

Beta Sigma Phi

**COMPLETE BOOK
OF RITUAL**

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When planning your rituals, if your chapter finds it cannot meet each criteria, do the best that you can under the circumstances and enjoy.

Beta Sigma Phi rituals are symbolic representations. The language is purposely poetic to make a lasting impression.

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Special Instructions for Rituals

In all the Rituals roses are said to be placed in a bowl. You may use the Beta Sigma Phi vase or any vase or bowl you have that is appropriate.

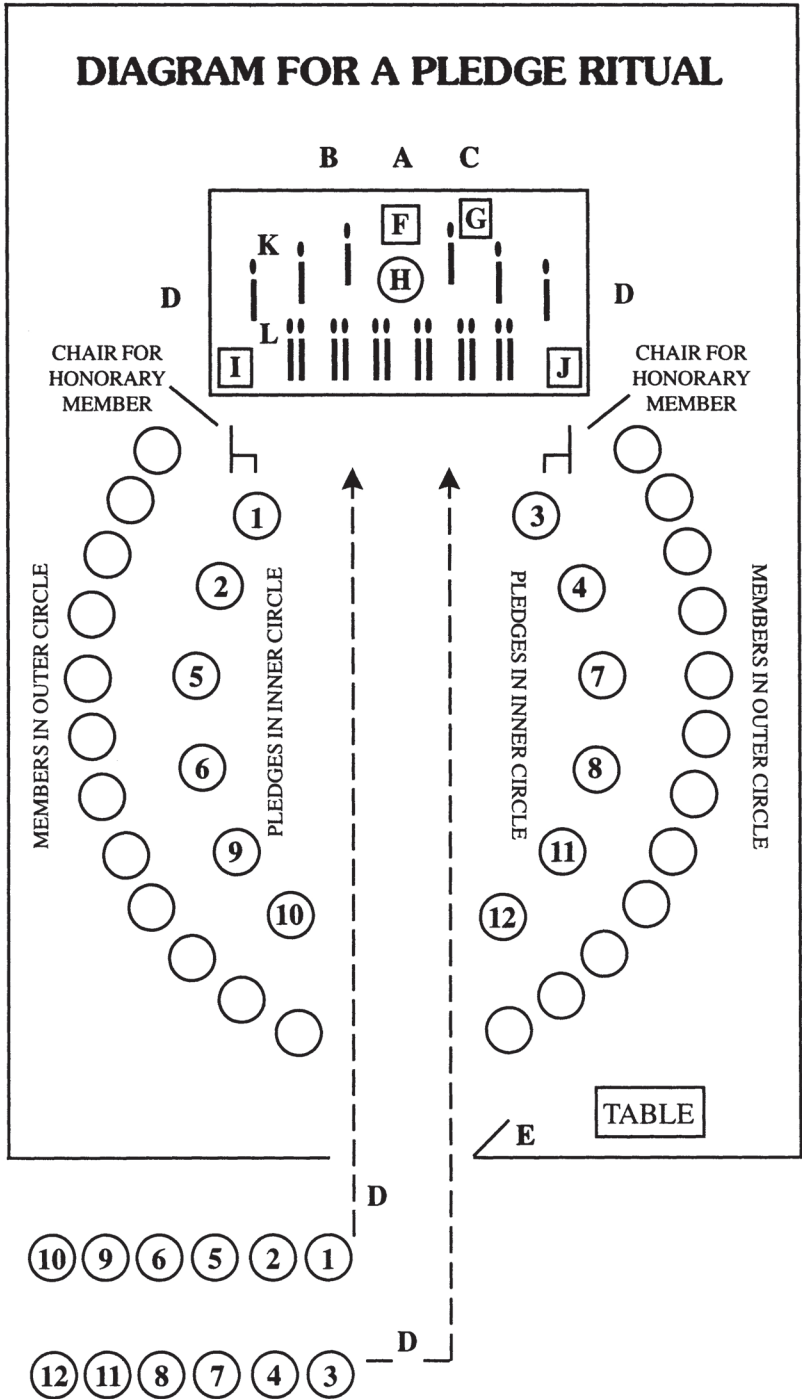
If a Ritual specifies a member of a certain degree and you do not have a member who holds that degree, you may substitute another member who does not hold that degree. In general, if you cannot meet the specifications exactly, do the best you can to insure a beautiful Ritual.

When doing multiple Order of the Rose Rituals, you may use fewer than the number of roses for each year of a sister's membership. Have enough roses to use in the Ritual itself and enough to make a good showing on the table. You can divide the roses among the recipients to take home after the Ritual.

Where music is specified, if you do not have the music for that piece or do have the ability to supply music, you may omit that from the Ritual.

Remember, when you are planning a Ritual, pre-planning is important so you have all the supplies you need. Have anyone who is to take part prepared so everyone can read and familiarize themselves with their parts. When you give a well planned Ritual, it shows the recipients that you care for them and respect them. In the end, that is the most important part of any Ritual.

The traditional Pledge Ritual and Ritual of Jewels are still available online at www.betasigmaphi.org on the Downloads page, under Rituals.



