

RELIGHTING THE TORCH

REVIVING BETA SIGMA PHI



Latest news

- The new normal
- How to keep your chapter active
- Upcoming conventions
- Chapter Chatter
- Stay in touch with us

WELCOME TO THE NEW BETA SIGMA PHI MAGAZINE!

A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

This magazine is compiled, edited, designed, and put together by your sisters to help promote sisterhood amongst members. We are volunteering our time and talents and will learn and evolve this publication as we go along.

We need information from you to publish here! Please send Chapter Chatter, convention news, program ideas, and anything else you think other sisters would enjoy reading.

When submitting information, please keep it brief, under 100 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space requirements. Please ensure submitted photos are high quality and your own, not from a professional photographer.

Send your ideas to us at
magazinebsp@gmail.com.

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REMEMBERING A SISTER

For anyone who visited Beta Sigma Phi's International office in the past few years, you may remember the receptionist, Marcia Kelly, who greeted each visitor with a warm smile. Sadly, she passed away on August 20.

Marcia was a lifetime member of Beta Sigma Phi and held the rank of Torchbearer in her Missouri Gamma Master chapter. She was honored with the prestigious International Order of Distinction by the International office. Marcia also held numerous officer positions in both Independence and Kansas City City Councils, as well as her local chapter.



Marcia Bernice Kelly
December 2, 1951 - August 20, 2026

**LIFE
LEARNING
FRIENDSHIP**

VITA SCIENTIA AMICITIA

A Note from Your Sisters



Like most of you, we were shocked and disappointed to hear that the Beta Sigma Phi International Office will cease operations as of June 30, 2026. Sadly, many questions were raised, and very few answers were given.

You may have seen that a new Facebook Group was created to help sisters sort out what the future looks like for our beloved organizations as well as our individual chapters. We are simply not willing to let Beta Sigma Phi die a slow death after 95 years,

That Facebook group “ReviveBSP” has more than 1,900 members, and the website reviveBSP.com is also now active and gathering information to share. Those two sites will be our primary way of communicating with our sisters. Our core group of volunteer members will continue to spread the light of our torch throughout the world.

We still have many things to finalize for each Chapter, City Council, and Member. We promise to do our best to provide information and resources to continue Beta Sigma Phi's 95-year legacy.

Your sisters,

LuWanda Ford
Bew Banks

Founders of Revive BSP

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Continue meeting as a chapter & continue enjoying the sisterhood that Beta Sigma Phi has established.
- Have your chapter members join “Revive BSP” on Facebook for ideas from other Chapters around the world.
- Watch ReviveBSP.com for additional information.
- Attend a Convention or Four State Area Breakfast. See the information in this issue for details that we know of.
- Please send us details to revivebsp@gmail.com to be included in the next issue of this magazine.
- Add new sisters to your chapter! Remember there are no international dues. Chapter dues are the only fees that new members need to pay.
- Email chapter photos and information to us, so that we can publicize your chapter activities in this publication.



Where can we get our Beta Sigma Phi supplies?

This is perhaps the biggest question that has been raised since the announcement of the International Office. As part of their initial communication plan, it was announced that pins and other supplies would be available only while supplies lasted. Not surprisingly, degree pins all sold out very quickly.

What should your chapter do when its time for a member to receive their next degree?

- Consider having members of your Chapter give their lower-degree pins to the progressing member, or, if a member has a relative who was a member, reuse their pins.
- Check sites like eBay. Some theme charms, degree pins, officer pins, and other Beta Sigma Phi-related items are available for reasonable prices.
- For your chapter's pin needs, please visit the Beta Sigma Phi Pins Exchange FB page and the Beta Sigma Phi Boutique FB page and their website to order pins.
www.sisterscrafted.com

We have heard that some enterprising City Councils and Chapters are going directly to the vendor that International used to produce the pins. The minimum order is 100. Those Councils/Chapters will likely have items available for sale.

How can I obtain the Order of the Rose, Silver Circle, Golden Circle or other certificates formerly provided by International?

