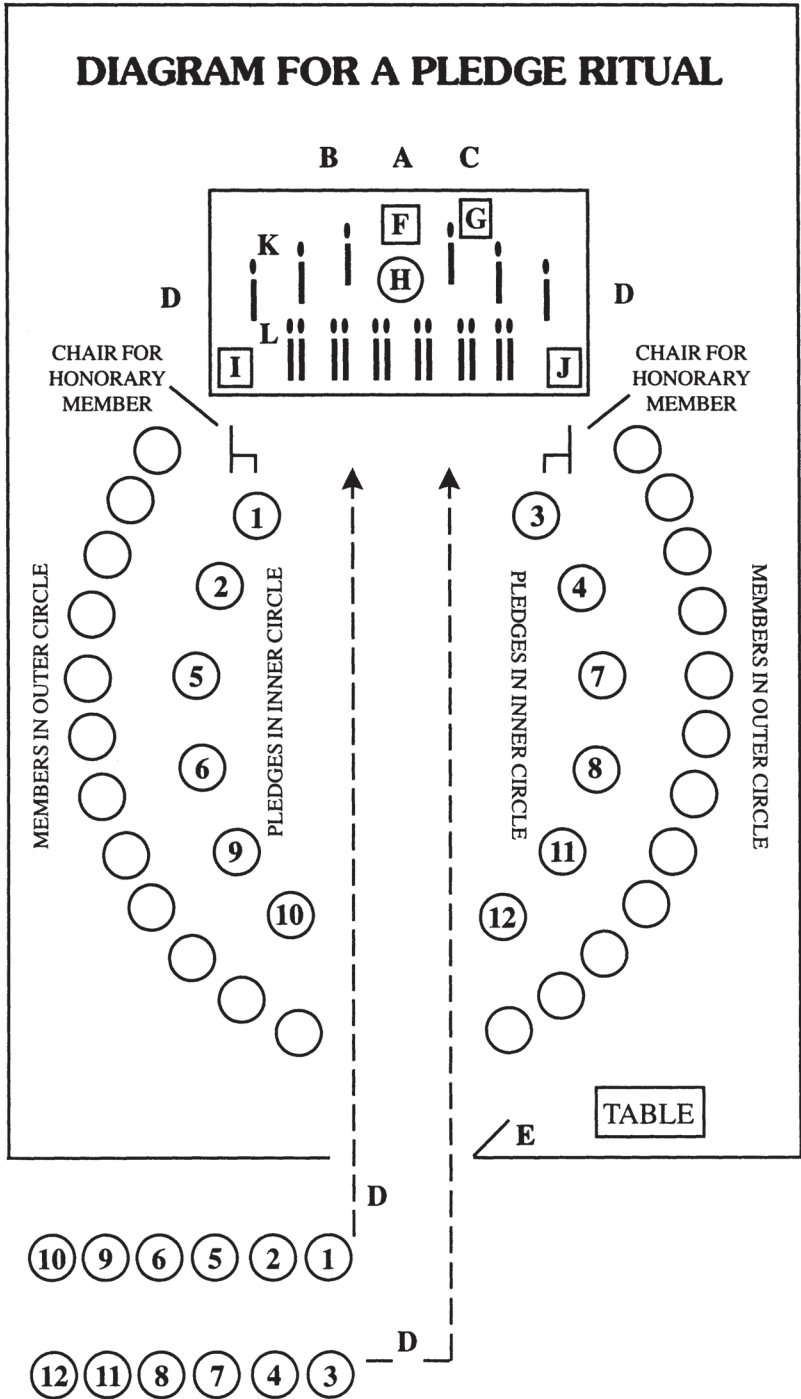




KEY EXPLAINING DIAGRAM FOR A PLEDGE RITUAL

A. Officiant who reads the Ritual.

B and C. Any two active or Honorary members you wish to honor may serve as assistants at the Ritual Table. One or both assistants may hold lighted white candles so the Officiant can see to read the Ritual.

D. Attendants. Just before the Ritual Service the attendant or attendants, if the pledge group is large, are with the pledges outside of the Ritual Room. Attendants conduct pledges into the room, then to their places in the semi-circle. Attendants take positions at either end of the Ritual Table as shown on diagram. Later, during the ceremony, the attendants pass the candles, pledge pins, etc.