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).

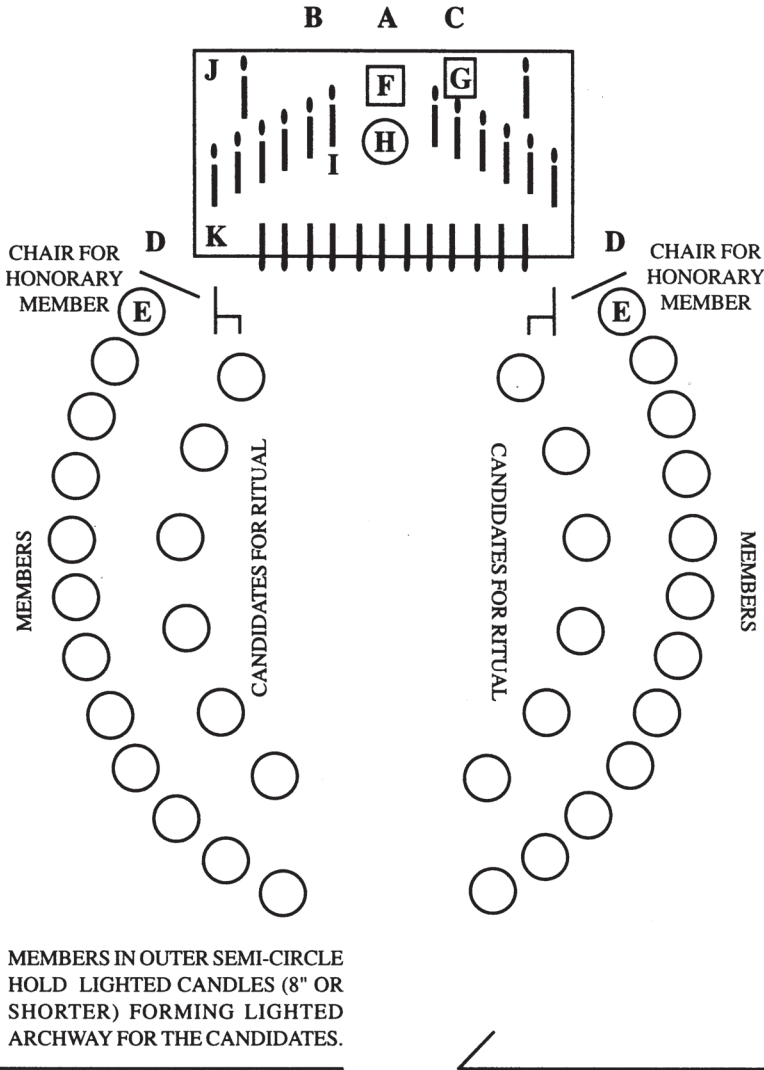
This pin, the emblem of our sisterhood, * is placed upon you now.

* 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.

DIAGRAM FOR THE RITUAL OF JEWELS



(E) HAS THE CANDIDATES LINED UP ON EACH SIDE OF THE DOOR JUST OUTSIDE THE RITUAL ROOM READY TO BE LEAD INTO THE ROOM FORMING INNER SEMI-CIRCLE.

KEY EXPLAINING DIAGRAM FOR THE RITUAL OF JEWELS

A. Officiant who reads the Ritual.

B and C. Any one or two active or Honorary Members whom you wish to honor may serve as assistants at the Ritual Table. One or both assistants may hold lighted white candles so Officiant can see to read the Ritual. The candles held by the assistants symbolize the “Great Torch Held Aloft.”

D. Attendants who assist the candidates when they kneel and who place the ribbons, on which the pins are pinned, over candidates’ heads.

E. Attendants who lead candidates into the Ritual Room. Attendants may be any one or two members you wish to honor. After leading the candidates into the room they take their places in the outer semi-circle as shown on diagram.

Note: The diagram shows a suggested placement for chairs for Honorary Members, but they may be moved to whatever location is best suited to your particular needs.

RITUAL OF JEWELS TABLE ARRANGEMENT

F. Ritual Book

G. A list of candidates’ names arranged in the same order as they are when brought into the Ritual Room, beginning with the first candidate nearest the Ritual Table on the right side of the semi-

circle and going on around the semi-circle until you have all their names.

H. Vase with yellow roses.

I. Twelve colored tapers (preferably fifteen inch or eighteen inch — two of each color) or votives arranged in the same order as they are when they are named and explained in the Ritual Ceremony.

J. Two white tapers. One or preferably both of these tapers may be used to symbolize the “Great Torch Held Aloft” (see the Ritual of Jewels Ceremony). These white tapers are used by the assistants to light the colored candles. The colored candles should be lighted one color at a time by the assistants (B and C) as the Officiant reads. For example when she says “red” you will light the red candle and then wait until she speaks of the next color.

K. Pins on long black and gold or yellow ribbon (ribbons one-half inch wide and usually about one-half yard in length). As explained above, attendant(s) place the ribbons over the candidates’ heads when the pins are presented.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary Members should receive the Ritual of Jewels Degree and a Ritual of Jewels pin the same as any active member.