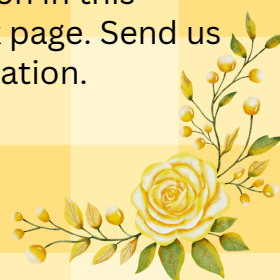
- Members can access these documents on ReviveBSP.com and download and print them. There will be no charge for these.

When we get new members, where can we get the “ Invitation to Life” and “Book of Beta Sigma Phi” for their pledge training?

These books, along with our ritual book, are available on Amazon. You can also check whether any of your current members have the books they received during their own pledge training.

What about conventions? Will they take place in the future?

- It's up to each Chapter or City Council that puts on the convention, area breakfast or conclave to decide for themselves. We are happy to publicize information in this magazine as well as on ReviveBSP.com and on the Revive BSP Facebook page. Send us the information, and we will add it to the upcoming issues of this publication.



Upcoming events

2026



NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION

Cooperstown, NY
October 2-4
Otesaga Resort Hotel
bspny2026.org



**"Fairy Tales Do
Come True"**

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

Williamsburg, VA
October 2-4
Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg Hotel
and Conference Center



**"Cruising Down
the Mississippi"**



2027

ARIZONA STATE CONVENTION

Prescott, AZ
January 2027

CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

San Luis Obispo, CA
April 30 - May 2

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CONVENTION

Greenville, SC
May 14-16

MINK (Missouri/Iowa/Nebraska/Kansas)

Kansas City, Missouri
August 20-22

WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION

Yakima, WA
July 16-18



2028

Victoria, British Columbia Conclave

"Breakfast at Tiffany's" theme
May 26



The New Normal: Beta Sigma Phi today....

For more than nine decades, Beta Sigma Phi has meant something singular: a torch, a triad, and a promise—Life, Learning, and Friendship—a group that could hold women together across cities, states, provinces, and even oceans. For most of that history, a central International Office stood behind the promise: printing the rituals, mailing the pins, answering the phone when a new chapter needed a charter, and giving every "sister of the heart" a shared address to call home.



Beta Sigma Phi international office is now closed. For many members, the news landed like the loss of a parent home—disorienting, a little frightening, and impossible to imagine replacing. It is fair to grieve that. It is also fair, and necessary, to ask what comes next.

Change Is Not the Same as Ending

In any organization facing this kind of structural loss, the instinct is to treat it as an ending. But an international office is infrastructure, not identity. Beta Sigma Phi was never the building in Kansas City, the mailing list, or the administrative staff who processed pins and dues. It was always the promise members made to each other in living rooms, church basements, and community halls: to show up, support, celebrate a milestone, and sit with a sister through a hard season. That promise does not require a national mailing address to survive. It requires the members who already carry it.

Organizational psychologists who study institutional transitions consistently find that groups which survive structural upheaval are the ones that separate the container from the content early and clearly. The container—the office, the org chart, the governance structure—can change dramatically. The content—the relationships, the rituals, the shared values—is portable. Beta Sigma Phi's content has never lived in Kansas City. It lives in ten thousand chapter meetings a month. That is the asset every chapter, and city, state or provincial council now needs to protect and consciously carry forward.

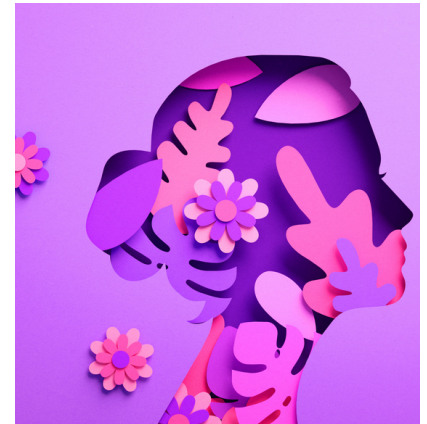
The New Normal cont'd

What Each Member, City Council Can Actually Do

At the chapter level, the work is the most human and the most immediate. Chapters can name the moment honestly at their next meeting — acknowledge the loss, let members voice uncertainty, and then pivot deliberately to what stays the same: the ritual book each chapter already holds, the traditions each group has built locally, and the calendar of gatherings that doesn't depend on anyone in Missouri. A chapter that keeps meeting, keeps its rituals, and keeps checking on its members has, in the truest sense, kept Beta Sigma Phi alive.



