



Indiana Lamplighter's Memorial Fund

History of Lamplighter's Memorial Fund

JoAnn Laice Whitis, a member of Evansville Delta Beta, was named State Woman of the Year in 1973. On Christmas Day 1973, JoAnn went into labor and due to complications during delivery, both she and her infant daughter passed away. As a memorial to her, her husband knowing her love of sorority made the original donation to the Evansville Regional Council to establish the Joann Whitis Memorial Fund.

From the beginning, the fund was made available for all active Indiana Beta Sigma Phi members. Any individual, chapter or city council may request assistance for a member. Request forms are available at State events, from all State Officers, online or by contacting Lamplighter Committee members. What better tribute could there be than to help a sister in her time of need! After several years, the Board of Directors voted to change the name to **Indiana Lamplighter Memorial Fund**. It was felt that it could be a memorial to all Indiana members so that their light will burn on.

At the 1983 Indiana State Convention, it was voted to name this fund as the State's Permanent Secondary State Project. The fund is available to assist when an active member has a need. This is a gift to our sister – from her sisters – it is not to be repaid!

The committee's income is from Ways and Means booths at all three State events. Many chapters graciously donate items for the Ways and Means booths; the hosting chapter donates the Ways and Means table fee at each event; some chapters donate leftover items from previous events for the committee to sell. The state chapters also have an opportunity to donate annually to the fund. Many donate in memory of, or in honor, of a member.

At the State conventions, Lamplighters has a Memory Table on display. A plaque with the names of members and others who are remembered via donations is always on display during the weekend. Many chapters bring photos or other memorabilia to place on the Memory Table in honor of members who have passed away since the previous Convention.

The Board of Directors, consisting of representatives from Evansville chapters, was in charge of the fund until 2012. It was then decided to make Lamplighters a State Committee, with Permanent co-chairs being from Evansville. The committee, appointed for at least a two year term by the State President, consists of members throughout the state. When requests are received, members are contacted via phone or email and a decision is made regarding how much to donate to our sister in need. All information is held in strict confidence and the committee members are only given details of the request and no identifying information is released to the committee.