

FIVE YEAR HISTORY
Chapter BL, Madison, Wisconsin
1982-1987

1982-1983. Under president Helen Sivertson's guidance, we have indeed had a banner year. Culminating two years of planning, BL served as chairman chapter for the 65th annual convention of the Wisconsin State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, held at Edgewood College in June. Chapter BL also sponsored the organization of Chapter DH in Stoughton in May.

Working toward becoming a Golden Anniversary Chapter, we had a huge garage sale, held at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, which netted us \$1170. This plus matching funds of \$800 from Ray-O-Vac, arranged by BIL Ray Balfour, plus money already in the hopper made us the 51st Wisconsin Golden Anniversary chapter. Our fall dinner and Christmas sale enabled us to donate \$230 to our P.E.O. projects and \$325 to our continuing education student.

Chapter BL added five new members by initiation: Stephany Halverson, Sigrid Jenson, Laura Secord (daughter of Jane), Janet Gullickson, and Audrey Dybdahl. Our resident membership is now 51, with eight non-resident members. A shower in September honored bride-to-be Susan Koenig, daughter of Mimi.

Because our chapter has grown and members live throughout a wide area, the chapter has been divided into three geographical teams to deal with problem or emergency situations.

1983-1984. In this second year of Helen Sivertson's presidency, Chapter BL has somewhat changed its time format, getting together at 5:30 for twilight suppers preceding meetings in February, June, and July. This is part of an effort to increase attendance by accommodating both those who work afternoons and those who do not care to go out evenings. At the July supper we honored Bess Weber for her 92nd birthday and her 50 years as a P.E.O. Two bride-to-be daughters were also honored at meetings.

In May we were saddened by the death of our corresponding secretary, Jan Costello, daughter of Bess Weber and sister of Fran Kingery. A contribution to the Wisconsin Cottey Scholarship Fund

was made by members of Chapter BL in her memory.

We welcomed four new initiates, all with P.E.O. connections: Carla Thomas (daughter of Jeannette), Susan Batt (daughter of Dorothy), Else Lawrence (sister of Trudy Bangsberg), and Ann Hedlin (daughter of former member Joanne). We were sorry to lose Gayle Wilson to Chapter DH, Ann Arbor, Michigan. We now have 54 resident and seven non-resident members.

In September our Ways and Means Committee kicked off the year with a "Beans in Madison" dinner that introduced their ten-bean soup, which has since become a very successful money-making project. With that and the bridge marathon, book exchange group, and Sears shopping, our Ways and Means receipts totaled \$1033.74.

Past president Cathy Barker has been serving as president of the Madison Reciprocity Board, in which our chapter participates actively.

1984-1985. Chapter BL's theme for this year of Virginia Malmquist's presidency has been "Say it with Music" and each program has delighted members with some original words to familiar tunes.

We were happy to welcome two dimitts: Marge Moore from BW, Decatur, Illinois, and Lois Benton from CO, Wausau, Wisconsin. We shall miss Ann Hedlin, who dimitted to Minnesota. A first for our chapter was the third generation initiation of Cathy Nelson, daughter of Ann and granddaughter of Florence Nordholm. Our membership now totals 54 resident and ten non-resident members.

A delightful BIL Christmas party was held at the home of Mimi and Rob Koenig. Three bride-to-be daughters of our members were entertained at luncheons. Nelva Jean Krammer, state first vice president, was our guest for exemplification. We are proud of our own Cathy Barker as she starts on her first rung of the ladder of State Board.

To bring our busy members into closer relationships of sisterhood and love, Chapter BL members will have Special Sisters, who will get together at times beside meetings.

1985-1986. The theme of the first year of Carol Wilson's leadership has been "Reach Out" and that is what Chapter BL has done--reaching out to each other and to the community in many ways.

To make it easier for working and/or vacationing members, we have changed our meetings to once a month throughout the year except for three months when we meet twice. We have been closely related to a continuing education recipient, and have made substantial gifts to P.E.O. projects.

We initiated Carol Malmquist, daughter-in-law of Virginia. We regretted giving up four members to other chapters: Donna Hudson to Chapter R, North Carolina; Marion Rice to A, Vermont; Carla Thomas to EA, Colorado; and Mary Lou Hogan to F, New Mexico. Nancy Ragatz found it necessary to become inactive. We now have 52 resident and nine non-resident members.

Four daughters of members were married. Two, Susan Batt and Cathy Nelson, were members of BL. All were entertained by the chapter. Edna Riemen celebrated her 90th birthday at the Edgewater Hotel with a number of her BL sisters on December 18, 1985. It was a special time for Edna and for those of us who could be with her.

1986-1987. "Radiate All Light Possible" was the theme for the second year of Carol Wilson's presidency, and Chapter BL indeed lived up to it. Our young, spry, and attractive Connie Todd turned out to be a 50-year member of P.E.O. and was among those honored at convention. A number of BL members accompanied her. Our own Cathy Barker, State Corresponding Secretary, was our official visitor for exemplification.

Five daughters who were about to be married were entertained by the chapter. One of them, Sarah Bangsberg is a member of BL. Our membership grew with the initiation of Carolyn White and Barbara Barker (daughter-in-law of Cathy). Jane Rogers became a non-resident member since she is in Arizona much of the year. Bernie Houston dimited to her former chapter AU in Green Bay. Susan Young chose to become inactive. Our resident members now total 49, with 11 non-residents. Our gifts to P.E.O. projects continue and were augmented by a gift of money to Göttey given to our chapter as a thank-you by Phyllis Norem, former member of BL, on her 50th year in P.E.O.

And so, for Chapter BL, Madison, Wisconsin, another five years have become history, five years of love and friendship and cooperation, five years of living and learning and giving, in that very special organization, P.E.O.

*Jo Kussow
Historian*