do not need to be members of P.E.O.

It is never to early too think about fundraisers and ideas to support these wonderful philanthropies. If you need any ideas please take a look at the P.E.O State and International website for additional ideas and ways to support.

Please email this newsletter to the sisters in your chapter and highlight a couple of the points in your report to the chapter.

