

February 1995

Dear Karen and Sisters in Chapter BL,

These past two years have gone by quickly and they have been a delightful experience for me, thanks to the love and support of my sisters. I have not led this group as much as we have all worked together as a team. As we have worked together we have learned to know one another better and to really enjoy each other. I hope all my sisters have felt the warmth and closeness of good friendships in P.E.O. as I have this year.

We started our year in March with the initiation of a new sister, Judy Christenson, who very quickly became a part of our group. We feel like she has been with us much longer than one year. We are delighted to have two new dimits; Renae Magera from Chapter B in Aberdeen, S.D. and Polly Diem, a lateral dimit from Chapter AX in Madison. Both are wonderful additions to our chapter. We are happy that Lois Bowers found a home in Chapter CR in Green Valley, AR where she has lived for several years. And Jean Olson moved to Bemidji, MN and quickly found a new P.E.O home when she dimited to Chapter CZ of Bemidji. Our total membership is now 63.

We started our fall on a happy note with an informal coffee where members dropped in to visit, celebrate our September birthdays, and pick up our new yearbooks with their beautiful rosemaled covers by Ann Nelson. In June we enjoyed another social occasion when we celebrated the upcoming wedding of Anne Christenson, daughter of our newest member. We also had a good chance to visit when Jane Stark had a lovely farewell tea for our two departing members, Elsa Lawrence and Jean Olson. We miss them both.

Thanks to our creative Social Committee headed by Carolyn White and Joan Borgwardt we have shared three happy events with our dear B.I.L.s. The first was an evening at Spring Green where we had a box supper and enjoyed the American Players' Theatre production of **The Learned Ladies**. Then in October we had a wonderful dinner party at Blackhawk Country Club complete with masks and costumes appropriate for Halloween. And in January we traveled to Sauk Prairie to learn about and watch the eagles who spend the winter there on the Wisconsin River. This year the Social Committee has taken the responsibility for our monthly drop in lunches and this continues to provide good informal social time for our members as we celebrate the birthdays of that month. We are looking forward to their last event of the year which will be a special luncheon in May.

This year our Program Committee headed by Audrey Dybdahl and Sig Jensen did an outstanding job as they added variety to our usual programs with some outside speakers. Their theme was **Awareness: The World Around Us**. We have been privileged to hear about Russia today from a UW History professor, South Africa; past, present and future from a UW physician who has recently moved from that country, After School Child Care from a UW professor in the Department of Educational Sciences, and American Cut Glass by a local expert in that field. And we have more to come! In addition we had an excellent Founder's Day program by our own member, Harriet Nordholm, and this month we

will enjoy hearing from our Madison IPS students. This has been a good mix and has caused our attendance to increase to an average of 25 members per meeting. In addition we have enjoyed the company of other members who can come only for the luncheon and program.

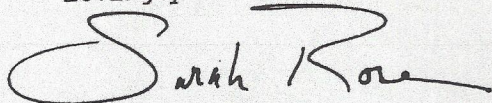
Our Ways and Means Committee headed by Ann Nelson and Jean Rennebohm has been most industrious and has provided us with great entertainment at the same time. We started our meetings in September with a delicious Harvest Dinner and Auction with netted almost \$750.00 and lots of laughter. They continued their income production with a wonderful cookbook of Chapter BL recipes which Jean Rennebohm compiled entitled *Join Us for Lunch*. In three months we sold 200 copies for a profit of almost \$475.00 and we all have our own BL cookbook to treasure. The committee also sold See's Candy again this year and they continue with the sale of brooms and dishclothes, Bridge, B&B and the sale of the lovely photo cards by Beth Ross which provides a service to the membership in addition to bringing in a healthy \$62.00 profit.

Thanks to all the efforts of the Ways and Means Committee and the generosity of the chapter members we were able to contribute \$650.00 to our P.E.O. Projects, \$125.00 to the P.E.O. Foundation in answer to the Anniversary Challenge, \$200.00 to our ELF recipient to help with her last semester of schooling and \$250.00 for needy kindergarten students at Thoreau School at Christmas time. Nancy Moore brought this need to our attention, members responded generously and Nancy took on the responsibility of shopping for books and clothing for these students who were most appreciative.

Our attention to our projects was focused primarily on Dee Grimsrud, our ELF recipient as she successfully completed her program in Library Science in December. It has been a joy to have her attend several meetings and keep us up to date on her work. We also donated home baked cookies, packaged and delivered by Chapter members, to our Madison IPS students at Christmas. In the coming year we will be sharing sponsorship of an IPS Designated Scholar with Chapter BC of Madison. We look forward to this association. We also hope to find other students in need of our sponsorship in the near future.

As I reflect on the fun we have had and all that we have accomplished this year I see a wonderful group of women who have been willing to extend themselves to make this team effort a success. I appreciate their enthusiasm and energy and their competence in handling their various jobs. It has been a pleasure to work together with my sisters and I have learned to love them dearly. This is the joy of being president of Chapter BL. Thank you for this opportunity!

Lovingly in P.E.O.,



Sarah Rose, President