At the City Council level, this is a moment for stewardship. City Councils are often the layer closest to multiple chapters in a shared community, and they are well positioned to become informal record-keepers and connectors — maintaining a shared roster, coordinating joint events, and making sure that no single chapter feels it is navigating this alone. Councils can also take on some of the light administrative continuity that members will miss, such as a shared calendar of ritual milestones or a simple directory that used to be maintained centrally.



At the state or provincial council level, the opportunity is bigger: to become the connective tissue that used to run through the international office. That might mean hosting a regional gathering focused explicitly on "what happens now," creating a shared digital archive of rituals and history so no chapter loses access to its own tradition, or simply becoming the trusted source chapters call when they have a procedural question. Provincial and state leaders who step into that vacuum thoughtfully — without trying to recreate a bureaucracy the organization can no longer support — will do more than manage a transition. They will define what the next era of Beta Sigma Phi looks like.



The New Normal cont'd



Staying Sisters of the Heart

None of this requires pretending the loss doesn't matter. It does. But every member of this organization joined for a reason that had almost nothing to do with an office building, and everything to do with the woman who sat next to her at her first meeting. That relationship is the actual organization. Everything else was scaffolding.

The chapters, councils, and members who move forward well will resist two temptations: nostalgia that refuses to adapt, and panic that assumes nothing can be salvaged. Between those two lies the real work — simple, local, human work of keeping meetings going, keeping rituals alive, and keeping in touch.

Beta Sigma Phi was built on a promise between women, not a building. The building has closed. Our promise to each other doesn't have to.



CHAPTER CHATTER



Kansas Xi Delta Nu took their cue for the upcoming year's programs directly from the "Revive BSP" Facebook page and website. Each member will discuss what she does to revive herself including things like how to relax, meditation, vacationing, gardening, and other creative outlets.

Maryland Delta Zeta enjoyed exploring the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage in Kensington, Maryland. Chapter members enjoyed beautiful gardens, historic homes, fun and lots of laughter made for a memorable day.

Spending time together outside of their regular meetings is just one of the many ways we strengthen the friendships.



Nebraska Preceptor Beta Epsilon created new shirts to show their dedication to Beta Sigma Phi after the announcement that the International office is closing. Way to go, sisters! Show that BSP pride!

CHAPTER CHATTER (CON'T)

Virginia Preceptor Omicron of Roanoke held its Bring Your Own Pool Party to say goodbye to summer and getting ready for Beginning Day on September 6. The chapter is looking forward to a new era and year for Beta Sigma Phi.



Roanoke Va City Council sisters held a picnic on August 16 to come together and discuss our future before Beginning Day. We consist of 7 chapters and 58 members. We are still growing and looking forward to the future.

In this group picture, the sister in the front row in the solid red top is 96 years old and is still very active in sorority. She made a statement at the picnic that she was older than Beta Sigma Phi!



The San Angelo, Texas City Council held its Beginning Day Ice Cream Social for members. Everyone had a wonderful time in fellowship and eating ice cream. Some members told what Sisterhood means to them.



LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH OTHER SISTERS?

In addition to on-line Beta Sigma Phi chapters, there is a sister pen-pal program designed to connect sisters from across chapters and locations through friendship and meaningful correspondence. Whether you prefer handwritten letters, postcards, or email, we hope this program helps create lasting connections, you can pick what type of communication works best for you.

This program asks specific questions to help the program moderator match sisters with like interests through a series of “get to know you” questions about your favorite things. It’s a great way to get to know another Beta Sigma Phi sister somewhere in the world!



For more information, **email Nicole at nicolesariathor@gmail.com**, and she will send you a link to the Google document to fill out to start the process. This program is open to all Beta Sigma Phi sisters, not just those in online chapters.

PROGRAMS

Tell us what type of programs your chapter is presenting this year! Here are some ideas we’ve heard:

- Get to know a sister - pair up with a sister you may not know well and find out what things you have in common, and present those in the form of a game to chapter members.
- Current events - for chapter members who don’t want to stress about planning a program to present, take a subject from the local or national news and start a discussion about it.
- Hidden talents - most of us have talents that others may not know about. Show that talent and share it with your sisters! Maybe you have a talent for gardening, crocheting, watercolours, yoga, flower arranging, poker, or even something like organizing closets- things your sisters would enjoy learning about from you!

