

FIVE YEAR HISTORY
Chapter BL, Madison, Wisconsin
1992-1997

Chapter BL will celebrate its 45th birthday on May 3, 1997. During the past five years the chapter has prospered and matured under the able leadership of presidents Ann Nelson (1991-1993) Sarah Rose (1993-1995) and Lois Benton (1995-1997). What follows is a brief summary of their terms of office

1992-1993 During Ann's tenure the chapter undertook the project of providing \$500 for a designated IPS Student. We were assigned Hsui-Ling Lin who attended the University of Chicago. In July we made arrangements for Hsui-Ling (and her new husband!) to visit Madison. It was a joy to meet them and our only regret was that Chicago was too far distant to have the personal contact with them we could have enjoyed had they been here on our UW campus.

With additional money we raised from a picnic at Vilas Park zoo, selling See's candy, a Christmas auction, plus our on-going Bridge playing and the sale of brooms and dishcloths, we were able to give \$1,270 to P.E.O. projects. We sponsored Carol Wilson's granddaughter for an ELF loan of \$1,750 for her occupational therapy internship and were delighted when it was granted.

On a pleasant July evening we boarded a bus and along with our BILs journeyed to Spring Green for a performance under the stars by the American Players Theatre. It was so successful we have done it almost every year since.

We welcomed back former member Mary Lou Hogan by demit from chapter F, New Mexico. We initiated Marcie Stark (our Jane Stark's daughter-in-law). We regretted Marge Hibner's decision to go inactive. Charlotte King became our second 50 year member in June. Chapter BL numbers 57 resident and 9 non-resident members.

1993-1994 After two surveys, much committee work and chapter discussion we made a change from half afternoon, half evening meetings to predominately afternoon meetings, and for the present, that schedule plus three evening meetings to accommodate our working members seems to be working well. Luncheon preceding the afternoon meetings give us time and opportunity to foster our friendship for one another. It also gave rise to the publication of "Join Us For Lunch", a BL cookbook which has been a good source of revenue for projects.

We welcomed two demits, Jean Frank of AA, Ohio and Nancy Moore from AT, North Dakota. Two of our non-resident daughters requested demits; Rachel Nelson to ES, Minnesota and Susan Brucks to EZ, California. Our membership now totals 62 resident and 7 non-resident members.

We raised almost \$1,200 on a chapter garage sale. This, plus our sale of brooms, candy, dishcloths, Bed and Breakfast and Bridge allowed us to contribute \$1,036 to projects and give \$500 to a Nigerian student and \$300 to our ELF student to help them with specific needs.

Our ELF recipient, Dee Grimsrud, a P.E.O. from Arizona shared with us her experience in the school of Library Science where she is working toward a Master's degree. She is particularly interested in genealogical research. We also had the privilege of meeting Suzanne Watling, a P.E.O. Scholar studying at the UW-Madison campus. She charmed us with her flute music as well as her personality and scholarship.

We were saddened by the death of Jane Secord, a long-time and vital member of BL and the community as a whole. She is missed by all of us who knew and loved her.

1995-1996 In March we began another year in P.E.O. with the initiation of Judy Christenson. We were pleased to accept two demits, Renae Magera from chapter B, South Dakota and Polly Diem, a lateral demit from AX, Wisconsin. We granted demits to Lois Bowers to chapter CR Arizona and Jean Olson to CZ, Minnesota. Our total membership is 63. Harriet Nordholm became our 3rd 50-year member and was recognized at the state convention.

The Social committee planned two delightful affairs which included our BILs -- a Halloween party at Blackhawk Country Club complete with costumes and masks; and an "eagle watch" in January at Sauk Prairie where we viewed bald eagles soaring over the open water of the Wisconsin River.

This year we were able to contribute \$650 to our P.E.O. projects, \$125 to the P.E.O. Foundation in answer to their anniversary challenge, \$200 to our ELF recipient to help her with her last semester expenses and \$250 for books and clothing for needy Kindergarten students at Thoreau school when one of our members brought their plight to our attention.

1996-1997 In association with chapter BC we were co-sponsors of an IPS designated scholar Yoon Mi Lee from Korea. Her exciting news was the birth of a son, their first child. We have known her ever since she came to the UW as an IPS student so we awaited his birth with more than just casual interest and joined BC in presenting him with a gift. In addition to this \$250 to IPS, we gave \$700 to projects.

Our former ELF student spoke at convention and now that she has finished school we have sponsored Jan Wilson, daughter of our Carol, for an ELF loan as she pursues an MBS degree in rehabilitation of the blind.

We had just initiated Cynthia Norvell when her husband accepted a position in Michigan. We wish her well and hope she will find a warm welcome from our sisters there and ultimately a P.E.O. "home".

Edna Rieman who has been inactive for three years celebrated her 100th birthday this year. As chapter BL's gift to her, her membership has been re-activated. Edna resides in a nursing facility.

Convention '96 in Appleton was of special interest to us when two of our members were honored for their years of membership -- Connie Todd for 60 years and Fran Kingery for 50. We also received a certificate of recognition from P.E.O. Scholar Awards for nominating Sally Ross (daughter of Charter member Beth Ross) who was selected as a P.E.O. Scholar for the 1996-1997 academic year. We are so proud of her!

We initiated Donna Suby, received by demit Nancy Hertel from BC, Iowa and regretfully said good-bye to Mildred Wedemeyer when she and her P.L. left Madison to live nearer family. We are delighted that Janice Walden made the decision to return to active member status.

We sponsored Vicki Rybaski for a Continuing Education grant of \$1278 to help her complete her studies in the dietetics field. We presented her with her check when she and Yoon Kyeong Nah (our IPS Designated scholar) attended a luncheon with us in January. It is always a pleasure to meet these fine young women, and we come away inspired by their dedication and with the feeling our funds are well invested. Again this year our contribution to other P.E.O. projects was \$700.

Attendance at our meetings has been at the 50% level toward which we have been striving. We number 55 resident and 12 non-resident members.

And now as we proceed toward the half-century mark I predict Chapter BL will continue to grow in confidence and love, our stars shining, showing us the way.

Charlotta King
Historian