

Period Of Instruction (P.O.I.)
Kansas Convention 2025
By Mary McGehee (KSC Board Organizer)

Good Afternoon:

I am here today to share with you the P.O.I. Some of you know what that means, and others have no idea. When I was a delegate, I had no idea. It was just the next thing in the convention program book. Well, it means Period of Instruction.

In P.E.O., we assign acronyms to many things. Even P.E.O. is one. We all know that one is a secret. (Shhhh). Here are a few you might hear a lot. Let's see if you know these. C.O.I. - Ceremony of Initiation, LCOW- Local Chapter Officer Workshops, ELF - P.E.O. - Educational Loan Fund, IPS - P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, IOLC - Instructions to Officers of Local Chapters, PSP - Past State President, and the one I am going to talk about in this P.O.I. is O.V. - Official Visit.

The 2024-2025 Kansas State Chapter (KSC) Executive Board visited 49 Chapters this past fall. You might wonder how we decide which of the 238 chapters are visited each year. Each chapter has a Board Buddy; if your Board Buddy is the Organizer for the P.E.O. year, then you will be visited. This past fall, the five executive board members visited chapters in the far northern part of Kansas, traveling from Goodland to Kansas City. We covered about 10,900 miles, stayed in sisters' homes or hotels, enjoyed lots of wonderful food, and had some great conversations. As we were visiting, we found sisters who were so nervous about what to expect, what was going to be asked for, or if they were doing all the right things. I am here today to give you information on what to expect at your OV.

I have a few helpers with me today to present this information. Please welcome to the stage: Susan Smith, a PSP. What is a PSP? Yes, Past State President. Carie Johnson, KSC Executive Board Treasurer. What is KSC? Yes, Kansas State Chapter. And Joyce Smith, KSC Executive Board Secretary, who you will see in a bit.

So, sit back and listen to my story on what to expect at an OV.

‘Twas The Night Before the Official Visit

Narrator:

‘Twas the night before the Official Visit, and Chapter ABC officers were stirring about.

Pulling files, papers, pictures, wondering what the Board officer would soon talk about.

The Chaplain was all ready with the P.E.O. prayer and the thoughtful devotion she would sincerely share.

The Guard was not too worried, for she just has to greet and stand there.

Both officers remembered that Officer Carie wrote an email to them all about what to expect.

Let’s read what she said before we start to panic.

(Carie will start talking. Will be typing out an email.)

Carie: Dear Chapter Officers of Chapter ABC:

I look forward to meeting you and your chapter on Tuesday, October 14th, for your Official Visit (OV). I am making sure I have the date, time, and place down correctly on this email, and to just give you some tips.

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Time: Officers Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch with the Chapter at 12:00 p.m. and Chapter Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Place: The 1st Presbyterian church.

Please confirm this is correct.

Some tips:

1: Do not be nervous!!

2: Do not bring anything with you to the Officers' meeting that you would not bring to a regular Chapter meeting.

3: The guard does not need to bring the Star if your chapter has initiated a new sister in the last six months. If not, we might need to practice with an exemplification, and the guard should bring the Star.

Narrator:

The Guard was happy; she didn't need to bring the Star because they had already initiated three new sisters so far.

The Chaplain was also happy she didn't have to tell what devotions she had read in the past, and now she could go to bed at last.

The two secretaries were looking over the work they needed to get done.

Would this meeting tomorrow be all business, or would it also be fun?

They both wondered what files and forms she would ask to see, but they both looked at the email and giggled with glee.

Carie:

4: I will not be looking at any papers unless you need me to help you with something.

5: I am coming to visit with you, celebrate with you, give you some important information, hear your concerns, and get to know you and your sisters' strengths.

Narrator:

The two secretary officers were so ready to go to bed.

They went with a smile, knowing they had nothing to dread.

The Treasurer was nervously getting her report all written and checking for mistakes, if any.
She looked over her numbers, and it all balanced out; she was correct down to the penny.
Carie's email told us not to be worried, so I am going to go to sleep.
She went upstairs to her bed and jumped in with a leap.

The Vice President Sister just got off the phone with President Susan, trying to calm her down.
"It was no use," she said and looked at the phone with a frown.
She stared at the phone, wondering what else she could say.
The Executive Board officer told us what to expect for the day.
She reread the email and decided the President would have to relax on her own
and turned to go to bed, turning out the lights throughout her home.

President Susan was in such a tizzy that she felt a little dizzy.

