

Kathy Richardson

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Wisconsin State PEO President

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Dear Kathy and Chapter BL Sisters,

After serving as president for Chapter BL for two wonderful years I'm deeply saddened to leave my position. The encouragement and help from my sisters has been a wonderful experience that I wouldn't have missed for anything in this world.

Our Membership includes 56 resident members and 8 non-resident members. Sadly, we've lost 2 long standing members of Chapter BL; Marlys Sloup in June and Betty McMurray in September, and both are greatly missed by all of us. We welcomed Linda Braden, who was Initiated last April, and had 2 transfer-in sisters this fall; Marylyn Smetzer from Chapter IH in Monument, Colorado and Nancy Ross from Chapter KK in Missouri. We miss Lois Benton who transferred out to Chapter MS in Iowa after moving last year to be closer to her family. We also miss Susan Teteak who moved away to both Michigan and Florida just days after she hosted a wonderful luncheon/meeting at her home last April.

Chapter BL luncheon meetings are attended by around 32 + members each meeting. Most of our meetings are held at members homes or clubhouses. An annual winter meeting at "Attic Angels Place" where some of our eldest members reside, gives these members a chance to get to a wintertime meeting.

The "BL in Touch", our newsletter about the happenings at each of our meetings, is regularly sent out to all members and non-residents. Beautiful pictures of our BL Sisters, the guest speaker(s), and of course the fantastic meals we eat are included. This helps all members to keep in touch with our chapter happenings and their families.

Our chapter has donated \$500 to Cottey College, \$400 to the E.L.F. fund, \$500 to I.S.P., \$300 to P.C.E., \$500 to the PEO Scholar Award, \$300 to the Star Scholarship, \$250 to the Wisconsin Cottey Scholar, \$500 to the I.P.S. Designated Scholar, and \$500 to the HELP Fund making us a Laurette Chapter this year. Totaling \$3,750. We again continue to be a Laureate Chapter for the PEO Scholar Award. Julie Kallie our PEO Scholar Award Winner from last year will be speaking at our next meeting. Star Scholar 2017-18 Ellie Bowers, granddaughter of our beloved member Betty McMurry is attending Bryn Mawr College and Tessa Nutte, LaVonne McCrill's granddaughter received her E.L.F. fund in the fall. Our International Project Chairs give reports at different meetings throughout the year, keeping us current, and allowing us to discuss and help find future nominee's. Chapter BL nominated both Kim Thompson for our new PEO Scholar Award and Julia Rosendahl for our Star Scholarship Award this past fall, they both came to our last meeting to share what they are studying and how the funds have or will help them. We also received a HELP Fund grant for \$2,153 for The Lussier Center to be used for the noisy fan in the gym and Chapter BL donated 500 books for the Lussier Center Free Library, inspiring low-income children with the love of books.

Chapter BL's committees were busy as usual and quite successful:

As we finished up our last years **Program Committee** theme "**If You Rest, You Rust**" we learned about "Dane Dances" a fun way to promote inclusivity in our community with free music and dancing; "Domestic Abuse Intervention Services" with services including shelter, legal advocacy and hotlines for domestic abuse victims; "The Making Of German Reunification" a book written by our very own sister Joyce Bromley and her travels to east Germany; "Neuromuscular Re-Education" with Mary Hooper, OT, teaching us of the gentle approach of Myofascial and Craniosacral Therapy; "One City Learning" a school that recognizes that birth to seven are critical times for black children and encourages the love of learning at an early age; and lastly the "Strawberry Social" where the Wisconsin State Convention Report is given. This year's new Program Committee's theme was "**Many Paths to Learning**" where we learned about "Lady Liberty" a dissertation on the many changes over time to the Miss Liberty we see now; "Victorian Secrets: Historic Undergarments" during the Queen Victoria time 1837-1901 where the more undergarments you wore meant wealth and how the styles kept changing; "Art of Felting" by our sister Ginny Corwin who repurposes different types of wool sweaters to make mittens and hats, she sold every one she brought and donated some of the funds to Ways and Means; "Woman's Health Initiative" started by Sue Ann Thompson after having Cancer, to help women with their healthcare; "Dining with the Danes" by Orange Schroeder of Orange Tree Imports who told us of the traditional Dane meals and our food committee fed us a Dane lunch to match; "Inspirations from English Gardens" by Chief Horticulturist, Jeff Epping of Olbrich Gardens who shared pictures and travel of English Gardens. We all gathered for our annual "Christmas Luncheon" at Blackhawk Country Club where we shared a delightful luncheon with Chapter BC of Madison, we had Christmas Music provided by the Attic Angel Choir, which included members from both chapters.

Social Committee had a summer event in August at the American Players Outdoor Theater to see the play "Born Yesterday" and a BBQ dinner was served. Unfortunately, the mosquitos ate well also. Our first meeting of the 2018-19 year was an evening Social Event at a member's home with an excellent dinner of Cincinnati Chili served over noodles, preceded with wine and hors d'oeuvres before served outside on a beautiful deck. In January, they arranged several Restaurant Week lunches at different local Madison restaurants, where many members took advantage of the great prices offered.

Ways and Means had another successful year fundraising by making and selling beautiful handmade Daisy Aprons, Christmas Wreaths and Swags (that were gathered and assembled by members), and mailing out Handmade Bookmarks for a donation.

Courtesy Committee did an excellent job delivering cards, food and Christmas Cookies to our sisters who were sick, injured, unable to attend meetings or lost a loved one. They also kept in touch with me so I could let other members know who needed help and/or other details.

Our **Four Interest Groups: Book Club, Bridge and Mah Jongg** are still active monthly where new and old members enjoy getting to know each other better in a smaller setting. The **Lussier Center Library** is still maintained by most of Chapter BL by helping collect books, organizing and straightening shelves. New Books are given away at a Holiday event at the Lussier Center for children from low income families.

Thanks to all of my PEO sisters, I've had a wonderful two years of being the Chapter BL President. I couldn't have done it without all of their love and encouragement. What a strong group of women!

LIPEO,

Carol Kussow

President, Chapter BL

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