

**Five-Year History
Chapter BL, P.E.O. Sisterhood,
Madison, Wisconsin
2002-2007**

Chapter BL, P.E.O. Sisterhood was organized at the Lorraine Hotel, Madison on May 3, 1952, with its charter dated June 3, 1952. On December 6, 1982, it was the 51st chapter in Wisconsin to be recognized as an Honor chapter. This month (May 2007), it celebrates its 55th birthday. ~~Below~~ is a summary of its past five years:

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2002-2003: During the final year of Nancy Hertel's able leadership as president, we initiated three new members--(Mary) Jane Meier, Mary Cole, and Virginia Francis. SaraLee Hinckley was received into the chapter by dimit. Three members--Mildred Wedemeyer, Janet Gullickson, and Harriet Nordhom were lost to Chapter Eternal. Member Marcie Stark moved to inactive status, bringing the number of inactives to nine. Membership stood at 65, including 55 residents and ten non-residents. Charter member Beth Ross and members Jean Frank, Mary Heine, and Carol Wilson were honored for 50 years in P.E.O. An average of 25 members attended individual meetings. Programs were varied, centering on the theme, "Times of Our Lives," highlighting memories, how to enjoy growing old, antique jewelry, theater, photography of the South Seas, gardening (with a tour of member Jean Nordlund's beautiful garden), a walk through Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and a tour of the newly-restored Stoughton Opera House. Our members donned hats to wear to our 50th birthday celebration, dined on birthday cake, and presented flowers to charter member, Beth Ross. Over \$2,000 was contributed to P.E.O. projects. Our IPS Designated Scholar was Marianna Shershnova. We were successful in obtaining a PCE grant for XiaXia Yu to help her complete her degree at MATC. Our projects were funded by a very special dinner, an auction of members' time/talents/services, and the sale of photographic cards, brooms, and dishcloths. Several BLs served on committees for the international P.E.O. convention in Milwaukee to which Jean Schaeffer was sent as delegate. Dues were raised in response to state and international action.

Carolyn

2003-2004 : Carolyn White received the gavel as our 27th president; this was also the year she was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of Luther College. The board's 2003-04 goal was for three new members, and three new members were initiated in 2004: Kim Bentz, Judy Kalan, and Ann Leon. We happily added LaVonne McCrill and Joyce Bromley by dimit. Inactive member Sue Racine was reinstated. We lost Carol Wilson to Chapter Eternal. Membership stood at 69, and average meeting attendance was 27. Betty Land was honored at the Wisconsin convention as a 50-year member, and Charlotte King celebrated 60 P.E.O. years. We contributed over \$2500 to P.E.O. projects, as well as two vans full of "leftovers" delivered to GoodWill after a garage sale fundraiser at Nancy Hertel's home. Holiday cookies were delivered to three IPS students and nine shut-ins. A gorgeous gourmet luncheon and a kickoff dinner--along with the garage sale and sale of brooms, dishcloths, chapter cookbooks, and photographic cards--were all successful fundraisers. Special social events were a summer field trip to Ten Chimneys, the former home of actors Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne, in Genesee Depot, a BIL party, and a bridal shower for member Patty Storm's daughter. Programs centered on "Our Changing Times," and featured presentations on handwork, photography, rosemaling, choosing children's books,

Nancy
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masks, diabetes, theater, stem cell research, and progress on Madison's developing Overture Center. We also enjoyed tours of the Wisconsin Governor's Mansion and the Elvehjem (now Chazen) Art Museum on the University of Wisconsin campus.

Jean

2004-2005: With Carolyn White still at the helm as president, we had a very active year. We were pleased to assist in the chartering of new chapter EK-Sun Prairie and became a contributor to a new P.E.O. group providing monthly programs at Attic Angels retirement center. We enjoyed a sumptuous summer cocktail buffet for members and BILs at Nancy Moore's home, a field trip to Wollersheim Winery near Sauk City, and a bridal event honoring member Judy McClain-Mauerman prior to her marriage to Bill Mauerman. We initiated our Special Sister program, and hosted then-State Organizer Laura Wahl for a fall visit. While meeting attendance averaged 27, we set a new record with 40 at our Christmas luncheon. Our membership increased to 72, including 59 residents and 13 non-residents, even though we granted a dimit to Virginia Malmquist to Chapter EM in Arizona. Members Dorothy Batt, Jean Clausen, and Marjorie Hibner were honored as 50-year members. We contributed over \$1900 to P.E.O. projects, including continued support of IPS Designated Scholar and UW-Madison student Marianna Shershnova of Ukraine, as well as keeping in touch with IPS Scholar Bin Min Tsai of Taiwan in Buffalo, NY. We also provided a \$100 love gift to the new Sun Prairie chapter (EK). Our projects were supported by raffles of four/five contributed items at every meeting, a special luncheon which prompted a round of applause for Polly Diem's scrumptious warm apple pie, and the sale of brooms, dishcloths, photographic cards, cookbooks, and used books from our Book Group. Programs were built on the theme "To Seek Growth in Knowledge" and included aromatherapy, getting acquainted with each other, holiday traditions, our members' musical talents, research on aging, a presentation by two UW Scholar Award winners, and the Odyssey Project, a local non-profit program which assists low income and minority individuals to continue their education.

