

February 23, 1983

Dear Bette and Sisters in BL,

I've had such a pleasant year being president of Chapter BL -- thanks to each and everyone of you -- that I always keep looking forward to the next event! However, at this time I guess I must pause and reminisce about the year 1982-83, and what made it what it was!

March 31, 1982, we celebrated Founders Day with all the other Madison Chapters at the Governors Mansion. Joyce Dreyfus, an unaffiliate, and wife of the governor, was our gracious hostess. Sara Rose took the part of one of the P.E.O. founders in the program that was planned by the reciprocity board, and Dorothy Leon helped with the food.

May 3, 1982 marked Chapter BL's 30th birthday and on May 12th, Jean Clausen read our five year history which was written by Zo Kussow.

June 15-17, 1982 -- These days were the culmination of two years of planning for Chapter BL. As chairman chapter for this 65th annual convention of the Wisconsin State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood held at Edgewood College, two of our past presidents, Martha Reynolds and Florence Nordholm, acted as co-chairmen, and Carol Wilson was the convention treasurer. Housing and registration were handled by Cathy Barker, Fran Kingery, Jean Rennebohm, and Gen Busse. Betty Land and Marion Rice were on the music committee. Evelyn Jennings was the convention song leader. Ann Nelson and Sara Rose were pages and dressed in costumes according to the Mary-GO-Round decorating theme. Jean Clausen worked on publicity. Jean Schaeffer, Dorothy Leon, and Joan Borgwardt did the printing, and Jane Stark handled transportation. To these members and all the others who gave so generously of their time and talents -- it was a job well done!

On May 22nd, Chapter BL was honored to be the sponsoring chapter at the organization of Chapter DH in Stoughton. Cathy Barker, BL's immediate past president, and now Madison's Reciprocity Board President, helped with the organization and planning, and Fran Kingery hosted the visiting state officers in her home in Stoughton -- aided by some of BL's good cooks. Another chapter was organized in Madison on November 13th, and in September, Chapter BL granted consent for DH to be chartered.

On September 8th, BL gathered at my home to honor our bride-to-be -- Susan Koenig. Susan is one of our non-resident members, and daughter of Mime. She was married on September 11th.

This year we have added five new members. On September 28th, we initiated Stephany Halvorson and Sigrid Jensen, and on January 12th, 1983, we initiated Laura Secord, daughter of Jane Secord; Janet Gullickson, and Audry Dybdahl. We now have 51 resident members and 8 non-resident members. Sara Bagsberg joined the later group when she moved to San Diego this past year. Two of our non-resident members requested dimits this year -- Alicia Dittbrenner to AL, New Mexico; and Cindy Jennings Goss to CH, Eau Claire.

In April of '82, BL decided to work toward becoming a Golden Anniversary Chapter. In May we voted to make the money, or part of it by having one big garage sale! On October 1st and 2nd, our Trash and Treasure Sale came to pass! We held it at the Covenant Presbyterian Church. This was truly a 100% chapter effort -- plus many willing and strong BIL's. The organization and execution honors go to our co-chairmen, Jane Rogers and Gen Busse. We netted \$1170.00 from the sale. A special word of appreciation goes to BIL Ray Balfour who got us matching funds from his employer -- the Ray-O-Vac Company -- this totaled \$800.00 -- so these two sums plus what was already in the fund put us over the top! We are now the 51st chapter in Wisconsin to achieve this goal.

The ways and means committee with Dorothy Leon as Chairman has, just since September 1st, put \$512.48 into the treasury. The two big money makers were the fall dinner, which netted \$161.00, and the Christmas sale, \$250.98. This has enabled us to give \$230.00 to our P.E.O. projects and \$325.00 to Cathy Wilson, our continuing education student.

Our bridge marathon, under the direction of Jeannette Thomas, continues to be a popular chapter activity. Next month we are launching a book exchange group to expand our interests -- Jean Rennebohm is organizing this.

Many of our members have full or part time employment -- some prefer not to go to night meetings -- so we're trying something new this year -- just on a trial basis -- eliminating two winter evening meetings -- having three twilight meetings at 5:30, and continuing through June and July.

Chapter BL has grown in size, and its members live throughout a big area. Concern has been expressed that we may be failing to act when emergencies or problems arise for members -- consequently the chapter has been divided into three geographical teams to deal with such concerns.

These then are the highlights of the things that were! Each and everyone can be proud of our accomplishments -- we met the challenges, and now are looking forward to the coming year -- may it be filled with sisterly love and understanding.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,



Helen Sivertson, President