

March 16, 2020

**Warm greetings to all officers of State, Provincial and District Chapters from the Executive Board of International Chapter.**

**As we send this message, it is with loving concern for P.E.O. members, their families, and for the many P.E.O. communities across the continent that may already be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Over the past few days, we have had many discussions concerning the welfare of our sisters and the logistics of our upcoming 2020 Conventions of State, Provincial and District Chapters.

As the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as state, provincial and district governmental declarations continue to evolve and restrict gatherings, our options have become more limited. As you know, the Executive Board of International Chapter is charged with managing the business of the Sisterhood and we take that very seriously. However, **nothing is more important than the health and safety of our sisters.**

After much deliberation and with heavy hearts, **we have made the very difficult decision to cancel all 2020 Conventions of State, Provincial and District Chapters.**

This decision is made out of loving concern for our members and their well-being, as well as the intent to be equitable among State, Provincial and District Chapters. With restrictions changing on a daily basis, if not hourly, and with 51 unique sets of circumstances, it would be hard to guarantee each State, Provincial and District Chapter had the ability to meet and conduct business.

We understand this will generate many questions and concerns about convention contracts and logistics, as well as handling the business of our State, Provincial and District Chapters, such as voting on proposed amendments, elections of executive board members and finances.

We know there will be many things to consider and we are working on these details. Please be patient with us as we continue to address each and every issue. We are blessed to have event planners, attorneys and our Parliamentarian of International Chapter as resources for these topics and we will work through them as quickly as possible.

For now, we ask for the following:

DO:

- Do follow the advice of the appropriate government authorities and STAY WELL!
- Do close registration for your conventions immediately.

- Do communicate with your membership regarding the cancelation by posting this notice on your state, provincial or district website, as well as forwarding to your local chapter presidents. Share with them that this is out of an abundance of caution for their well-being.
- Do continue to stay in touch with and express a loving concern for each sister.

DO NOT:

- Do Not accept any more registrations or payments from those who planned to attend your convention.
- Do Not have any conversations with your convention venues or third-party vendors. We will soon be contacting you with details and assistance.
- Do Not send any more money to your venues for deposits.

We will be in touch as soon as we have more to share. Until then, please know that this is an all-team effort and we're working as fast as we can. We ask that you try to hold off on sending individual questions. In the next few days, a member of the Executive Board of International Chapter will be in contact with each president of our State, Provincial and District Chapters. Please see the attached list.

We continue to send our deepest admiration and love to each of you. Thank you for your leadership and support of P.E.O.

Our hearts are with you.

Brenda, Patti, Cathy, Alix and Kay