

February 1996

Dear Vicki and Sisters of Chapter BL:

As a thunderous crash of snow fell from the roof just as the officers were being installed, my first thought was, "is this some kind of omen?". However, thanks to the love and support of sisters, Chapter BL has had a successful year.

"Awareness, The World Around Us" was a continuation of last years theme. We have grown in knowledge and culture through our truly great programs. Our wisdom in the world of art increased when we toured the U.W. Elvehjem Museum conducted by two of our sisters, Audrey Dybdahl and Judy Christenson, who are docents at the museum. In July, Betty Land and Mary Lou Hogan entertained us with a program of classical music for one piano, four hands. In January we were enlightened with an enthusiastic program by John DeMain, Music Director of the Madison Symphony Orchestra. We also learned much about our new convention center, which is under construction, when Dale Strub came to speak to us. We had a real workout and much fun with Sandy Rusch from Chapter DH when she gave us a program on physical fitness.

Our Ways and Means projects raised money this year by selling wrapping paper, See's candy, an additional printing of our cookbook and of course, brooms, dish cloths, photo note cards, bridge and B&B. Because of their ideas and efforts \$1,095.00 was raised and we were able to give \$100.00 to Cottey College, \$100.00 to the Educational Loan Fund, \$100.00 to Continuing Education, \$100.00 to the P.E.O. Scholar Award, \$100.00 to I.P.S. and \$100.00 to the state H.E.L.P. Fund, and \$100.00 to Wisconsin Cottey Scholarship Fund. We will again share sponsorship of an I.P.S. designated scholar with Chapter BC of Madison; our share being \$250.00.

In regard to our projects, Dee Grimsrud has begun to repay her ELF loan and she also was the ELF project speaker at convention in June. Jan Wilson, daughter of Carol Wilson has been our new ELF recipient this year. She is studying for an MBS in rehabilitation of the blind. The name of Sara Ross, daughter of Beth Ross, has been proposed for a P.E.O. Scholarship Award and we are waiting word on this. Sandra Balfour, our I.P.S. Chairperson, as well as State I.P.S. Chairperson keeps us informed about our I.P.S. students. Yoon Mi Lee from Korea, is our designated student we share with Chapter BC. Her exciting news this year was the birth of a baby boy and we also shared in giving a baby gift to her from our chapters.

The Social Committee provided us with a fun program in May "What Hat Do You Wear" with each sister telling a story about the hat they were wearing. We learned a little bit more about each other. In October a BIL theatre party to see "Tommy" preceeded by a potluck supper at the home of Polly Diem was a hugh success. Everyone had a great time.

Christmas lunch at Blackhawk Country Club was lovely and in spite of the ice storm warnings 28 members and 2 guest attended. Our birthday drop-in luncheons continue to be well attended and it does promote a closer fellowship between sisters.

Barbara Timmerman, the State Organizer, visited our chapter in October. She was very helpful to all our officers and we enjoyed getting to know her. Barbara emphasized having a goal of at least 50% attendance, which we do not have. It will be one of our goals for 1996.

In November, Fern Lawrence, a delegate to International Convention, gave her report to our chapter and we all found it enjoyable.

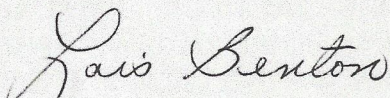
Chapter BL initiated Cynthia Norvell in October. Cynthia did not get a chance to know all of us as her husband took a new position in Michigan and of course, they had to move. We wish her well and hope she finds a P.E.O. home there.

Helen Sivertson, a long time member of Chapter BL moved to Sarasota, Florida and we miss her. A tea was given in her honor at the home of Audrey Dybdahl. Rena Magara, a new dimit has moved to South Dakota. Jennifer Rothe became Mrs. Greg Kersten and a tea and gift were given to her in May. Edna Rieman who has been inactive for three years celebrated her 100th birthday in December and as a birthday gift from Chapter BL her membership was reactivated. Convention 95 celebrated our Harriet Nordholm's 50th year as a P.E.O. It was well attended with 16 sisters from Chapter BL present. Illnesses of many of our sisters and BILs has made all of us realize how much it means to express a loving concern for each sister.

Chapter BL has a membership of 57 resident members, 8 non-resident members, and 11 inactive members.

As president of Chapter BL, I would like to express my appreciation for the love and support I have received from my officers and sisters. Communication, I have found, will and does create happiness and harmony. I look forward to another successful year. This then, is our year in review.

Lovingly in P.E.O.



Lois Benton, President