

**P.E.O. BIO
Mary McGehee
Chapter IA – Newton
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Mary was born in Torrance, California, where she lived until she was 10 years old. Then she moved to Sudbury, Massachusetts until she was 16 years old and then to West Lafayette, Indiana where she graduated from William Henry Harrison High School in 1980. She then attended Purdue University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in the School of Consumer and Family Studies; majoring in Child and Family Studies and Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education. She graduated in 1984 and 1985. In the summers of her college career she was a counselor for Geneva Center in Rochester, Indiana (a Christian camp) and did one summer as a Volunteer in Mission in Florida at the Duvall Home for Retarded Citizens.

After graduating from college, she worked at Shawnee Mission School for developmentally delayed preschoolers for 2 years in Attica, Indiana and then moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana to work in a Christian Daycare and then moved to being a Director of another Christian Daycare in Fort Wayne.

While in Fort Wayne, she was introduced to her husband Greg McGehee on a blind date. She always says: “God led me to my prince charming.” They were married in 1991 and lived in Kokomo, Indiana and in 1993 they were blessed with their daughter Rachelle. In 1994 the family moved to Hesston Kansas where they still reside. In 1995 they were blessed with their son Scott.

Rachelle Trzok and her husband, Matt live in Coffeyville, Kansas and blessed the family with her Mary and Greg's first grandchild. Margot Wanda Trzok was born on July 1, 2023 and is a wonderful little girl who has grandpa wrapped around his finger and is the love of her grandma's life. Rachelle is also a P.E.O.

Mary's son Scott and his wife, Hannah live in Shawnee, Kansas with their fur baby, Harvey and gave Mary her second grandchild.

Penelope "Penny" Sue McGehee was born on September 18, 2023 right before Mary left for International Convention. Penny is also a wonderful little girl who is always smiling for the camera.

Both girls are her grandparents pride and joy.

Mary worked for about a year and a half after she and Greg were married until she became a mom and then took the best job she could ever think of and became a stay-at-home mom. She told her daughter the other day that she never regrets staying home with her children. Not every minute was joyous, but most were. While the kids grew and started school, Mary volunteered in their classrooms, the library, tutoring reading, and in the Parent organizations. When her son, Scott was in 3rd grade and Rachelle was in 6th grade, Mary started substitute teaching in the Hesston Elementary School. In 2008 while she was President of Chapter AG she began her 11 year career as an Instructional Aide in Kindergarten in Hesston. In 2020 she resigned as the Instructional Aide and started her current position of Children and Youth Director at the First Presbyterian Church in Newton, Kansas.

In 1999, Mary was first asked if she would like to join P.E.O., but she declined because her kids were still young and she felt they needed her. In 2004, Mary was approached again and was initiated into Chapter AG of Newton. While with Chapter AG, Mary served as Chaplain, Assistant Treasurer and President. When she started working outside of the home, she tried to stay with Chapter AG, but found she couldn't attend meetings and missed all the things that go

with P.E.O. She demitted (transferred) to Chapter IA of Newton since they were an evening Chapter. She has held the office of Vice President many times in Chapter IA.. Once when she was in that position she had to take over for the President who moved and finish out her term. In June, 2017 she started on the Sunflower Board of Trustees and in 2019 was the Board President. She served on the Board for 4 years from 2017 to 2021. After looking at the other Leadership Teams she might be on, she decided to apply for the Executive Board and was installed in June, 2022. Mary loves all things P.E.O. but her favorite thing is the loving sisters she has met all over the state and looks forward to meeting and getting to know so many more.

When Mary is not planning and executing her church duties with the children and youth, you will find her at the race track watching her husband Greg race his vintage racecar. She also enjoys going to races; especially the INDY 500 and Sprint Car Racing. On Saturdays in the fall, you will find Mary at the Kansas State University Football games. She is a die-hard fan of her beloved Boilermakers of Purdue but when she married Greg she became a Kansas State Wildcat fan as well. She also loves to watch television, read, paint, cross stitch, knit and is learning to crochet. She loves children and helping them learn. She continues to substitute teach and also tutors two of her neighbor children with their reading.

Mary is looking forward to learning more about P.E.O. and making everlasting friendships.