E. Attendant who stands at the door just inside the Ritual Room and announces the names of the pledges seeking admittance into Beta Sigma Phi. If there is a large group of candidates, individual names need not be announced; say instead “friends of Beta Sigma Phi.”

NOTES:

1. Diagram shows a table just inside the door, on which evening bags may be left during the Ritual — leaving each pledges’ hands free to hold her candle and pledge pin.

2. Diagram shows a suggested placement for the chairs for Honorary Members, should any be in attendance. However, Honorary Members may be seated elsewhere if some other arrangement is better suited to your particular needs.

3. Members in the outer semi-circle may hold short yellow, lighted candles to form a lighted archway symbolizing the torch lighting the way, if desired, while the pledges are being conducted to the Ritual Table. As soon as all the pledges are in their places in the semi-circle, the members' candles may be extinguished quietly; avoid blowing.

Pledge Ritual Table Arrangement

Note: COVER — If you do not happen to be using the Crested Beta Sigma Phi Ritual Cloth, you may use a plain white table cloth; and if you wish, a Crested banner may be placed over the center front of the table cloth or hung on the wall right back of Officiant.

F. Ritual Book

G. A list of pledges' names arranged in the same order as the pledges are when they are conducted into the room. G is the list used by the Officiant; exact copies of this list (G) should be in the hands of attendants (D).

H. Vase with yellow roses.

I. Placement of pledge pin(s). Pin(s) may be loose or in a tray.

J. Small crested plaque may be used here if desired, to show the pledges our crest.

K. Tall black tapers. White tapers may be substituted.

L. Yellow candles for the pledges. (Preferably an 8" candle or shorter.) A paper protector may be used on the lower part of the

candle to catch dripping tallow. Protectors can be made by cutting a circle from heavy black construction paper — then place a paper lace doily (gold preferred) over the black circle, cut small opening in center, slip up on lower part to candle.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLEDGE RITUAL

1. Previous to the time of the Ritual, two exact copies of list (G) should be made to be used by Officiant (A) and attendants (E).
2. Previous to the time of the Ritual, prepare a memo for the sister in charge of music, giving her the cues indicating when music should begin and end in accordance with your Ritual Ceremony.
3. Honorary Members should receive the Pledge Ritual and pin the same as any active member.
4. Profound silence should prevail in the room throughout the entire ceremony except for the actual reading of the Ritual and any music you may have.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTENDANTS FOR A SMALL PLEDGE RITUAL

A rehearsal at an appointed time previous to the actual ceremony helps the Officiant, assistants and all attendants to conduct a ceremony with greater ease and smoothness.

Small Pledge Rituals may only have need for one attendant, while larger Pledge Rituals may need two or more attendants to assist in conducting and admitting pledges. If more than one attendant is

needed, they should be instructed (before the ceremony, at a rehearsal) to begin at different designated places in the semi-circle when passing lighted candles and pledge pins, pinning the pledge pins, collecting the candles and giving the handclasp and test for membership.

1. Previous to the ceremony, the pledge pins are placed on short, narrow (about 1/4" wide) black and gold (or yellow) ribbon, then a straight pin is run through the ribbon back of the pledge pin so that it may be pinned on the pledge's dress with the straight pin. (This is a great time saver.)

2. Attendants conduct pledges, guiding them to their places in the semi-circle begin formed inside the two rows of members. The attendants then take positions at either end of the Ritual Table.

3. (Cue) "...just as I now hand it on to you." The two assistants standing at either side of the Officiant at the Ritual Table, each light two of the pledge candles at a time and hand them on to the attendants.

4. Attendants receiving lighted candles from the assistants now pass the lighted candles, placing one candle in the right hand of each pledge continuing until all pledges are holding a lighted candle.

5. (Cue) "...to uphold the honor and the aims of Beta Sigma Phi. as I know them." Now the attendant places one pin in each candidate's left hand making sure that the insignia is facing the pledge. She tells the first pledge to hold the pin and look at it while its significance is being explained. (Other pledges will hold and look at their pins too when they see the first pledge doing this.)

6. (Cue) "...is it still your desire to participate in Beta Sigma Phi?

