LAMP PASSING CEREMONY

(Optional)

On behalf of your sisters from *(last convention city)*, I give to you, *(hostess city name)*, the *(state name)* Beta Sigma Phi convention lamp. It is our hope that you will accept this lamp and that you, (name of convention chairman), as convention chairman of this beautiful convention, will carry it to the next year's convention and present it to the new convention chairman.

May the lighting of this lamp be the symbolic opening of this and all other conventions. May it serve each day as a remembrance of the bond of friendship that exists between all Beta Sigma Phi sisters and International who began this tradition. May it be passed from convention to convention as a symbol of our endeavors, our love one for the other.

Accept this lamp and the light it sheds as a shining example of all that is good and true and beautiful about Beta Sigma Phi and our sisterhood, for which this convention will be a living tribute.

INTRODUCTION

How does a convention come into being? It is not born whole in a fiery shimmer of cosmic action, like a new planet taking its place in the universe—although this would be a bright prospect for hostess chapters to contemplate!

Large or small, it enjoys convention birth, with a set period of planning, growth, and expectation. This normally is of one to two years' duration, and dates from a time just prior to the extending of an invitation by prospective hostess chapters. In very large states or territories, the getting-ready period may, of necessity, be longer.

Who, in effect, are the convention's parents? In preliminary planning stages, they are the officers of the particular chapter or city council which proposes to be the hostess group. Later, after the convention organization becomes a reality, parentship shifts to a General Chairman, an over-all Planning Committee, and to a number of special working committees named by these people.

The delicate shifting of leadership and responsibility as growth burgeons is brought out in the following pages. The material is so designed that any chapter or city council, with or without previous convention experience, can follow its easy step-by-step progression to the ultimate happy experience of delivering a convention in complete triumph.