SILENCE DURING CEREMONY

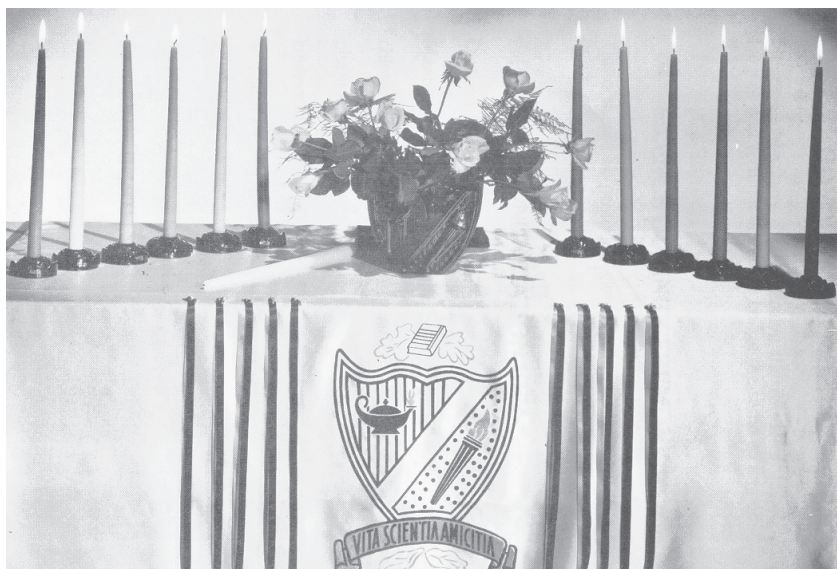
There should be profound silence in the room during the entire ceremony.

PRONUNCIATION KEY

Diotima — Dee o TEE Mah
 Mantinea — Mahn te NEE ah
 chimerical — Ki-MER-i-kal
 phantasm — FAN-taz m
 luminosity — loom-i-NOS-i-ti
 effulgent — e-FUL-jent
 sage — saj
 savant — sa-VAN or SAV-ant
 devotees — dev o-TEES

BETA SIGMA PHI THE RITUAL OF JEWELS

Instructions: A narrow table is covered with a white cloth reaching to the floor on all sides. Two groups of tall candles, each containing a red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet tapers (votives may be substituted for tapers) arranged in individual holders in the order named, are placed in a row or semi-circle on each end of the Ritual Table, to be lighted during the Ritual as each color is named (or, if you prefer, one group of Ritual colored candles may be placed on each side of the Ritual Table with red, yellow and blue on one side and orange, green and violet on the other. An assistant holding a lighted large white candle stands at the right of the one reading the Ritual. (Or, if you prefer, two persons-one standing on either side of Officiant-may hold lighted white candles. This provides the light for reading and is significant of the "Great Torch Held Aloft.") A vase containing yellow roses should be in the center of the table. The Ritual of Jewels pins (each attached to two ribbons, one black and one gold, fastened together by the pin at one end and sewed together at the other) are placed in front of the flowers in a semi-circle, the ribbons being allowed to fall over the table edge to



form a part of the decoration. The ribbons with the pins attached are slipped over the candidates' heads at the time of presentation.

Any subdued lighting in rainbow colors will add much to the impressiveness and effectiveness of the occasion.

The Ritual Book is on the table.

The Officient and assitant(s) stand in back of the Ritual Table. The other members form a semi-circle facing the table, each holding a lighted candle. The candidates are brought into the room by the attendant(s), depending upon the number receiving the degree. They form a semi-circle before the Ritual Table, thus making a semi-circle within a semi-circle. After ushering the candidates in, the attendant(s) take their places in the outer semi-circle.

Beta Sigma Phi songs may be played softly when the candidates are being brought into the room.

The reading of the Ritual then proceeds as follows:

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

Sisters, are gathered together again * to receive instruction in Life, * Learning and Friendship. The beliefs of our Sisterhood are now written upon your minds * and imprinted in your hearts. *

You remember that you were given a torch as a symbol of womanhood * and a light of learning to guide you in a queenly quest. *

By that light you were inspired to know * the first great lesson of our sisterhood, * which is the fellowship of Beta Sigma Phi, * a vision of the pure white flame of love. * Have you kept that lesson in your heart? *

If so, answer, “I have.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Do you believe that you have taken that love into your minds * and into your heart * until it is a living, glowing part of you * to the end, that it guides you * and you in turn guide others? * The answer is, “I do.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Then you have proven yourself worthy. *

But the torch leads onward. * Sometimes darkness and difficulties threaten, * and long ways will grow wearisome. * Knowing this, * are you ready to follow the light? * If so, answer, “I am ready.” *

Pause now and consider. * In the months past, * as a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi, * were there not times when it was hard to have faith * under the stress of daily life, * and when the ideal seemed a thing of only words * instead of living love, * when it was masked by self concern or self doubt? * Know that these are the trials we must all endure * as we continue our way * onward * toward the light. * Even so, * is it still your desire to proceed? * If so, answer, “it is.” *

Advance then in further light and privilege and receive the next high lesson of our sisterhood, the lesson of beauty. *

Think of the great torch held aloft * and see that white light passing through a crystal prism, * to come out on the other side in color * — red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet. *

The white of love passes through the prism of your life * and comes out to compose for you * the spectrum of beauty * — six hues from one white light, * six great perfections of yourself, * six wonderful aspects of love. *

By the light of love, all things are beautiful. *

Assistants now light each colored candle as the color is named.

