

5 Year History of PEO Chapter BL 2013-2017

Introduction

Chapter BL was founded on May 3, 1952. We will be celebrating its 65th anniversary at our first meeting in September 2017! Chapter BL continues to thrive and donate to all of the P.E.O. projects as well as local charities.

We are grateful to our past presidents who provided great leadership and helped the chapter to meet its many goals. Our past presidents are:

2013 – 2015 - Judy Nicolet

2015 – 2017 - Barbara Barker

Membership

Our membership has continued to stay relatively constant, especially considering that we have many long-time members in our chapter. Recent 50 year members honored are: Mary Lou Hogan in 2014 and Ann Nelson and Judy Nicolet in 2017. This brings the total of 50 year members in BL to eight, which include: Sandra Balfour, Jean Frank, Jean Rennebohm, Jane Stark and Sarah Rose.

Below is a summary of membership changes over the last 5 years:

*Note: These dates are for PEO Fiscal years March 1, 2013 - February 28, 2017

Year*	Total Active	Total Inactive	New Members	Transfers & Reinstatements	Chapter Eternal
2013	70	16		Martha Reynolds (moved to Florida)	Genevieve Busse (50+ years) Zo Kussow (60+ years)
2014	69	14	Gabriela Olson Sue Kalin	Ginny Corwin	
2015	70	15	Mary Brewer Claudia Bringe Carol Kussow Denise Rake!l		Catherine Barker (50+ years & past WI State President) Jean Clausen
2016	64	17	Sally White	Patty Storm (moved to Minnesota)	Jean Schaeffer Connie Todd (75+ years) Elizabeth Ross (60+ years & Charter member)
2017	65	16	Tamara Jackopin	Carolyn Kau	

In addition, two candidates have recently accepted invitations to join Chapter BL. They will be initiated at one of our next meetings in September 2017.

Giving Back

We continue to raise money for PEO projects as well as other non-profits in our community. For the last three years, our Ways and Means committee has sponsored a “non-event” fund raiser. This has been very successful as some of our long-term members are not able to attend our meetings and/or are not physically able to participate in as many activities.

The donations made to local non-profits are often related to programs where we learn about these organizations in our community. These donations can be financial as well as gifts-in-kind i.e. supplies or health items for the organization and/or its’ clients. For example, in 2017 disposable diapers and personal hygiene items were collected for The Road Home Dane County, where homeless children and their families are assisted in finding affordable housing.

Below is a summary of the chapter’s financial giving:

Note: These dates are for PEO Fiscal years March 1, 2013 - February 28, 2017

Projects	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Totals
Cottee College	\$1,365	\$560	\$700	\$300	\$2,925
Educational Loan Fund	100	200	250	300	850
Int’l Peace Scholarship	300	500	600	400	1,800
PCE- Cont. Education	200	400	400	300	1,300
P.E.O. Scholar Award	300	600	600	300	1,800
STAR Scholarship	100	200	200	200	700
WI Cottee Scholar	500	400	200	200	1,300
IPS Designated Scholar	250	250	250	500	1,250
H.E.L.P. Fund	800	800	600	500	2,700
P.E.O. Special Gifts	600		100		700
The 150 Fund				150	150
Local Non-profits		400	600	986	1,986
Totals	\$4,515	\$4,310	\$4,500	\$4,136	\$17,461

Our sisters also support a small library at the Lussier Community Center in Madison, WI. Once a week, sisters work at the library maintaining and straightening the books on the shelves and checking in newly donated books. For each of the last two years, our members donated and gave over 400 new children’s books to families served by the Center at their Christmas event.

Meetings

Our Chapter’s preference is to hold as many meetings as possible in members’ homes. However, we have started holding a few meetings each year in restaurants or other venues, to accompany the program or give our hosting sisters a break. This year we met at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona to learn about their climate science education center from one of our sisters who teaches there.

We are fortunate to have sisters who are willing and able to accommodate an average of 25-35 guests. Our sisters love meeting in homes as it offers more opportunities to learn to know each other in a comfortable setting and work together on the planning and preparations.

Usually we start with a sit-down lunch prepared by a Food Committee of approximately six sisters. Our food committees set the bar pretty high for serving delicious food that is attractively presented.

Following lunch, we have a program, often with a speaker sharing a topic of interest. Thanks to our creative Program Committee, topics can be anything from health and wellness to non-profits providing goods and services to our community, to a local author.

Lastly, we have our business meeting. In addition to conducting the business at hand, we often receive updates from our project chairs on applicants and recipients of PEO scholarships or loans. We are fortunate to have many sisters so actively connected to our community, including University of Wisconsin faculty, to help our chapter find and nominate excellent candidates for these International PEO projects. Over the last five years, we have nominated seven candidates who benefited from these scholarships and loans. (They consist of: 3 IPS scholarships, 2 PCE grants, 1 STAR scholarship and 1 PEO scholar award.)

Interest Groups

The chapter has three interest groups that continue to be well liked and supported by our members. They are a Bridge group, a book group that meets once a month, and a Mah Jongg group that plays twice a month.

And thanks to our Courtesy Committee and caring members, we lovingly try to visit and support our members during their shut-in times.

Social Events

Two years ago, the Social Committee organized “small” group luncheons. These are luncheons for 6-8 sisters hosted by sisters who are not able to accommodate our large luncheon meetings. These group lunches are purely social events. They have been so well received that Social is planning them again for 2017 due to popular demand.

Approximately once a year, the chapter plans a social event which includes our BILs. Two examples during the last five years are:

Picnic and concert at Olbrich Gardens (2014)

Norwegian dinner and program honoring BIL, Phil Dybdahl, in Stoughton, WI. (2017)

Conclusion

Our sisters continue to give of their time and talents to the best of their abilities. Our committees and officers keep our chapter running smoothly. It’s a joy to be part of this chapter as Chapter BL has the best, most caring, talented sisters!

Submitted by:

Ginny Corwin, Vice President on September 23, 2017
(Name) (Date)