Nancy (M &)

2005-2006: This year, with Jean Frank as President, we came to rely on e-mail (and e-mail buddies) to keep our members informed and remind them of meetings. An informal chapter evaluation resulted in the development of an informational orientation piece for new members. Several changes were made in our Bylaws and Standing Rules, mainly to reflect international dues changes. Our membership stood at 71, including 59 residents and 14 non-residents. Average meeting attendance was 29. We initiated Maureen Edwards and received Linda Hogle by dimit. We lost Ann Lubenow by dimit to chapter CO, Ft. Collins, CO., and three members became inactive--Fran Bright, Mary King, and Janice Walden. We honored 50-year-member Martha Reynolds with a birthday cake at our June convention overview. "To Seek Growth in Charity" was our program theme, with program topics ranging from several local charities, Navajo rug weaving, flower arranging, stem cell research, international reconstructive surgery, feeding the hungry, the life of a TV anchor woman, and a horse barn tour and horseback riding demonstration by one of our equestrian members. We also enjoyed an excellent report from a Vancouver international convention delegate. With money raised at meeting raffles and special meals, we distributed \$1500 to P.E.O. projects, \$1,000 to the Odyssey project, and 40 pounds of food collected for a local food pantry. Our social committee organized a BIL dessert with a slide presentation, "Not So Pacific," featuring photographers/authors Beth and John Ross. Two members, Jane Stark and SaraLee Hinckley, prepared successful HELP grant applications which

provided funding for a braille machine for Volunteer Braillists and \$2,000 toward refurbishing a lounge at the Madison YWCA for formerly homeless families living there. Nancy Hertel and Carolyn White represented our chapter as chairs of the all-Madison area Reciprocity Founders' Day brunch.

Carolyn

2006-2007: Jean Frank's second year as president was a year of both joy and sadness. BL's membership ended at 65, including 54 residents and 11 non-residents. We were happy to gain three new members--Dale Wortley by initiation, and Susan Teteak and Judy Moriarty by dimit. We were sorry to lose nine--Stephany Halverson, Mary Heine, Mimi Koenig, and Marge Hibner to Chapter Eternal; Helen Sivertson and Fran Kingery who joined Ann Lubenow in dimitting to chapters elsewhere; and two members, Mary Jane Maier and Mary Cole, who became inactive when they went back to work. Nevertheless, meeting attendance averaged 32 per meeting. We were delighted with fall visits from two non-resident members, Charlotte King and Cynthia Norvell. We continued our generous gifting to P.E.O. projects and contributed \$500 to the Odyssey project. Sarah Rose and Jean Rennebohm were honored as 50-year members, Fran Kingery as a 60-year member, and Connie Todd as a 70-year member. We supported the application of candidates for both an ELF loan and a P.E.O. Scholar Award, as well as sharing the funding for an IPS Designated Scholar Award with Chapter BC. Several members and their spouses were involved in "Camp BL" where they hosted a week of Madison home visits and activities for the four children of our IPS Designated Scholar, Kenyan Dorothy Rambo, to assist her in organizing her coursework in St. Paul. We continued our Special Sisters program, paid home visits to an elderly member in Sauk City, and delivered holiday cookies to local IPS students and homebound members. Our Ways and Mean Committee set up several special meal events, arranged for our participation in Community Day twice, and mounted a very successful Christmas baked goods auction as well as selling brooms and dishcloths--all to support our projects. Our social highlight was a summer garden party--a comedy club-style picnic featuring entertainment by BILs Dave Nelson and Phil Dybdahl. This year's program theme, "Broadening Our Horizons," was reflected in a variety of topics--20th Century toys, Gilda's Club, Madison Ballet's Christmas "Nutmcracker," safety, urban planning, improving job and school success for minority children, Italian cooking, and a spring walk in our local botanical garden.

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As we celebrate our 55th birthday this May, we give thanks for five more years of opportunities to contribute to society and celebrate wonderful friendships with our sisters through Chapter BL, P.E.O. Sisterhood! And we look forward to the next five years!

[This report was written in memory of our late historian, Mimi Koenig, who was anxious to take on this project until she was taken from us by illness in the fall. It was prepared by her five-year history committee of three past presidents and our new historian.]

Lovingly in P.E.O.,
Jean Frank, Nancy Hertel, Mary Lou Hogan, and
Carolyn White