

PAST STATE PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please use the tab key between entries)

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| Name: | Mary G. Wiley | | |
| Years Served on State Board: | 2003-2010 | | |
| Years presided as president: | 2010 | | |
| What was Your Theme? | Shine With The Spirit of P.E.O. | | |
| What were you contemplating when you selected this theme? | | | |
| While I was considering what my theme would be, I was inspired by an unaffiliate visiting our chapter who commented on the enthusiasm she felt within the chapter. I wanted to encourage others to share that 'spirit'. | | | |
| What was the central message of your acceptance speech as President? | | | |
| While serving on the state board, I was astonished by the number of sisters who went inactive each year. I really wanted to see that number decrease, so during the year I challenged myself to work with chapters to "shine with the spirit" and keep members active. The goal was to decrease the number going inactive each year. | | | |
| As you wrapped up your Presidency you had thoughts: what were they? | | | |
| I am proud that at the end of my term, the number of members who went inactive was cut in half from the previous year. | | | |
| Please list an accomplishment (or two) from your tenure on the board. | | | |
| I created the extensive Excel program for the state treasurer's ledger that is still in use today (2015). I was the state Organizer when Chapter AJ was formed and I am a charter member of that chapter. | | | |
| Briefly – what does P.E.O. mean to you? | | | |
| I am very proud that I have a wonderful and loving circle of friends working together for the higher education of women. | | | |
| Briefly – can you provide a personal philosophy about philanthropy in P.E.O.? | | | |
| I came from a family that considered a college education more important for boys than girls. If I had had an organization like ours to encourage me, I probably would have pursued a college degree. Since then I have always tried to encourage other women, especially young wives of enlisted military, to get all the education they could. So becoming a P.E.O. and being a part of helping to finance that dream for other women has been very important to me. I think it is incredible that we, the Sisterhood, have raised such an enormous amount of money to be given or loaned for the purpose of educating women. | | | |
| When/where did you become a P.E.O.? | | | |
| I was initiated in 1984 into Chapter EM, Melbourne, Florida | | | |
| To which chapters have you belonged? | | | |
| Chapters EM in Florida and Chapters J and AJ in Alabama. | | | |
| What offices have you held in the local chapter? | | | |
| President, Vice President, Guard, and Treasurer | | | |

Since your Executive Board experience, what have you done in P.E.O.?

Organized and conducted the Celebration of Life, served three years on the state Finance Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assisted in the organization of Chapter AL, Adviser for guards at state convention, and attended 5 International Conventions (two, so far, since going off the state board)

Please list your Education, Employment, Family members, Family who are P.E.O.s, Interests, Activities outside P.E.O.:

Following high school, I received 14 months of education to become a medical secretary. I then had the pleasure of working as such for three years for a group of prominent doctors in downtown Washington, D. C. It was quite an experience. Next came marriage and 26 years of moving with my husband as he served in the U.S. Air Force. I enjoyed being a military wife and stay-at-home mom. After my youngest started junior high school, I worked as an elementary school bookkeeper for 6 years. When my husband retired from military service, we relocated to Alabama where he took on a second career. This is the time when I really learned what P.E.O. was all about. Looking back, I wish I had been a P.E.O. during all those other relocations.

I have been blessed in this life with my wonderful husband, Harry, two children and four grandchildren. Our daughter Raelene is a P.E.O. in Georgia. She and her husband Gordy, have a son Garret. Rae is a CPA and Gordy is a school administrator. Our son Steven and wife Jessica are the parents of Alex, Zack and Gia. Steven is a senior project manager with the Robins and Morton company in Birmingham and they have moved frequently as he has managed the construction of seven hospitals from Texas to Maine.

I have always loved volunteering and the opportunity to do a variety of “jobs” as we moved around the country. Volunteering for seven years on the state board was a special time for me and a great learning experience. Other service included teaching Sunday School, being a church secretary, organizing and running a computer lab in an elementary school, room mother, soccer team mom, girl scout leader, church hospital visitation team member, delivering Meals on Wheels, and church landscape volunteer. Now, I especially love sewing small quilts that cover isoletts for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Emory Hospital in Atlanta where Garret spent his first four months after being born prematurely.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

I would like to thank my friend and mentor, Jeanne Nagay, who was like a mother to me and who gave me the gift of P.E.O. She knew me well and told me that “P.E.O. will be good for you” – and so her words have come true. It has given me lasting friendships and most importantly, encouraged me to be more than I thought I could be. She was extremely proud when I went on the state board and would have loved to be a page for me at state convention; however, she entered Chapter Eternal before I finished my term.