

February 12, 1998

Dear Darlyce and Sisters of Chapter BL:

One realizes how quickly time goes by when we reflect on the many activities and functions which have taken place during our last PEO year. I've always considered our PEO responsibilities a team effort and my BL sisters have proven this theory true. They have indeed been loving, generous and supportive, making my first year as president very rewarding and gratifying.

As Chapter BL began it's 45th year in the PEO Sisterhood, our membership consisted of 56 active members, 11 non-resident members and 7 inactive members. Renee Megara, a non-resident member dimitted to Chapter BC, Sioux Falls, SD. We are happy she has become active in a chapter. Through the efforts of Betty Land, we are very pleased to have re-activated two members, Marge Hibner and Fran Bright. It's been wonderful getting to know them and for some to renew old friendships. Our oldest member, Edna Reiman, passed away last summer. Members contributed \$366.00 in Edna's memory to the Cottey College General Endowment Fund. Mildred Wedemeyer celebrated her 50th year in PEO and was honored at the State Convention.

Supporting our PEO projects is very important to our members and we have been well guided in our fund raising efforts by our Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Jane Stark and Judy Nicolet. The sale of brooms, dishcloths, cookbooks and Beth Ross' cards continues. Additionally, we had a wonderful auction in November which profited over \$750.00, thanks to the generosity of our sisters. The auction was also a great deal of fun! A second income generating project is our B&B Program, ably chaired by Stephany Halverson and Donna Suby. One special guest we all enjoyed meeting was Joanne Johnson from Chapter KF, Barrington, IL, whose daughter was undergoing a series of surgeries at University Hospitals. Our chapter gave much support to the Johnson family and was well repayed by a new PEO friendship. A \$500.00 scholarship in Joanne and Holly Johnson's name was given to and eight year old Madison girl, Brittany Blue, enabling her to attend summer school at the Nehemiah Corporation's Academic Center for Excellence. Participating in

Chapter DH's Fall Boutique was an opportunity to work with other Madison area PEO's and to share our Ways and Means items.

Thanks to all of these efforts, Chapter BL was able to contribute \$1000.00 to Cottey College Academic Center Fund, \$250.00 each to Cottey College, IPS, and ELF and \$400.00 each to Continuing Education and the PEO Scholar Award. The Wisconsin Cottey Scholarship Fund and the HELP Fund each received \$150.00. Chapter BL has again shared in the sponsorship of an IPS Designated Scholar Award with Chapter BC. This year our scholar is Kafouey Etsey who is studying at the University of Iowa. She received \$250.00 plus additional support from the chapter. We are also proud to report that Vicki Rybaski, our Continuing Education Grant recipient last year completed her degree at MATC and is now employed as a dietetic technician. We continue to look for other women we could assist in their educational pursuits.

"Growth in Knowledge" has been this year's program theme and our programs have been most interesting and varied, from travel adventures, musical presentations, ethnic traditions, nature studies and educational experiences to PEO projects and convention reports. Thanks to the committee led by Betty Land and Jean Rennebohm who have presented us with this diverse mixture.

Chapter BL loves the social aspect of our sisterhood and getting to know our sisters better is an important focus of our chapter. The luncheons at our meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for friendship and growth. Other activities this past year included traveling to the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL in July and a BIL Brunch in October at Blackhawk Country Club. The monthly drop-in luncheons, our bridge marathons and the newly formed BL Book Group give additional occasions for fellowship.

It has been a pleasure to serve as president of Chapter BL and to work with this wonderful group of women. I thank you all for the love, help and support you've given me this past year and for making our year so successful. I look forward to next year and the challenge of working toward new goals and experiences.

Lovingly in PEO,

Audrey Dybdahl
Chapter BL