

President's Letter  
Chapter BL, Madison

February 25, 1976

Dear Marian and Sisters in Chapter BL:

It is a truism that an organization achieves in direct ratio to the constant interest shown by its members with their varied capabilities. Chapter BL emphasizes that fact.

With dedicated intent and joyously, Chapter BL during 1975-76 contributed one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$165.00) to P.E.O. Projects: \$15.00 Educational Loan Fund; \$30.00, Cottey College; \$25.00, International Peace Scholarships; \$45.00, Wisconsin Cottey Scholarship Fund; \$50.00, Continuing Education. These goals toward contributions are set from year to year and are seriously reviewed each year; BL is ever mindful of changing needs and tries to act accordingly.

Chapter BL has a total active membership of fifty-five of which seven of these are non-resident. We miss all of these members scattered as they are from California to the midwest and as far away as Belgium. Ruth Thomas, who is now living in Belgium, is one of Chapter BL's past presidents, and she is now president of her overseas P.E.O. group. She keeps us informed through her newsy letters as do all the others.

With forty-eight resident members, Chapter BL maintains an approximate attendance of 27-29 even with the varying of the meeting hours between afternoon and evening. BL likes being together, for the members arrive early and leave late. For some time now, many have met on alternate Wednesdays to stitch a little and listen to a book review or travelogue. Bridge foursomes get together any time, anywhere.

Early in the spring of '75 Chapter BL welcomed with joy two initiates, very special initiates, namely, Paula King and Mariclare Thomas. Both of these girls' mothers are past presidents of Chapter BL, Charlotte King and Jeanette Thomas. Both girls are continuing their education: Paula, at the University of Wisconsin, and Mariclare, a law student at the University of Nebraska. We were sad to lose JoAnne Hedlin to Chapter CL in St. Paul, but we are happy to have recently gained Ike Crain from Chapter AO, Rhinelander.

With its usual enthusiasm, BL started in October with Betty Land, one of Madison's delegates to the Supreme Convention, reliving those days in Boston. Betty's fine report brought us up-to-date on current changes which would be affecting all P.E.O. Chapters. At BL's second meeting was Lois Dick, Chapter BL's official State Chapter visitor. The officers with Lois as guest enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Martha Reynold's home. All there stated emphatically that they had never seen such a huge and delicious-looking pie as had been prepared by Charlotte King. That official visit was marked by the graciousness of Lois as she participated that evening. Her message concerning the love of sisters will long be remembered.

Chapter BL in its "West to Wisconsin" theme for this year has been delightfully exposed to many facets of Americana. Members visited Daniel Webster, so to speak, and learned about his land holdings in Dane County; they learned to know "Jim" and

Dolly Madison better; they've seen and coveted, almost, beautifully old-fashioned, handmade quilts of heirloom quality, and they have also enjoyed a box-social with its baskets of homemade chicken and fruit salad, topped off with the richest kind of icecream sundae of one's own making. The December program with its "Jingle Bell Fantasy" sent everyone home humming and gay with the spirit of Christmas.

Chapter BL works as it plays also. It is a group devoted to cleanliness surely evidenced for a long time now by the dozens of brooms and dishcloths bought for and by its members. Extra dividends to that cleanliness are the coins that get into the treasurer's box for the benefit of everything that is P.E.O. Birthday-celebrating members in each month have had their particular dates noted by such things as a decorated apple, a tiny Christmas tree ornament, or a whisk broom made from corn husks.

Chapter BL is exemplary; each member is more than willing to carry her share of the load in seeing that a job is done. To single out members by name would, in a way, be a disservice to them, for I could not by enumerating tell all that should be told about the love and loyalty always evident.

Two years have passed quickly; I confess, however, that in March, 1974, March, 1976 seemed many light-years away, My living has been enriched having been given the opportunity to learn to know you all so much better. I thank you sincerely for that privilege, and I hope I have been able in some way to do something for you.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,  
*Florence B. Nordholm*  
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President, Chapter BL, 1975-1976