

PAST STATE PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please use the tab key between entries)

Name:	Carol Westbrook		
Years Served on State or Provincial Board:	2008-2013		
Years presided as president:	2012-2013		
What was Your Theme?	Spread P.E.O. Love		
What were you contemplating when you selected this theme?			
Coming off the 2009 and 2011 International Conventions of much change and “streamlining” – I believe that we needed to concentrate on loving and nurturing the sisters we already had as well as finding new sisters and supporting the philanthropies			
What was the central message of your acceptance speech as President? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)			
“It is true that the tie that binds us together is far stronger than just friendship. It is true that we love and accept our sisters, no matter our faults. Besides the wonderful educational opportunities offered, P.E.O. connects women from the past as well as those around the country. It strives to teach leadership skills as well as giving a connection to women moving to new communities. “			
As you wrapped up your Presidency you had thoughts: what were they? (You might quote from your speech – or just reflect on it)			
P.E.O. is not the same organization that my grandmother joined. It is big business maintaining and collecting millions of dollars, helping thousands of women with their education – also using all manner of modern electronics. “Good friends (P.E.O. sisters) are like stars, you may not always see them, but you know they are always there.” “Choosing to become an O&A woman” (by Karen Martin Blair, CA president – presented at 2004 Presidents and Organizers Conference) – “I don’t know of any woman I would choose to be around more than a P.E.O. who is also a practicing O&A (Object and Aims) woman. I’m not sure if you caught that or not, because while all of us are P.E.O.s, becoming an O&A woman is a choice we make. An O&A woman chooses to make her difference, wherever she is and in whatever she does. Simply paying your dues each year will keep you an active P.E.O. But living as an O&A woman requires choosing to be called to something higher, choosing to live out the meaning of our letters, choosing to be a different woman than you would naturally be.” AL P.E.O.s are O&A women.			
Please list an accomplishment (or two) from your tenure on the board.			
Not my efforts, but AL donations doubled while I was on the board – from \$40,000 in 2006 to \$87,697 in 2013. This was also a 26% increase over 2012 Ch AL was in the process of being established as a new chapter			
Briefly – what does P.E.O. mean to you?			
Special and deeper fellowship with a group of women (even family members; mother, grandmother, daughter-in-law) – as we work together to make other women’s lives better			
Briefly – can you provide a personal philosophy about philanthropy in P.E.O.?			

I personally cannot do much to help another woman, but as a member of this united gathering of many – my small efforts are multiplied to make a difference in the world
When/where did you become a P.E.O.?
Chapter D, Birmingham in 1977 – it was my grandmother’s, May DeShazo, chapter. The sisters were my grandmother’s friends who had known me since before I was born. I was the youngest by 50 years. It was a very special and pampered place to be.
To which chapters have you belonged?
D\AL
What offices have you held in the local chapter?
President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Chaplin
Since your Executive Board experience, what have you done in P.E.O.?
Returned to being active in Chapter D – even as Chapter D’s president – active in Birmingham Reciprocity
Please list your Education, Employment, Family members, Family who are P.E.O.s, Interests, Activities outside P.E.O.:
Master’s of Library Science – retired (Birmingham Public Library, Government Documents Department and Shades Mountain Christian School Librarian) – husband Pat, two sons, 5 grandchildren – Mother, Elizabeth Davis (Ch D), Kara Westbrook (daughter-in-law – Chapter D)
Love traveling, reading, Bible study, needlepoint
Is there anything else you’d like to add?
My time on the AL State Board was a very special time in my life. I learned and received so much more than I gave.