

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAPTER



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Read in its entirety to the chapter (4 minutes)

Dear California Sisters,

We bring greetings from the Executive Board of California State Chapter! President Renee Cortise's theme of *Shine Your Light* includes encouraging chapters to explore the unique talents and passions of your members that come together to form a beautiful rainbow of Sisterhood.

We hope that you are enjoying all that each member brings to your chapter. We encourage you to take advantage of any opportunity to connect with each other and share the mission of P.E.O. with your community. Each of you enhances our Sisterhood and P.E.O. should also enhance your life. You are encouraged to visit the vast array of resources on the International website that can assist in leadership development, growing your chapter, and staying engaged with sisters.

As we support the International Chapter's membership program "You Add to P.E.O. and P.E.O. Adds to You," we are encouraging chapters to find ways to connect with your inactive sisters. Invite inactive sisters to chapter social events. Remember, ONCE a sister, ALWAYS a sister! Social events are also great for potential sisters and may encourage a current sister to become reengaged!

The Executive Board will continue Town Hall meetings this fall. These meetings provide an opportunity for your board buddy to share important updates and offer time to share your ideas and questions with other chapters. We encourage chapter presidents or vice presidents to attend. Executive Board members will be reaching out to Board Buddy chapters to set dates and times for these virtual events.

Sisters will have the opportunity to *Shine Your Light* as they are considering serving on the C.S.C. Executive Board. Each new officer brings a fresh point of view to the Board and can create a lasting and worthwhile legacy for our sisterhood. Be on the lookout in October for a letter from the Nominating Committee.

Over the past year, P.E.O. chapters in California have been extraordinary in their fundraising and giving. You continued to search for creative fundraising ideas to support our wonderful mission of women helping women reach for the stars. Over the lifetime of the International Philanthropies, over \$432 million has been awarded to over 125,000 women!

California sisters did not stop there! We have continued to see an increase in applicants using our online application for all California philanthropies. This application enables eligible applicants to apply for our CA scholarships with one application. This has simplified and streamlined the application process. Since inception, our California state philanthropies have assisted 6,746 women with funds totaling \$17,719,715.

Here are some other California philanthropy highlights from last year:

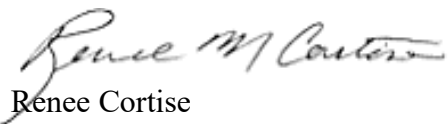
- Educational Loan Fund – 27 chapters sponsored ELF recipients.
- Program for Continuing Education – our chapters sponsored 64 women for a total of \$192,236
- CA chapters sponsored 35 successful P.E.O. Scholar Awardees
- California Chapters worked hard to help 47 high school seniors earn the highly competitive STAR Scholarship.

With a donation of \$500 or more to various International Philanthropies, chapters earned special distinction last year:

- 91 chapters earned Legacy status (supporting the Educational Loan Fund)
- 162 chapters earned Brighter Tomorrow status (supporting the Program for Continuing Education)
- 92 chapters earned Luminary status (supporting Cottey College)
- 39 chapters earned Partners in Peace status (supporting the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship)
- 64 chapters earned Laureate status (supporting the P.E.O. Scholar Awards)
- 108 chapters earned Constellation status (supporting the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship)

We look forward to hearing about how you each Shine Your Light by looking for new and creative ways to help women to reach for the stars and achieve their educational goals.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,


Renee Cortise
President, California State Chapter


Kathleen Gill
Vice President, California State Chapter