

PAST STATE PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please use the tab key between entries)

Name:	Mary Donald
Years Served on State or Provincial Board:	1993-2000
Years presided as president:	1999-2000
What was Your Theme?	Take the Golden Star Pathway Into the Year 2000
What were you contemplating when you chose this theme?	
<p>We were all concerned about the 'Year 2000' causing major problems around the world. It was way over-hyped but my president's class wanted to make their themes include this event...however, I found that I was one of the very few who did. As you experience PEO it becomes a pathway filled with golden stars. I also wanted to include stars because they are so much fun to work with when decorating. (BTW, no one ever asked me about this before.)</p>	
What was the central message of your acceptance speech as President? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)	
<p>As you experience PEO it becomes a pathway filled with golden stars. These stars could stand for different people, different events, different feelings, etc. And I shared some of the experiences that meant the most to me as a PEO. I included my mother's patience which I still struggle to achieve, my first husband's passing and the PEO support that appeared, then being selected for state office...all major stars on my pathway.</p>	
As you wrapped up your Presidency you had thoughts: what were they? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)	
<p>First how 'uneventful' the Year 2000 was! Then how much the entire year meant to me. I enjoyed the experience and was thankful everyone put up with me.</p>	
Please list an accomplishment (or two) from your tenure on the board.	
<p>I'll never forget the trip we all made to do a workshop in Tuscaloosa. Susan Santoli drove five of us and on the way back we had two flat tires! Someone was not an Auburn fan and slit Susan's tires. Two men from Trussville and Betty von Herrmann had to come to our rescue. It was an extremely hot day and we were all dressed up for the workshop. I don't know if this accomplished anything and it took forever to get home, but we laughed and laughed about it...especially when lying down and hiding in the van on top of the tow truck!</p>	
Briefly – what does P.E.O. mean to you?	
<p>Wonderful friendships and caring concern and support when needed.</p>	
Briefly – can you provide a personal philosophy about philanthropy in P.E.O.?	
<p>Our projects provide wonderful opportunities for women furthering their education. My personal favorite is PCE. This group of women are really motivated and need the help our PCE grants provide. Their stories are usually of a long struggle to get their degrees or certificates. They are very inspiring.</p>	

When/where did you become a P.E.O.?
1972 in Winter Park, Florida.
To Which Chapters have you belonged?
Initiated in Chapter BZ, Florida; Chapter BR, Texas; Chapter HC, Nebraska; Chapter V, Alabama; and charter member of Chapter Y, Alabama.
What offices have you held in the local chapter?
President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.
Since your Executive Board experience, what have you done in P.E.O.?
Served as local officer when needed; primarily Corresponding Secretary. Served on a Special Committee for Technology which resulted in the big leap forward for the International website. Currently I am the webmaster for the Alabama PEO website.
Please list your Education and degrees earned?
Bachelors in Elementary Education from Florida State; Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Ball State, IN.
Your employment?
I worked for the US Air Force at the Air Force Logistics Management Agency for 27 years as a computer specialist.
Your family members?
Bill Taylor is my husband and between us we have 5 children and 14 grandchildren...any time now we may be great grand parents since grandchildren are settling down.
Your family members who are P.E.O.s?
My mother, Margaret Harding, was a PEO and my daughter, Lauriel Richards, is a PEO.
Your awards?
Since I just retired, I haven't earned anything in this status yet.
Your Interests?
My interests include card games, computer games and family vacations.
Your Activities outside of P.E.O.?
Family visits/trips take a lot of my time. It takes a bit of work to schedule and plan a vacation for 22 plus! I also enjoy art festivals/shows, visiting quaint shopping areas, touring older homes and visiting different cities here in the south; next is Charleston.
Is there anything else you'd like to add?
Not at this time.