JUST FOR FUN!

V	S	V	W	A	L	T	E	R	R	O	S	S	R
A	Y	E	L	L	O	W	R	O	S	E	S	P	I
L	N	P	J	S	E	T	A	E	R	U	A	L	T
E	O	R	P	L	S	P	O	T	S	I	P	I	U
N	I	E	I	G	E	U	N	A	S	E	H	L	A
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N	R	N	R	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	S	S

RITUAL OF JEWELS
 YELLOW ROSE
 BETA
 WALTER ROSS
 COUNCIL
 VALENTINE QUEEN
 GIVING
 THEME
 PHI
 LAUREATE
 EXEMPLAR
 MEETINGS
 SISTER
 PRESIDENT
 CONVENTION
 FRIENDSHIP
 SECRETRY
 TREASURER
 SIGMA
 PURPOSE

How many words can you find that are related to Beta Sigma Phi?

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Many chapters struggle with adding new members to their group. New members bring new ideas, energy, and enthusiasm to chapters, so don't be afraid to ask your friends if they are interested in attending a meeting or social event to get to know some of your sisters.

Here are some ideas that have worked for chapters:

- **Facebook is a great place to find new members!** Many communities have “mom” or retiree groups, and people moving into town often look for new friends. Some chapters have posted in those groups and added new members to their sisterhood.
- **Utilize social media, including NextDoor.** A chapter in Kansas more than doubled its dwindling membership with a simple post one of their members made on NextDoor. The post specified the chapter's age group, when they met, some socials and community service projects, and the overall cost of joining. Of course, now that there are no fees to pay to Beta Sigma Phi International, the only costs would be chapter dues and incidentals that may be charged to new members, such as a yearbook or pin badge.
 - For **prospective new members** who asked for more information or came to a meeting, the chapter set up a dinner at a local restaurant with current and prospective members. The chapter prepared written information for each guest that listed all of the pertinent information about the chapter.
 - **Prospective members who did not attend the dinner** were invited to a meeting or social event, whichever came first. After the dinner and a meeting/social, those prospective members were asked to join the chapter. Eight new chapter members joined that Fall!
- **Create a trifold to distribute to prospective members.** Templates are available online, and you can tailor the information to include when your chapter meets, photos of socials and community service projects, and some information about the history of Beta Sigma Phi. Websites like Canva are easy to use and offer free accounts.
- **Don't forget about members who may have gone on leave over the past few years** due to other commitments! A chapter in the Midwest recently had three former members rejoin after two retired from stressful jobs and another realized how much she missed her sisters.



STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!

- Let us begin by **THANKING YOU** for continuing to be a member of Beta Sigma Phi. We know some chapters have decided to fold, but most chapters are resolute in their decision to move forward and continue the traditions of Beta Sigma Phi.
- While we are not trying to replace the International office staff, we are trying to provide an alternative and resources for sisters who remain active in Beta Sigma Phi and are even growing their chapter membership. Please be patient with us as we are all volunteers trying to help. It may take us a while to get back to you, so please give us grace during this transition. We are working with you to continue our organization's rich sisterly traditions.
- If you have a question, feel free to post it on our "Revive BSP" Facebook group. Other members may be able to answer your specific question and provide assistance. If you have a specific question that you do not see addressed on that Facebook group, check the ReviveBSP.com website. We will do our best to keep it updated.
- If you don't find the information you are looking for on either site, please email ReviveBSP@gmail.com, and we will do our best to answer your question. Obviously, there is still much information to sort out and publish, but rest assured we are working diligently to establish a structure that will benefit the new organization.

Your sisters,

*LuWanda Ford
and
Bew Banks*



*May the Lord
watch between
me and thee,
while we are
absent, one
from another...*

Canadian News



**Laureate Xi, Chapter Toronto Ontario
Canada, Beginning day**



Other Location News

Tell us where you are??

This magazine is “your opportunity” to share your news, information and sharing of your chapter events!

