

Idaho P.E.O.

Chapter House 2022

March Newsletter

Our goal is to share, educate, enlighten, and welcome each of you to our Idaho treasure, The Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House.



Historic Furnishings

The green mohair sofa in the foyer of the Chapter House by Mary Humphreys, twin sister of Margaret Humphreys. Both of the ladies were teachers and members of Chapter F in Caldwell. The sisters were born in Harrodsburg, KY in 1895 and moved into the Chapter House together in 1983. Margaret Humphreys passed away in 1984 at the age of 88. Mary's died two years later at the ages of 91.

Based on a letter from Gordon Cotton, Director of the Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi Historical Society to Margaret Vernon (unofficial Chapter House historian), the green sofa in the foyer of the Chapter House was likely owned by Jefferson

Davis, former politician who served as the president of the Confederate States from 1861 to 1865.

Although there is no way to know for sure, it is speculated that the sofa made its way to Idaho either with the nephew of Jefferson Davis, Isaac Davis Stamps who married into the Humphreys family, or with Jefferson Davis's brother Samuel who made his way to the Oregon Territory before the Civil War began and subsequently ended up in Idaho.



GARDENERS

Start your engines!

Spring is just around the corner and the Chapter House grounds are in need of work teams to weed flower beds, do some light trimming, and general tidying up.

Grab your sisters and BIL's and form a work team for March and April. Then let Jennifer Kerr, Chapter House Manager, or Mary Jo Nybad, Grounds and Maintenance Chairman, know when you will be coming so we can coordinate what needs to be done and where.

We will be moving forward using our newly developed planting plan.



Grounds & Maintenance Committee

Ring in the New Year



We have so many talented and gifted ladies at the Chapter House. Among our residents is **Sue (Anderson)** who was happy to share her personal story of bellringing. Handbell ringing began after the ringing of very large bells in church towers located in major European countries. It was not easy to jump up to pull the rope and ring the bells in these towers. The bell ringers played from a chart on the wall of the tower. They rang by numbers in specific rhythm. This is called Change Ringing. These days most choirs play by musical notation, but Change Ringing still exists. It allows people who do not read music to enjoy playing in the choir.

Sue's ringing began with her husband being in seminary at San Anselmo, CA. Dr. Wilbur Russell was a professor of music at the seminary and organist at a nearby church. He organized a handbell choir at church and invited students to join the ringers. Sue joined the choir because of her connection to music and her curiosity about the bells. Dr. Russell taught about the history of the bells as well as how to play them. One of the most important things to remember is that you cannot tune a handbell! That is why the ringers wear gloves. The moisture and any chemicals from your hands and can "pit" the surface of the bell, and that causes it to be out of tune.

Of course, life goes on! Sue and her husband served a church in Arkansas, and then in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The church, in Bartlesville already had a set of bells, so we can only guess what Sue did there! After about 4 years they moved to Rexburg, Idaho where they served for 11 years. Her husband, also, served the church in St. Anthony, Idaho. While in eastern Idaho Sue joined P.E.O. Chapter L, in St. Anthony.

There was a lady in St. Anthony who contacted Sue about getting some bells. Her husband had passed away and she wanted to donate a set of bells to St. Anthony's church in remembrance of her husband. In 2018 Sue and her son, David went to a special 100-year celebration at the Rexburg church. To her surprise, the St. Anthony church handbell choir was on the program.

Since coming to Caldwell, Sue has enjoyed seeing Phyllis Tincer, Chapter N, play a full set of bells by herself. Sue considers this an amazing talent. Sue has been directing the handbell choir at Boone Memorial Church since 2019. She loves arranging music!

It was wonderful for Sue to share and recall so much of her life's happenings. Sue would love to visit with any of you interested in the bells. You can contact her at the P.E.O. Chapter House.





A VALENTINE

A Valentine is something more
Than flowers, hearts and lace
A Valentine's the essence
Of a sister's warm embrace
It's a token of true friendship
It's a wish for someone dear
It's a very special messenger
Of happiness and cheer
And whether it's a classic
Or a homemade work of art
A Valentine is cherished
For it says what's in the heart!





We are in need of new members to serve on the Idaho P.E.O Chapter House Board of Trustees. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new P.E.O. sisters and work together in an effort to help things run smoothly at the P.E.O. Chapter House. We, as P.E.O.'s, are dedicated to promoting women in education and this is an opportunity for us to help our sisters in retirement thrive independently.

The term is for 4 years and will begin at the July 2022 meeting. We meet in July, September, November, January, March and May. Our July meeting is a day and a half retreat. All other meetings begin with an optional lunch at 12:00. The meetings are called to order at 1:00. Meetings are approximately 3 hours. Committees meet as needed. Each Board of Trustee member will be asked to serve on 2 committees.

There is an online form available at the Chapter House website or contact Jacque Scott at:

Phone: 208-880-6913

Email: jacquescott1@hotmail.com

Contact Us:

We invite you to submit your stories, experiences and testimonials so that we can spread the word about the Chapter House. Email to idpeoch@gmail.com, with your questions or comments. Thank you.

Chapter House Newsletter Team

- Mary Buchanan, H
- Sharon Hubler, BT
- Phyllis Bulgin, BQ
- Jacque Scott, AU
- Tamara Cates, CO
- Jennifer Kerr, N

Chapter House

Temporarily
closed for
gatherings

The Chapter House Board of Trustees has decided to wait to open the house for large groups to meet in the Mansion or on the grounds. We love to have the Chapter House open to Chapters, but feel we need to wait a little longer. Our goal being to keep residents safe and healthy. The ladies sometimes invite one or two guests at a time, but that is it.

We look forward to the day when we can return to having guests as we have enjoyed in the past. We will keep you posted!



We'll Bee
Together Soon



<http://peochapterhouseidaho.org>