

FIVE YEAR HISTORY  
Chapter BL, Madison, Wisconsin  
1988-1992

Chapter BL celebrated its 40th anniversary on May 13, 1992, with a luncheon, complete with birthday cake and candles, and a review of the chapter from its beginning, presented by Zo Kussow.

The following is a summary of the past five years.

1987-1988. With the theme "Celebrate Freedom"; President Fran Kingery presided over a year of cooperative effort, interesting programs, and lots of good food. A delightful BIL dinner, a 35th birthday celebration attended by members dressed as they might have been in 1952, and teas for daughter brides-to-be were highlights of the year. A successful Trash and Treasure sale plus money from the bridge group, and the sale of bean soup, brooms, and dish-clothes enabled us to contribute \$200 to our Continuing Education recipient as well as \$365 to other PEO projects.

We were greatly saddened by the deaths of charter member Jeannette Thomas and of Elizabeth Weber, who was a PEO for more than fifty years. June Larson dimited to QF, California, and Karen Shotwell came to us from BE, Idaho. Sarah Rose's daughter Susan was initiated in April. Our chapter now numbers 49 active and resident members and 10 non-residents.

1988-1989. The second year of Fran Kingery's leadership found many sisters traveling. Betty Sarig, one of our long time non-resident members, became inactive. We mourned the death of Judy Dana. We welcomed Janice Walden from JP, Iowa, and Patty Storm from JD, California.

A Continuing Education candidate received \$200 from our chapter and we gave \$660 to other PEO projects, with our coffers enriched by the opening dinner and other Ways and Means committee sources. We enjoyed salad luncheons this year. Our theme "To Seek Growth in Knowledge and Culture" was well exemplified by our 49 active resident members.

1989-1990. Sandra Balfour was in her first year of presidency when several innovations to draw members more closely together were



successfully begun: the monthly NEWSLETTER, assignment of "Special Sisters", and monthly "Drop-In Luncheons" at a local restaurant. These carried out our theme of "Sharing Objects and Aims". Our second Trash and Treasure sale in Connie Todd's garage plus other projects enabled us to give \$605 to our PEO projects, plus \$300 to our ELF recipient, who spoke to us in September

A farewell tea honored Trudy Bangsberg before she moved to the north woods. A fish boil at the home of Ann and David Nelson was enjoyed by our BILs.

We were grieved by the sudden death of Kristen Roethe, daughter of Florence Nordholm and sister of Ann Nelson. Four women were initiated: Judy McClain; Ellen Smithback, daughter of Audrey Dybdahl; Jennifer Roethe, daughter of Kristen and granddaughter of Florence Nordholm and niece of Ann Nelson; and Carol Rau, daughter of Virginis Malmquist. We gained Jean Olsen from AI, North Dakota, and lost Karen Shotwell to U, Utah and Laura Secord to BL, Minnesota. Baby spoons were presented to Janice Walden and Ellen Smithback.

Our chapter now has 52 resident and 8 non-resident members. Illnesses and sorrows suffered by sisters and their loved ones have brought about an increased caring and closeness among us.

1990-1991. The theme "Our PEO Sisters and Friends--at Home and Abroad" provided fascinating programs. The monthly NEWSLETTER and Drop-In Luncheons celebrating birthdays of the month continue to be popular, as does the Special Sister arrangement.

During President Sandra Balfour's second term we were thrilled to see our own Cathy Barker installed as State President of PEO. Our ELF recipient, Muriel Filer, spoke at the state convention.

With the innovation of a "Travel Trinket Raffle" plus our other money raisers, we were able to give \$700 to PEO projects with an additional gift of \$500 to the PEO Scholar Award in honor of Cathy Barker and a memorial of \$500 sent to Cottey to purchase a bench in memory of Kristen Roethe.



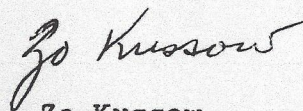
Edna Riemen's 95th birthday was celebrated at a luncheon. We initiated Ann Vincent. Rachel Nelson, daughter of Ann and granddaughter of Florence Nordholm, became a PEO with her sister Kathy Koester serving as president. We welcomed dimits Jean Findley from DS, Minnesota and Harriet Nordholm from CR, Florida. We were sorry to lose Jennifer Roethe to CD, Ohio, and Marj Moore to Nebraska. Karen Whitsitt chose to become inactive. Our membership stands at 53 resident members with 9 non-residents.

1991-1992. A singular highlight during Ann Nelson's presidency was watching our own Cathy Barker preside at the State Convention in Madison. Many members attended, with four tables of BLs and their BILs at the dinner.

With our theme "A Celebration in Heart and Spirit" we found much to celebrate: the visit of an IPS student, Christmas with Chapter V, Edna Riemen's 96th birthday luncheon, and dimits Susan Denholm from HI, New Hampshire, and Judy Nicolet from DK, Wisconsin. The third garage sale at the home of Connie Todd netted us \$1435 to work with. The Ways and Means committee's other fund raisers allowed us to give \$750 toward projects. We decided to allocate \$1000 to help Curt Kussow, son of Zo Kussow, who has suffered from many problems since being stricken with viral encephalitis two years ago at the age of 38. We applied to the H.E.L.P. fund and received the full amount of \$1700 for kitchen remodeling to provide mental and physical therapy for Curt.

Our NEWSLETTER and Drop-In birthday luncheons continue to be popular. We now have 55 resident and 8 non-resident members.

And so have passed another five years of love and friendship, of caring and giving in the annals of Chapter BL of the PEO Sisterhood in Wisconsin.



Zo Kussow  
Historian