

February 1994

Dear Pat and Sisters in Chapter BL,

Our theme this year, which was inspired by your own theme, Pat, has been *Love and Harmony in Chapter BL*. Both love and harmony have been very much in evidence throughout the year as we have worked together and played together. I have sincerely appreciated the love, patience and cooperation of my sisters along the way.

After two surveys, much committee work, and chapter discussion, we finally made the change from half afternoon/half evening meetings to predominately afternoon meetings. This was an effort to meet the needs of the majority of our members. As I read back through the Presidents' Letters over the years of BL history, I see that we have made a number of changes in meeting times in the past and undoubtedly we will continue to be flexible and make further changes as the needs arise. For now our schedule of afternoon meetings, with just three evening meetings to accommodate our working members, seems to be working well.

We were pleased to welcome two new dimits to our group this year: Jean Frank, AA of Bowling Green, Ohio, a long time Madison resident, and Nancy Moore from AT in Fargo, North Dakota. Two of our nonresident members, both daughters of BL members, requested dimits. We granted dimits to Rachel Nelson who dimited to her sister's chapter, ES of Eagan, MN, and to Susan Brucks who dimited to Chapter EZ of Palm Desert, CA. We are pleased that they have found new and more convenient P.E.O. homes. Our membership now totals 62, with 7 members being nonresident.

Our sisters truly showed their love and concern with food, cards, visits, and lots of love and support for our dear sister, Jane Secord, during the long months before her death. The Telephone Tree worked efficiently and the food poured in again for the family at the time of the funeral. And then again, just a week later we combined our efforts in support of our sister, Jean Clausen, at the time of her husband's unexpected death. It was a difficult time for all but it was made a little easier by the love and kindness of each sister.

We have enjoyed many happy times together too. Several chapter members traveled to our State Convention in Eau Claire to share the fun when Charlotte King was honored as a 50 year member. And then we celebrated with a lovely luncheon honoring both Charlotte and our previous 50 year member, Connie Todd. It was a special pleasure to have Charlotte's sister and one of her daughters come to Madison to share this festive occasion with us. In July we were entertained with an evening of Shakespeare under the stars with our B.I.L.s at American Players Theater in Spring Green. And we have shared good fellowship and fun on a trip to New Glarus for lunch and during our monthly Drop In Luncheons at a local restaurant where we celebrate our birthdays. Two of our daughters, Beth White and Kris Clausen, were married this year giving us two other opportunities to socialize and celebrate.

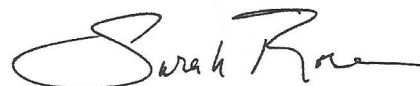
Our Program committee planned an eventful year. We enjoyed traveling to Greece and Turkey, to the Winter Olympics, to Ireland, and just over the hills to Sauk Prairie to see the Eagles on the Wisconsin River, all from our own living rooms. We were also treated to a preview of what promises to be a beautiful book by Beth Ross and her B.I.L. John. We were delighted by a lovely Christmas program of music given by three talented P.E.O. sisters, one from Chapter BC. Another of our sisters helped us grow in our understanding of what it is like to live with a chronic illness.

Our Ways and Means Committee had a very busy, very successful year. We raised almost \$1200.00 on a chapter wide garage sale and another \$350.00 through the sale of See's candy. We also raise funds for projects by selling brooms and dish clothes, by providing B&B for traveling P.E.O.s, by the sale of lovely photo cards made by one of our talented members and, of course, our bridge players continue to play, have fun and made money in the process. We are great cooks providing delicious luncheons before each meeting. One of our members has kindly offered to compile a cookbook of recipes from these luncheons. We're looking forward to the outcome of this new project. As a result of all of our fund raising efforts we were able to contribute \$1036.00 to our projects and give another \$500.00 to a Nigerian IPS student and \$300.00 our ELF student to help them with specific needs for a total contribution this year of \$1836.00.

Our Projects have received much of our attention. Early in the year we saw the IPS video made by Sandra Balfour. Our designated IPS student from Taiwan, Hsui-Ling Lin, who is studying at the University of Chicago, traveled to Madison with her husband to give us a very interesting program. Our ELF recipient, Dee Grimsrud, a P.E.O. from Arizona, spoke with us about her work toward her Masters Degree in the School of Library Science. She even found time to join us for one of our Drop In Luncheons. We are looking forward to hearing P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient, Suzanna Watling, tell us of her studies and play her flute for our February meeting. Promoting educational opportunities for women has been a top priority as we have raised funds for our P.E.O. projects and as we have been personally involved with these women who have received money for their education through P.E.O..

And so you have our year in review with some of the highlights we have experienced. But there is so much more! The many small kindnesses, the expressions of love and concern, the warmth and friendship are all very much a part of Chapter BL. I have watched as my sisters have reached out to one another and outside our chapter to touch the lives of other women in need. It is a joy to be a sister and a privilege to be president of this great group of women.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,



Sarah Rose, President