

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 1956

Dear *Sisters* : —

As I sit and think back over the four years of chapter B L's existence, I feel certain that our chapter has reached the point of success that is attained only through the efforts of everyone of its members. Four years ago our small group who banded together to form BL were indeed comparable to our seven founders 87 years ago. The questionsCan we survive? Will the trials and tribulations be too great?.. Can we attain and feel the true meaning of PEO?.....were indeed in the minds of all of us. We have more than survived.....the trials and tribulations were many, but not so many that we weren't able to handle each and every problem with the determination and ability of every true PEO.

To have had the honor of being your President for the past two years and the privilege of getting to know you all so well, I can say with all sincerity that you do possess the true spirit of PEO. When I take leave of my office in March all the success and wonderful times we have had during the past two years are due to you, sisters! Your cooperation and thoughtfulness has warmed my heart many, many times and will long be remembered. Even during my more exuberant times of presenting "Money Making Projects" I have noticed the smiles on many of your faces, but you never let me down.

To my officers I say thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing more than your share to make my job easier. And to you who served on the committees.....Never once when there was a job to be done did you fail to see it through. My only wish is that in the future I might repay you in some small way to show my deep appreciation.

Chapter BL has 29 active members, four of which are non-resident. Our average attendance has been about 18. We have granted three demits: Mary Mason to Chapt. FG, California, Virginia Malmquist to AH, Wisc. and Marian Caldwell Mason to a newly formed Chapter in California. We do not have the chapter letters as yet, for the organization will take place in Feb. We are proud to say that Marian will be the new President.

Though we lost three of our very good members we are happy to report that we gained three grand PEO's by demit. Mildred Wedemeyer from AZ, Wisc., Jo Ann Hedlin from T, North Dakota, and Hazel Weeden from X, Wisc. Let me say that we wasted no time in making these three girls a part of our chapter and the way in which they entered into the activities of our chapter has made all of us very happy.

It was our great pleasure to initiate Martha Reynolds last spring. What a fine PEO addition Martha has made.

During the summer we had the misfortune of losing two of our fine members. Doris Riemen, one of our charter members moved to Bloomfield, N.J. Then Virginia Malmquist moved to Milwaukee, Wisc. We miss these two girls so much, but know that our loss will be some other PEO chapter's gain.

Our social program was again very successful this past year. In March we had our annual BIL party. A box social was held and our BIL's really came through in great style when the boxes were auctioned off. I must not neglect to mention that BL certainly demonstrated hidden talent in their decorating ability. This fall we combined our guest night and Christmas bazar. The result being rather breath-taking, for our Treasury was \$120. larger at the end of the evening. There is no doubt in my mind that the unaffiliates and guests present that evening will long remember BL for the spirit they put into their projects

The highlight of the fall was our visit from the State Organizer, Hazel Boortz. Her message was so inspirational and will long be remembered by all of us.

We had just one big sale of peanut crunch this year and I'm happy to report it was again most profitable. We have taken on the project of selling dish clothes now and hope to make it a permanent one within the chapter. Our success financially enabled us to give \$25. to the PEO Home Fund at the State Convention and to donate to all of the PEO projects this year plus purchasing a sizeable War Savings Bond.

To turn now to a more lighter vein, Chapter BL continues to break all records for "Production!" Mary Hiene had a lovely son this fall and Zo Kussow presented her family with a daughter. Before our year closes there will be three more new additions within Chapt. BL. Due to our officers great activity along this line, BL hopes that in the near future we will be able to purchase robes for their use!

The enthusiasm displayed in having secret sisters last year has prompted us to continue on this year.

Yes, as I sit back and think over the past four years of chapter BL we should all be proud of our attainments. The sisterly love we have within our chapter leaves nothing to be desired except a greater and deeper knowlege of PEO as we go through the years together.

Chapter BL joins me in sending our love and best wishes to our State President and our Organizer who radiate all the qualities of a true PEO and may you both enjoy great success in the months ahead.

Yours in PEO,

Jeanette Thomas, Pres.