If so, answer ‘It is.’ The recommended procedure for collecting candles, pinning pins, and giving the Beta Sigma Phi Handclasp:

a. Attendants beginning at the left side of the semi-circle collect candles from the candidates, extinguishing them.

b. Immediately after taking all pledge’s candles, attendant(s) pins the pledge pin on each pledge’s dress with the straight pin and then gives each pledge the Beta Sigma Phi handclasp and whispers, “Beta Sigma Phi,” and tells the candidate to whisper the answer, “I am thy sister.”

BETA SIGMA PHI PLEDGE RITUAL

Instructions: A long table is covered with a white cloth reaching to the floor. In the center is a vase filled with the flower of the Sorority — yellow roses. The Book of Ritual lies on the table back of the flowers. On each side are candle holders filled with black candles or white candles may be used. They are lighted before the candidates are admitted. Pins for each candidate and yellow candles for each candidate are placed on the table in separate small trays, as shown in the picture.



The Officiant stands behind the table, with any two appointed assistants.

The members, standing in two rows the width of the Ritual Table apart, are facing each other.

Candidates are in formal or dressy dress. If possible, pledges should not be permitted to see or enter the Ritual Room until conducted in for the ceremony. Attendants conduct candidates to the correct place in the semi-circle being formed inside of the two rows of members to be admitted. Soft music may be played while the candidates are being conducted into the room.

The Director and Sponsor are conducted to the Ritual Table first and, after they have been formally admitted, they are led to the chairs at the front corners of the table and seated facing toward each other slightly and into the circle that is to be formed by members and candidates.

Please Note: Asterisks (*) have been inserted to suggest places to pause for breath. By practicing, you can determine which places are best for you.

Before the admittance of each two candidates the Officiant speaks: Who seeks admittance into Beta Sigma Phi?

Door attendant replies: (Giving the full name of each candidate, _____ and _____ until all names are announced) seek admittance into Beta Sigma Phi. **OR** (giving no announcement of names) Friends we have invited to join us.

Officiant: Let them enter.

The candidates are then brought into the room and are stationed in a semi-circle inside the two rows of members. The attendants

then take positions at either end of the Ritual Table.

Officiant: Do you (referring to all candidates) seek admittance into Beta Sigma Phi? If so, answer “I do.”

Candidates: I do (in unison).

Officiant: My Friends, we are here to explain to you * those things which will enable you to truly become a part * of the sisterhood of Beta Sigma Phi.*

Long ago, in the golden days of Greece, * a woman named Diotima was known * as the wise woman of Mantinea. * She was said to be the teacher of Socrates. * It was she who taught the great philosopher the meaning and importance of love. * She can serve as our guide also. * Through her touch* we feel the spirit of immortal womanhood * which runs unbroken through all time. *

A story is told of a young woman * starting her search for wisdom. * She felt that she was wandering alone in the dark, * but found that she was not alone. * Diotima was with her, * guiding her and teaching her. * This is her story. *

As they walked together, * the young woman saw a light moving ahead of them. * She saw that it was a torch, * and they were following it. *

“What is the torch?” she asked the wise woman. *

“It is called Learning,” she answered. *

“Why does it move ahead as we move toward it?” *

“So you and I may find our way through darkness.” *

“But where does it lead?” she persisted. *

Diotima did not answer. *

“Wherein was the torch lighted?”

The answer came slow and measured. * “The torch was lighted from a great fire. * Some call it Truth. * Some call it Beauty. * Some call it Love. * Those who follow it will learn all of these.” *

“Will we reach the flame?”

“You will enter its light, * but you will never touch the flame. * Immortal spirit of womanhood is in every mortal woman. * It is part of her self. * But the ideal of Truth, Beauty, and Love * which are represented by the flame * are always beyond the individual.” *

“Why are those we meet not also following the torch * and seeking the light, * instead of wandering about in different ways?” *

“Because they cannot see the light. * They do not have the torch * such as I now give to you, * because you have been found worthy.” * and so, Diotima handed to her the torch, * **(cue)** just as I now had it on to you. *

The two assistants standing at either side of the Officiant at the Ritual Table, each light two of the pledge candles at a time and hand them on to the attendants, who pass the lighted candles until all pledges are holding a lighted candle.

