

PAST STATE PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please use the tab key between entries)

Name:	Susan Santoli		
Years Served on State or Provincial Board:	1999-2006		
Years presided as president:	2005-2006		
What was Your Theme?	Star Light, Star Bright		
What were you contemplating when you selected this theme?			
I was thinking of how my grandmother taught me about the wishing star when I was a little girl and that I'm now part of an organization which truly makes dreams come true.			
What was the central message of your acceptance speech as President? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)			
The idea that our projects can provide the answers to many women's dreams and wishes.			
As you wrapped up your Presidency you had thoughts: what were they? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)			
Please list an accomplishment (or two) from your tenure on the board.			
I served on pretty progressive boards; it seemed like subtle changes were made each year. We all seemed to have the philosophy of trying something new. One of the biggest accomplishments was the launching of the state website when I was first vice president. We also organized several chapters during that time.			
Briefly – what does P.E.O. mean to you?			
It means that, as an only child, I have a host of sisters who continually express their love to me. It means that I can go anywhere and meet a P.E.O. and we are instantly connected. It means that I am able to combine my talents, contributions and energy with those of hundreds of thousands of others to truly make a difference in the lives of women!			
Briefly – can you provide a personal philosophy about philanthropy in P.E.O.?			
We were founded as an organization based on friendship and personal relationships and that is still the core of our being; however, very early in our history, our foremothers realized the importance of reaching out and giving back. I think our founders would be very proud of where we are now. Giving my monetary contributions to causes which mean something to me is something I've always done, but I didn't really become a committed personal giver until I became involved with Cottey College. I had certainly contributed some individually, but mostly through my chapters. I have come to realize the importance of budgeting in my contributions to the Cottey philanthropies just as I do to my church or any other organization in which I greatly believe.			
When/where did you become a P.E.O.?			
Mobile, April 1984			
To which chapters have you belonged?			
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What offices have you held in the local chapter?

President and vice president

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

I served on the Board of Trustees of Cottey College for seven years; 4 years as chairman. I am currently (2013-2015) serving on the International Nominating Committee. I had the privilege of representing International at conventions in eight states-KY, MT, CA, OK, MO, OH, TN, and WA.

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

I have a history degree from Oklahoma State University, a master's in Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma and a PhD in Curriculum and Teaching from Auburn. I taught middle and high school social studies for 18 years and have been in higher education for 13 years at the University of South Alabama as an Associate Professor. Pretty amazing for a person who said she'd never teach!

Growing up, my grandmother and several aunts were P.E.O.s My mother became a P.E.O. when she retired. I have several cousins who are P.E.O.s. One of my greatest joys was initiating my wonderful daughter in law in March, 2014.

My husband, Sandy, is an elementary school teacher and varsity golf coach. My son, Justin, is in the Coast Guard. He and he wife, Shanna, have two precious girls, Corinne (born in 2006) and Natalie (born in 2009)-hopefully both future Cottey students and P.E.O.s! I love to read, do needlework, play handbells at my church and spend time with family and friends.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I so greatly appreciate all of the experiences that I have enjoyed as a P.E.O. Certainly, I could never have envisioned many of these when I was initiated in 1984! It has been such an honor to represent Alabama P.E.O.s in what I've done and I have so greatly appreciated the love and support that I've received from my AL sisters!