President Susan: I have these files, these forms, these books, and all these file boxes. What do I take with me to the Official Visit tomorrow? I am tired, but I just can't sleep. I am so nervous. I have read the email that Carie sent. I have confirmed with her that the date, time, and place are all correct.

My vice president has tried to calm me down; all my other officers are ready. I am ready for the Chapter meeting, but why do I feel so nervous? Carie is a sister, and aren't we supposed to express our loving concern for each sister? Why can't I figure this out?

Narrator: President Susan was so tired; she started to doze.
Laying her head down on all her papers, her eyes started to close.
She began to dream, and she thought she heard someone whisper.
Please, Susan, go to bed and things in the morning will look crisper.

She dragged herself up and headed upstairs to her bed,
but turned around to the email to be reread.
It was as if Carie was talking in her head
And telling her she had nothing to dread.

Carie: Do not be nervous!!

President Susan: Yeah, right. Easy for her to say. Next..

Carie: Do not bring anything with you to the Officers meeting that you would not bring to a regular Chapter meeting.

President Susan: Okay, so just my President Book and anything I need for the meeting. Can it really be that easy?

Carie: The guard does not need to bring the Star if your chapter has initiated a new sister in the last six months. If not, we might need to practice with an exemplification, and the guard should bring the Star.

President Susan: Well, the guard is good. No Star needed. We have initiated three new sisters since convention.

Carie: I will not be looking at any papers unless you need me to help you with something.

President Susan: Really, not look at all these files we have. I just don't know. The last visit I was in, the Official Officer looked at everything, and it took a loooooonnnngggg time.

Carie: I am coming to visit with you, celebrate with you, and give you some important information, hear your concerns, and get to know you and your sisters' strengths.

President Susan: I do like that. She is coming to visit to be with us. What if she doesn't like us or finds we are doing something wrong?

Narrator: President Susan was starting to relax and thought she could probably go to bed, when she got an interesting thought in her head.

(Joyce walks in dressed as the P.E.O. police.)

Joyce: So, you think that you will get in trouble because you might do a few things differently? Well, here I am, the P.E.O. Police!! You will do everything I say for you to do, and you will do it right, or I am sending you to P.E.O. jail!! Do you hear what I am saying? *(Pulls out cuffs)* Do I cuff you now, or will you do everything just right?

(Holding out her hands.)

President Susan: You better cuff me now, because each sister is different and we try our best to do everything just so, but sometimes we mess up.

Joyce: Well, you make a good point, and sometimes chapters have to do what works for them to have success. *(Puts cuffs away and starts to walk away. Takes off badge and hat and says...)* Just kidding; there is no P.E.O. police or jail.

President Susan, take Carie's advice and don't be nervous; enjoy your visit with Carie. She really is coming to celebrate with you, hear your concerns and strengths, share information, and enjoy getting to know you, your officers, and your chapter sisters. Goodbye.

(Joyce walks out.)

Narrator: President Susan finally calmed down and headed to bed.
She looked around and thought I really got crazy in the head.
I will go to bed and get a good night's sleep.
And wake refreshed when my alarm goes beep-beep.
She woke up refreshed and thought, "This is going to be a good day.
I am ready to meet Carie, who is on her way."

(President Susan and Board Officer Carie get up from their seats and meet each other at the podium.)

President Susan: Hi, I am Susan, the President of Chapter ABC. I am so glad you are here.

Carie: Hi, I am so happy to be here too. Shall we get started?

(The two walk off the stage.)

Narrator: President Susan and Board Officer Carie headed into the officers' meeting.
Carie was pleased with the wonderful officers' greeting.
The meeting went well, questions were answered, and information was shared.
Chapter ABC shared their concerns and felt that Carie really cared.
The Officers' meeting was done, and lunch with the chapter was well attended,
and President Susan led the chapter meeting just like it was intended.
Board Officer Carie got up to speak to the chapter; she said she really enjoyed lunch and all the P.E.O. chatter.
As she left the chapter and got into her car, she felt happy with Chapter ABC and where they are.

President Susan: Why was I so nervous? That was a great visit, and I know our chapter learned a lot. I am ready to have our chapter do more. I am glad she came to visit.

Narrator: Our story is coming to an end.

The information given is for all P.E.O. women.

An Official Visit (OV) is not a time to worry, be nervous, or upset.

It is a time to meet a new sister, share your chapter's concerns, strengths, and goals are set.

This Period of Instruction (P.O.I.) is now done, and I, your Kansas State Chapter (KSC) Executive Board Organizer, am going to run.

Thank you.