Follow the light of learning, * it will guide you well. * Though your heart may become faint * and your footsteps may falter, * keep moving forward. * Patience overcomes all things, * but emotions can mislead us. * Their ways are clouded by sensation. *

Know that you have the right to be useful. * To be a Beta Sigma Phi * is to be worthy to follow the light of the torch. * You must bear within you * the spirit of immortal womanhood * of which the torch is a symbol. * You shall be kind, helpful, and friendly * to your fellow beings. You shall be steadfast and faithful * in the pursuit of the high ideal. * You shall give the best that is in you * to your work, * to your life, * and to your world. * To be a Beta Sigma Phi is to renounce selfishness * and to assume a queenly quest. *

The fellowship of Beta Sigma Phi * and the first great lesson of its sisterhood * is love. * It is love which springs between women * united by the same great ideals. * During the weeks ahead, * there shall be lighted from this torch * six others, six great perfections of your inner self, * six ways of love. Our love shall be not only for living creatures, * but that all embracing love * for souls we never saw. * Their messages have come down to us * in works of art, music, and architecture. * In sculpture, books, pictures, * and dance we meet them. * All the avenues of beauty and glory * to which we may open our hearts * and our minds in gratitude and growth. *

That love shall embrace ideas * as well as persons. * It shall grace both the heart * and the mind through constructive action * and service. *

That love shall make us slow to expose a fault * and eager to find and to believe * the good and true. * It shall cause us to share * in whatever of good or sorrow * may come to any one of us. *

That love imparts to the body * and to the spirit * the full beauty and perfection * of which they are capable. *

It shall be that love * which enables us not only * to dream of noble things, * but to achieve noble things. * And it crowns a woman

in her queenly quest, * enriching most who gives most. *

The purpose of fellowship shall be * to advance each one of us in the understanding * of the good and of the true and the beautiful, * through appreciation of the arts, * and to enable each one of us * to make of her own life, * both in thought and conduct, * a work of art, * a masterpiece of beauty. *

Candidate(s) for Admission Into Beta Sigma Phi, * are you willing to carry this torch? * If so answer, “I am.” *

Candidate(s) respond.

Do you pledge yourselves to seek and follow the light of learning? If so, answer, “I do.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Then repeat after me these words. * “I solemnly promise (**cue**) to uphold * the honor and the aims * of Beta Sigma Phi * as I know them.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Attendants(s) place one pin in each candidate's left hand. The candidate should remain holding the pin while its significance is being explained.

I now inform you of the significance of this pin. * The great Phi is the golden circle of friendship. * We are bound in a union of unbroken strength. * Beta signifies life, * the gleam of time between two eternities. * The shaping of our own lives * is our own work. * It is a thing of beauty * or a thing of shame * as we ourselves make it. *

The Sigma signifies learning. * It is wealth to the poor, * honor to the rich, * aid to the young, * support and comfort to the aged. * Learning, if rightly applied, * makes a woman cheerful and useful, * it is an ornament in prosperity, * a refuge in adversity, * and an entertainment at all times. * It cheers in solitude * and gives moderation and wisdom. *

The Beta and Sigma rest on a background of black, * signifying the death of selfishness, * for in loyal and loving service to others, * selfishness is forgotten. * The flaming torch is the light of learning, * a guide, * meaning that you are guided by the light of learning * and are yourself a guide to others. * She who seeks more light will always find it * and she is one of the few happy mortals * in every point of time. *

The yellow rose is the flower of this organization, * signifying in its purity and freshness * the wholesomeness of our undertaking.

The torch is repeated in the great crest. * Here too, is an ancient lamp of knowledge * and a book signifying the intellectual * and literary attributes * of our organization. * The Latin motto, * Vita, Scientia, Amicitia, * repeats the purpose of the organization, * life, learning, and friendship. * Wherever you see this pin * or this crest, * is one member whispering the words Beta Sigma Phi. * If the wearer is a sister, * the answer will be, * I am your sister. The handclasp shall follow. *

At the Ritual Table, Officiant shows handclasp by giving it to the assistant.

Now that you know the ideals of our sisterhood, * is it still your desire * to participate in Beta Sigma Phi? If so, answer, “it is.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Attendants collect the candles, pins the pins, and give the handclasp with the test for membership (see instructions to attendants for a small Pledge Ritual, No. 6, pages 9-10).

This pin, the emblem of our sisterhood, * is placed upon you now.

* Let no shame nor taint of any kind, * come upon it. * Treasure it and wear it with constancy. *

I now pronounce you a pledge of * _____ Chapter
of Beta Sigma Phi. *

DO NOT FORGET YOUR PROMISE.