

President's Letter '55

January 18, 1955

Dear Beulah,

The year '54-'55 places another milestone in the life of Chapter BL for we have arrived at the end of three years and are getting well out of the baby stage. The small group of PEO's who organized this chapter may well be proud of the progress our sisterhood has made in these few years. Might I say right here that of the 17 charter members only Marian Blair, Gail Frazier, Mary Hobba, June Larson, May Rarick, Betty Rennebohm, Doris Johnston Riemen and myself remain. That in itself shows that BL has had its ups and downs, but now we have that "forward - look" for sure.

Chapt. BL has 27 active members, five of which are non - resident. Our average attendance is about 15. We have granted three demits---- Carolyn Dauner to Chapt. P, New York; Jean Pearce to AS, Wisc; and Beverly Serns to AD, New Mexico.

We are also so happy to report that we have taken in three members by demit. Carol Wilson from AN, Wisc.; Alicia Dittberner U, Wisc.; and Zo Kussow from Chapt. X, Wisc. By the time this reaches you we hope all the detailed work will be done so that Jo Anne Hedlin and Hazel Weeden will be active members of Chapt. BL. Let me say that we appreciate very much those unaffiliates who have joined us and right from the start have given ~~us~~ so much of their time and energy for the betterment of BL.

It was indeed our pleasure to initiate into our chapter: Marjorie Hibbner, Jean Clausen and Virginia Malmumquist. All three possessing the finest of PEO material.

We had rather a busy Spring, socially speaking, in that two of our members became brides. Marian Caldwell married Harold Mason and they are now living in California. Our dear charter member Mary Mason left mMadison to take a long trip finally ending up in California too, to be near Harold and Marian. Then Doris Johnston married Bill Riemen. After a delightful honeymoon trip through Europe they are back with us for at least this year. In May we had a family picnic at which time we said farewell to Beth Ross and her family. They are now in San Antonio, Texas where Mr. Ross is serving Uncle Sam for 21 months.

Perhaps the highlight of our social program is our annual guest night which takes place in the fall. It is so nice to have a time to invite other PEO's to share our talents and to get better acquainted. But we must not over look our BIL parties. Their success can only be attained by a good turn out of BIL's and we are happy to report that they have turned out almost 100% at each party. Our next one will be in March.

This fall we decided that Chapt. BL must do something to make ourselves stronger financially. In the past our annual Xmas Bazar has been our one main source of income and a good source too. This year we almost doubled our intake over last year. That of course could be due to the change of auctioneer's! Still wanting a bigger ~~idea~~. We entered the project of selling "Peanut Crunch and Mints"----- What a money maker it has turned out to be! I'm certain that BL never realized what natural born saleswomen existed in our chapter. Please excuse me for making just on little off the cuff remark... I do believe we have been envied by other Madison Chapters by our great enthusiasm for this project and the results.

We also voted this fall to have secret sisters which has definitely added a bit of anticipation during the year.

We are proud of the thoughtfulness and consideration given our members on all occasions by an efficient courtesy committee headed by Nancy Ragatz.

Unaffiliated members in Madison have been contacted and brought to our meetings when possible.

We keep in touch with our non-resident members by remembering them with cards at Xmas, sending them a year book and also a copy of the President's letter.

\$16 was sent to the Cottey Chapel Fund and we are hoping to be able to budget more for donations soon.

Chapter BL is proud of its attainments in only three years time----- and as we grow we are realizing more and more the intangible qualities that endears the sisterhood to us.

Chapter BL sends its love and best wishes to a State President and our Organizer, who radiates all the qualities of a true PEO and may you enjoy great success in the months ahead.

Yours in PEO,

*Jeannette Thomas,*  
*President.*