

Treynor Chapter of P.E.O.

Bill Vorthmann introduced speaker Norma Vorthmann, President of the Treynor Chapter of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Education Organization). Norma explained that the mission of



P.E.O. is to promote educational opportunities for women. The P.E.O. International organization, headquartered in Des Moines, has a membership of 250,000 in 6,000 chapters in the US and Canada; with 17,000 plus members in Iowa. Over \$283 million in scholarships have been awarded to over 90,000 women.

Scholarships are awarded in the following six categories: (1) Cottey Scholarship. Cottey College located in Nevada, Missouri was founded in 1884 by Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard with the firm belief that women deserved the same quality education as men. When she became a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Ms. Cottey Stockard realized that P.E.O. paralleled her own goals and ideas about higher education for women. In 1927, the P.E.O. Sisterhood accepted Cottey College as a gift from Ms. Cottey Stockard. Today Cottey

College is a two-year fully accredited independent, liberal arts and science college for women offering 10 bachelor degree programs; (2) Educational Loan Fund; (3) International Peace Scholarship; (4) Program for Continuing Ed; (5) Scholar Awards; and (6) STAR Scholarship. All grants, scholarships and loans with the exception of the International Peace Scholarship require applicants be sponsored by a local chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Since 2007 the local chapter, OZ, has sponsored eight Program-for-Continuing-Education applicants who were granted a total of \$15,850. For more information please go to <http://www.peointernational.org/peo-projectsphilanthropies>. Contact Norma Vorthmann or Julie Funkhouser for questions regarding applicant procedures.

The local P.E.O. chapter was organized November 21, 2004 with 10 charter members. The current membership is 32 women. The first P.E.O. chapter was organized as chapter A, the second B and so on. Then the 27th was AA... AB... AC and so on and by the time the local chapter was founded they had progressed to OZ. Chapter OZ annually awards two scholarships to qualified graduating senior women. Katy Suden and Megan Lutz were the 2016 recipients. Chapter OZ also participates in community activities and fundraisers. They have made contributions to area philanthropic organizations such as the Lydia House, Open Door Mission and the local food pantry.