The Red ray of that flame shall be courage * — that courage which shall make us fearless in pursuit of our ideals, * before which difficulties disappear * and obstacles vanish, * that virtue without which nothing is achieved * and talent is wasted.

The Yellow of that flame shall be vision * — which give enthusiasm to courage, * that attribute which is the perception of things hoped for, * the assurance of things not seen. *

The Blue of that flame shall be humility * — the sense of proportion which makes us meek * in the presence of the miracle of being. * It is the sense of honor which causes us to seek good for others and, when we have done a favor for another, * to forget what we have done. *

The Orange of that flame shall be loyalty * — that unswerving purpose which accepts every result * without discouragement * and keeps us true and steadfast in obligation. *

The Green of that flame shall be fellowship * — that love of comrades which displays itself * to those who wear our pin * and extends itself in consideration and enjoyment * of all fellow beings, * that warm flow without which * life is a barren waste. *

The Violet of that flame shall be service * — born of humility and courage, * the gift of yourself to life. * It is that performance of duty * which lightens the burdens of another; * for in loyal and loving service to others, the love of self is forgotten. *

The Sum of all these colors is beauty. * With them we shall paint loveliness * on the canvas of life. * And the sum of these rays shall be light, * that perfect light — beauty, love, and truth. *

The symbol of these six colors * and these virtues * shall be the six jewels you shall wear, * a token of special recognition, * the second pin of our sorority. *

Once before you pledged yourself to love, * and as you have come to evidence that love * in your thoughts, conduct, and purpose. * Will you now pledge yourself of beauty? * Will you make your mind a place of loveliness? * And, though you journey to the ends of the earth alone, * without a sister near, * with only yourself to see, * will you keep the torch burning * bright and steady in your

heart, * and, living in beauty, shed its light throughout the world?

* If so answer, “I will.” *

Candidate(s) responds.

Come forward as your name is read * and receive the jewels of the Ritual of Jewels degree. * When you have received them, * accept them with these words, * “I pledge myself to loveliness.” *

The attendant(s) go to each candidate, directing her to pledge herself to loveliness as the attendant places over her head the ribbon with the pin attached. The attendant(s) continues in the same way until all candidates have received their pins. It is permissible for more than one candidate to receive the pins at the same time, when initiating a large number. Then the Officiant continues reading:

Now know the names of the jewels you are privileged to wear, * which will represent the six flames of beauty * you now carry in your heart. * They will be visible to the world * only as the white light of love shows through our lives * and in our purposes and ideals. * These jewels are the six symbols of * — repeat their names after me * — courage, vision, humility, loyalty, fellowship, and service. *

Just as the white light of existence * shining through experience * is transmitted into gorgeous colorful life, * so shall the flame of love * passing through you * divide itself into six lovely attributes, * six radiant hues combining to produce * the perfection of our quest, * speak to you of beauty. *

Through the spectrum of beauty, * you shall see that smile on nature’s face * where light and color join * in harmony with the movement of living creatures. *

Through the spectrum we shall see * how to make of life a festival every day. * It shall unfold for us * the numberless flowers of spring, * the waving branches of trees, * the starry skies, the tumbling seas, * the rising and the setting sun. *

The universe shall be its home. * We shall learn that beauty is truth, * and truth, beauty. * We shall learn the ultimate beauty * — that truth is the shadow of perfection, * the form and color of eternal good. *

FORGET NOT THIS LESSON OF THE LIGHT.

Honorary Members and all members in the outer semi-circle now file past those who have just received the degree, congratulating them.

Beta Sigma Phi

RITUAL OF AFFIRMATION

Instructions: To be read by chapter President, a distinguished member of the chapter, or the sister who pledged the candidate. Members eligible for this Ritual will be notified individually by the International Office.

We look with thee, to this bright day
Affirm thy journey on this way.
Thy firm step and measured pace
Resound in ever growing grace,
As having put thy hand to ploy
Thy steps may not turn backward now.
But onward ever upward go
As sisterhood and love's bonds grow.
Nurtured by thy heart and mind
Thy sisterhood returns in kind
And teaches thee in ways of love
The Art of Life all else above.

In one short year thy Chapter's sway
Has been thy course, thy chosen way.
Thou in beauty, grace and light
Have trod with them as is thy right.
But now thy station does increase
Practitioner thou art without cease
Will thou again affirm thy vow?
Look never o'er thy shoulder now?
Teach now as thou were taught
Turn from thy path for naught.
Love, truth and beauty changing never
In sisterhood are yours forever.

Chapter repeats in unison:

We thy friends salute thee now
As thou again affirm thy vow.
In consciousness of Chapter ties
And personal bond that never dies.

