

Southlake Area Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi

AUGUST 2011

What is sisterhood? Webster's defines it as a relationship between sisters, a state of unity and cooperation amongst women. As Pi Phi's, how do we define sisterhood? Is it a meeting or gathering? Is it a philanthropy we support? Or is it a relationship, and a community of love between lifelong friends.

When we joined Pi Beta Phi— took our oaths and heard the secrets, we received the gift of sisterhood. Sure we were initiated, given rules to follow and meetings to attend, but what we were truly given was membership into something much deeper. This membership unites a family of women who hold a few important things in common. We are bound by love, compassion and care that rings true no matter the place or time.

We were blessed with membership into something sacred, and told to run with it and share in the sisterhood. What we were not told is this membership is not a sprint, but a marathon! It was intended to grow as we grow. As I sat at convention in June, as I drank in that Pi Phi wine and blue colored Kool-Aid, I was convinced of why this is a lifetime commitment.

So when you joined Pi Phi, did you RENT it or did you BUY it? Were you a Pi Phi or are you a Pi Phi? Pi Phi may have been the family you once choose, but now it is the family you get to support. It is a privilege, and it is our responsibility and duty to continue the visions our Founders set forth 144 years ago.

Angels, this is a call to help carry on our Founders visions. Your first step is to continue this race: fill out the enclosed membership form and join the Southlake Area Alum Club. Your check alone will help further the ideals of Pi Beta Phi. Next, join us at our monthly meetings—you will find a piece of heaven complete with angels bearing one another's burdens, concentrating on things honest, pure and just. Then decide how you can be personally involved with your time, talents and treasures within Pi Beta Phi. I promise we have an outlet for you.

At convention these statements were made: *"I give back because someone before me did it for me," " Do it before your name is written in the Pi Beta Phi memorial book."* and *"Remember, you can't defeat the enemy without your friends."*

I found these words to be very powerful, not only because they properly illustrate the urgency and importance of our continued involvement in Pi Phi, but also because my enemy has returned. After 3 years of remission, my breast cancer is back. I will be having a mastectomy in August, missing our August get-together. Gail Mazanowski, president elect, will be taking my place in the interim. With the procedure and recovery looming ahead, I am comforted because I know many angels surround me.

Webster's may have defined sisterhood as a relationship between sisters, but what I think they are missing is the *lifelong* part, the part that defies place and time. I look forward to a wonderful year of sisterhood. Thank you for your support and prayers. Join, see what you're missing out on because I promise you it is so much more than a meeting or a membership. Your friend and sister in Pi Beta Phi,

B.J. Sanders

President, Southlake Area Alumnae Club