Beta Sigma Phi EXEMPLAR RITUAL

Instructions: The Ritual Table is covered with a white cloth reaching the floor. A vase of yellow roses in the exact number that there are candidates for conferment is placed in the center, and the same number of tall white tapers in white and gold individual holders are arranged in a semi-circle across the table, back of the flowers.

The pins are arranged across the front of the table. Other decorations and appointments of the room should be in white and gold.



Members who have received the Ritual of Jewels Degree are eligible to witness the ceremony along with guests.

The Officiant may be any member of the chapter, preferably a member who holds the Exemplar degree or higher. When the ceremony begins the room is in total darkness. The "Song of Friendship" may be played

softly while the officiating officer leads the candidates in and places them in a semi-circle in front of the table, then takes her place behind the table, strikes a match and lights all the candles on the table. As the last candle is lighted, she reads:

Out of the darkness came the light. It shineth and shall shine in our hearts forever.

At the signal from an attendant, a Beta Sigma Phi song may be played softly. Upon hearing the music, members of the chapter and guests conferring the Degree come into the room in single file carrying lighted white candles.

The Exemplar guests stand in a row or rows back of the Officiant.

The chapter members form a semi-circle back of the candidates, holding their candles for the candidate to read by.

The Officiant continues:

Dearly Beloved: We are gathered together to celebrate, by beautiful observance, an honor conferred upon us, a trust affirmed, and an obligation thoughtfully premeditated and individually elected.

The Officiant now presents the certificate containing the Ritual to each candidate, resumes her place behind the Ritual Table and reads:

We, as members of Beta Sigma Phi, have been found worthy of the recognition and responsibility of that status of trust and honor known to us as the Exemplar Degree.

Diotima, the Wise Woman of Mantinea, instructs us, "Keep your observances beautiful and your lives will become beautiful."

In proclamation of these things you will now join me in the responsive reading of our Ritual found on the certificate you now hold.

Officiant reads: Together we have attained the first great lesson of our sisterhood — the lesson of Love — through Life, Learning and Friendship.

Candidates respond: Together we have followed the great Torch — the red ray of Courage, the yellow ray of Vision, the blue ray of Humility, the orange ray of Loyalty, the green ray of Fellowship and the violet ray of Service.

Officiant: Together we have learned to translate into Life, as we found it traced in our hearts, a pattern of loveliness in Conduct, Expression and Purpose.

Candidate: Together we have sought to make of Life a masterpiece of Love and Truth, through renunciation of selfishness and through our own and individual concept of the Beautiful.

Officiant: Together we have learned that Beauty is a way of Seeing, a way of Thinking, a way of Feeling — and altogether a way of Being. In its Light we have found that radiance of Truth, the glory of Love, the infinity of Spirit.

Candidates: In our encounter with the Beautiful we have learned to speak out our own rapture, our own wonder and to stand before the vision of our own ideas and exclaim; “I, too, am an artist.”

Officiant: Together we have found innumerable Paths to Loveliness. The splendor of great design, the magic of color, the grandeur of orchestral thunder, the solemnity of carven stone — and these we have learned to recognize as our own Splendors, our

own Grandeurs and our own Solemnities.

Candidates: Together we have learned the unity underlying all arts, and have learned to become ourselves a part of that unity.

Officiant: Together we have sought our heritage of Happiness, and found its promise affirmative and blessed, assurant of our ultimate desire — the Perfect.

Candidates: Together we have learned to measure the force of a soul by its capacity for joy. We have learned how the great golden dream of happiness comes true and gives to Life and to our universe profound meaning, a value transcending valuation.

Officiant: Together we have found that the good life is an expression of the dynamics of the universe toward Love.

Candidates: Together we have learned the lesson of the Light, transcendent Light, intangible but inescapable, indwelling, un-resting; energizing Life and directing Love the cardinal forces of Reality.

Officiant: All this we have attained together, and by this attainment have conferred each upon ourself, the honor of being known henceforth as one who exemplifies the highest purposes of Beta Sigma Phi.

Candidates: Together we go forward toward that Light which is the symbol of pure Being, Ineffable and Uncreated, above Intellection and known only through Love.

Officiant: Together we go forward to an obligation self-imposed and joyously accepted.

Candidates: Together we go forward to make our gift to Life, each in her individual way, knowing that under the law of Love, to cease to Give is to cease to Live.

Officiant: In this knowledge we accept the symbols and insignia of our Exemplar Degree: the colors white and gold, the pin with its supreme gem of Light, and from our Sisterhood, the Certificate of work well done and worth attained.

Come forward as your name is called and receive this pin in exchange for your Ritual of Jewels Pin which you have worn so worthily.

Officiant reads names of candidates and each one, as her name is read, goes to the Ritual Table and receives the Exemplar Pin, then returns to her place in the circle.

Officiant: Be ye informed of the significance of this pin, emblem of our Exemplar Degree.

Again we accept the great Phi, signifying the golden circle of our friendship.

Again we accept the Beta and Sigma, symbols of Life and Learning.

Again we accept the six pearls, reflecting the six rays of Beauty which together compose the spectrum of the white Light of Love and Loveliness.

Anew we received the glowing Torch, its flame now purified and gleaming with the brilliance of earth's most precious gem.

Accept this gem for those things it signifies within the Self. Among

the ancients a diamond was revered as bestowing Fortitude and Victory. Let us so regard it.

Among the modern it is treasured as a Jewel, and useful in the arts and industry. Let us so treasure it.

Most valuable of gems, its Beauty still is enhanced by polishing and shaping. This polishing and shaping is a slow work perfected in long time, and requiring skill and unremitting patience.

This jewel has been called a Fragment of Heaven.

Its brilliancy and beauty is in the reflection of the Light that reaches it through its many planes.

So shall our Lives be shaped by fortitude and usefulness toward victory.

And so shall we, through polishing the many facets of our being, reflect the radiance of the Light of Love.

And now, with gratitude for the honor conferred upon us, and in glad appreciation of these things, shall we accept the Certificate of our Sisterhood, which nominates us to Exemplify, henceforward, in our world the highest purposes of Beta Sigma Phi? If so, answer "we shall."

Candidates: We shall.

Officiant: Henceforth we shall be known as Exemplars of Beta Sigma Phi.

Again a Beta Sigma Phi song may be played softly, while all guests who are not Exemplars may file out of the room.

Candidates remain standing as before.

Officiant now moves each lighted candle to the front edge of the table and reads:

Come forward now into the light which represents the Gem of Light within yourself, the diamond radiance of eternal love; and standing there, let each pray in her own way that as the planets are guided in their eternal paths, we may be guided that we may exemplify the high ideals of our sisterhood; that we may be helped to worship by honest work, by willing service, by kind words, and useful deeds; that we may be helped to find life good by doing something to make it good, by advancing with strong heart, firm step, and generous hand.

That we may be taught pure ideals, true thoughts, and noble endeavor — trusting when we cannot prove and proving when we cannot trust. If our thoughts are dark, may the glory of the stars shine in upon them; and if they be bright, make them to light the pathway of our fellowmen.

May there be added to the beauty of the world about us a finer spiritual beauty within our souls. If there be anything unlovely in our life, may we be helped to seek beneath it for the hidden beauty and this bring to light. May the light shine through us to those that live in the shadow, and so fill us with radiant spirit that we may be a light unto our neighbor's feet and light unto his path. Let us ask that all the ecstatic and abounding Life of the Universe, which is older than antiquity, help us find a new life at every dawn. Let us ask to have generated in us a more abundant life, unquenchable and ever lovely. Let us ask that we may be granted more of life, light, and love, for in receiving these we receive all. Let us beseech that we may be Exemplars in TRUTH. Amen.

Candidates come close to table and stand before a candle.

Officiant: So let thy light shine as thou dost go forth to again join thy sisters.

Candidates file out of the room two at a time, if there is a sufficient number, starting with those directly in front of the Ritual Table. Otherwise they leave the room in single file. "Within Our Hearts" or other appropriate music may be played softly.

Beta Sigma Phi

PRECEPTOR RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is covered with a white cloth reaching the floor. A vase of yellow roses in the same number as there are candidates for conferment, is placed in the center. Colored tapers in white holders are arranged as for the Ritual of Jewels. Back of the roses, at the center, is placed a taller, larger, white taper.*

The Officiant may be any member, preferably a member who holds the Preceptor Degree. Two assistants stand to her right and left to assist as indicated.

Officiant takes her place at the table with a lighted candle in her hand. Assistants lead in the candidates and place them in a semi-circle before the Ritual Table, and return to the outer room. Officiant extinguishes her candle, pauses a moment in darkness, then strikes a match and lights the tall white taper, saying:

Out of the darkness came the Light. It shineth and shall shine in our hearts forever.

“Song of Beta Sigma Phi” may be softly played while assistants lead in other members and guests in two lines, each one carrying a lighted white candle, so the room is suffused with light. They form an outer circle around the candidates. Attendants take their place behind the Ritual Table to the right and left of Officiant.

Officiant reads:

Dearly Beloved: We are gathered together to celebrate by beautiful observance an honor to be conferred, a trust affirmed and an obligation thoughtfully considered and individually elected. We

are here to give recognition of advancement to Exemplar members who desire to go forward to higher degrees of service and obligation, whose loyalty and devotion we have known, and who are worthy of further honor in the realization of our ideals.

Officiant addresses Candidates:

Beloved Candidates: We are gathered here to honor you because you have so greatly honored us. You are the woman who wandered by night through the streets of an ancient city and perceived a torch dimly gleaming in the darkness.

You are the woman who asked of Diotima, the wise woman of Mantinea: “What is yon torch, and wherein was it lighted?”

And Diotima called it for you the Torch of Learning, and told you it was lighted from a great fire, which some call Truth, some call Beauty, and some call Love, and told you those who follow it will learn all of these.

You are the woman whose soul roused when Diotima handed to you that Torch, saying, “Thou hast been accounted worthy.”

“Song of Beta Sigma Phi” — may be sung by a soloist.

Assistant to the RIGHT of the Officiant reads:

To be a Beta Sigma Phi is to be useful, kind and helpful to your fellow being. To be a Beta Sigma Phi is to be steadfast, faithful and fearless in the pursuit of the high ideal. To be a Beta Sigma Phi is to renounce self and selfishness and assume a queenly quest.

Officiant reads: You are the woman who bears the Torch. You are the woman who sought and followed the light.

You are the woman who made every sacrifice and every effort necessary to the fulfillment of your vows.

You are the woman who kept within your heart, inviolate, the vision of the pure white flame of love.

Assistant to the LEFT of Officiant reads:

But the Torch leads onward, ever onward.

Behold the white light of Love passing through the crystal prism of your life to compose for you the Spectrum of Beauty, six magic hues from one white light, six great perfections of your inner self, six new and wonderful ways of love.

Behold the Jewels of your sisterhood.

Officiant reads: You wear your jewels worthily. You are the woman who, through the years, keeps the Torch ever burning bright within your heart and living in beauty sheds its light throughout the world.

Music or song — “Through the Years” (optional)

Officiant continues: We honor you for your courage, your vision, your humility, your loyalty, your fellowship and your service.

We honor you as the custodian of these, our Jewels.

We look to you as an Example of Friendship, as adept in learning, and an artist in living. We look to you for inspiration and understanding in the polishing and shaping of the facets of our lives — a slow work perfected in long time, requiring skill and unremitting patience.

Pause.

Will you accept from us this honor and this responsibility as custodian of our jewels, and will you select one of these jewels for your own especial consideration, devotion, and dedication, one jewel to be your next degree of obligation to our ideals?

If so, answer, "I will."

Officiant continues: Will you, as a part of this obligation, make every effort daily and in all small ways, as well as large, to practice this virtue in your own life and to encourage and inspire it in the lives of others?

If so, answer, "I will."

Candidate(s) respond.

Pause now and ponder well.

Officiant proceeds and attendants light the colored tapers as each color is read.

Shall it be the Red ray of Courage to make us fearless and dauntless in the pursuit of our ideal, that virtue without which nothing is achieved?

Shall it be the Yellow ray of Vision, which gives to courage enthusiasm, that attribute which is the perception of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen?

Shall it be the Blue ray of Humility which makes us seek nothing for ourselves and makes us meek in the presence of the miracle of Being?

Shall it be the Orange ray of Loyalty, that unswerving purpose which keeps us true and steadfast in an obligation?

Shall it be the Green ray of Fellowship, that dear love of comrades which extends itself in consideration and enjoyment to all fellow beings?

Shall it be the Violet ray of Service, that gift of yourself to Life, in which love is forgotten?

All of these jewels, these colors, these rays, have been long and worthily reflected in your life as a Beta Sigma Phi. Which will ye now choose for especial devotion and dedication and as your next degree of Exemplar obligation to Beta Sigma Phi?

Attendant calls names of candidates and each responds with the name of the virtue she has chosen.

Officiant: You have chosen well.

As custodian of these jewels of our sisterhood, will ye henceforth cherish your chosen jewel, keeping it foremost in your mind and heart, in every hour of every day to the end that all you say and do reflects its beauty and inspires its reflection in the lives of others?

If so, answer, "I will."

Candidate(s) respond.

Have assistants present each Candidate with her Preceptor Pin.

Officiant: Accept now this pin, symbolic of the Preceptor degree.

Its jewels represent the six virtues and your responsibility to perfect each of them in your own life. Its blue background represents that humility which comes to those who mature in wisdom and who know that they live their lives outside themselves. Henceforth, she shall be known as a Preceptor member, who has advanced to her next degree of obligation, devotion and dedication.

Close with reading in unison the Closing Ritual.

Beta Sigma Phi

PRECEPTOR ATTRIBUTES RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is covered with a white cloth reaching the floor. Colored tapers in white holders are arranged as for the Ritual of Jewels. At the center, is placed a taller, larger, white taper.*

The Officiant may be any member, preferably a member who holds the Preceptor Degree or higher. Two assistants stand to her right and left to assist as indicated.

Officiant takes her place at the Ritual Table.

Officiant reads: Sisters, we are gathered together to celebrate by beautiful observance the white light of love as it passes through the crystal prism of our lives. We watch as it composes for us six magic hues from one white light, six perfections of inner self, six wonderful way so love.

Let us pause, and ponder, the inspiration of our attributes of Courage, Vision, Humility, Loyalty, Fellowship, and Service. As we consider them, let us once again select that one which will carry us best on the year's path before us. As the colors are read, the assistant lights the candle for each color.

Shall it be the Red Ray of Courage to make us fearless and dauntless in the pursuit of our ideal, that virtue without which nothing is achieved?

Shall it be the Yellow Ray of Vision, which gives to courage enthusiasm, that attribute which is the perception of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen?

Shall it be the Blue Ray of Humility which makes us seek nothing for ourselves and makes us meek in the presence of the miracle of Being?

Shall it be the Orange Ray of Loyalty, that unswerving purpose which keeps us true and steadfast in obligation?

Shall it be the Green Ray of Fellowship, that dear love of comrades which extends itself in consideration and enjoyment to all fellow beings?

Shall it be the Violet Ray of Service, that gift of yourself to Life, in which love of self is forgotten?

All these jewels, these colors, these rays, have been long and worthily reflected in your life as Beta Sigma Phi. Which will you now choose for especial devotion and dedication?

Officiant calls names of the members and each responds with the name of the virtue she has chosen.

As custodian of these jewels of our sisterhood, will you henceforth cherish your chosen jewel, keeping it foremost in your mind and heart, in every hour of every day, to the end that all you say and do reflects its beauty and inspires its reflection in the lives of others. If so answer, "I will."

Officiant pauses for the answers from the members, then responds: You have chosen well.

Members then join hands and repeat together:

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other.

Beta Sigma Phi

LAUREATE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth and the colored candles, as for the Ritual of Jewels ceremony. There are two empty candle holders to be used later for the Officials' candles. There are three Officials behind the table. Officials may be any member, preferably who holds the Laureate Degree or higher. Two of the Officials hold a white candle to provide light for the Official who is reading at the time. As Officials change, the candles are passed from one to another. The room is darkened before the candidates enter, with only the candles on the table and in the hands of the Officials lighted before the candidates enter. Also arranged on the table are a simple wreath of greenery for each candidate to represent a crown of laurels, with the Laureate Pin for each candidate placed in the center of the wreath. You may substitute yellow roses for a wreath if necessary.*

First Official: Sisters in Beta Sigma Phi, though you have come here together, you have come by diverse ways. Each of you has spent many years in the journey to this place and this moment in time. Though your directions have been the same, your pathways have been several. They have touched and joined, and they have run side by side; but each of you walks in your own unique pathway to reach that goal in life which is uniquely yours. There is not just one way to be a Beta Sigma Phi, but the search for the good, the true, and the beautiful makes of all possible ways a unity which is recognizably Beta Sigma Phi.

It is the way to which all your sisters have committed themselves. In your early years as a member, you have shared completely with your sisters concentration upon the ideals of your organization and upon enrichment of all your lives. You built a foundation of understanding and love upon which the structure of a success-

ful and happy life could rest. And you progressed together. As a Preceptor member, you have maintained your unity with your sisters while concentrating by your own choice upon each of the six virtues inherent, bringing each of them to a fuller and deeper meaning in your own life. That quest will never end.

The First Officiant, who has been standing in the center, exchanges the Ritual Book for the candle, with the Officiant on her right, and changes places with her, and the Second Officiant now proceeds.

Second Officiant: There is a continuity of life which from very early times has shown progress. Mankind has progressed from the first glimmerings of understanding to finer and greater realizations of life's promise. There have been dark times and setbacks, but the progress has always been picked up and carried forward. Your own journey through life is like that, with dark times and plateaus succeeded by renewed growth and higher achievement.

Your friends in Beta Sigma Phi have traveled the way with you and helped to mold and polish your life. You have had in addition to them six unseen companions, each one carrying a light to guide your feet and direct your understanding. On your right hand have walked Courage, Vision, and Humility, and on your left, Loyalty, Fellowship and Service. Their lights of red, yellow, blue, orange, green and violet have shined through the prism of your life to direct on the path ahead of you a clear white light which not only lights your own way, but serves as a beacon for others. In the years of your progress through Beta Sigma Phi there have been times when each ray of color shone more brightly as its virtue was needed in the building of your living masterpiece. There have been times when Courage was needed to enable you to carry on at all. At times the need for Vision to see beyond obscuring mists and recognize the straight and narrow path was desperately required. The blue light of Humility must shine often in all our lives.

It reminds us that we could not find our way alone. The orange light of Loyalty is a constant brightly glowing flame at which we warm ourselves and which we feed to sustain our companions. The green light of Fellowship which reminds us always that we are not alone shines brightly in Beta Sigma Phi. The soft and delicate violet of Service illuminates the good we do, but is not garish to proclaim our deeds before the world.

You have taken to your heart each of these virtues in turn. You can never desert them, and they will never desert you. With these companions you can go through life rising to greater and greater heights and never be in fear of failing. Whatever obstacles appear in your path you will overcome. In dark times their light will show the way, and in the better times they will remind you of how you have come to your present state. You must live your life so that the great white light shining from you is a perfect reflection of all those colors, tending each of them carefully so that the light will never fail and its quality may be always pure.

Second Officiant exchanges the Ritual Book for the candle of the Officiant on her left. The Third Officiant takes her place in the center and proceeds.

Third Officiant: Throughout all the ages people have found special symbols to recognize attainment, position or achievement. Some visual sign has existed to set apart a leader, a warrior, a fool, a priest, a nurse, or a scholar. Each profession and trade has its sign and every position of leadership is represented in some way by some symbol. The queenly crown tells instantly of its wearer's nobility and high place, but there is a symbol more universal than any other. It is a symbol appropriate to any profession or any calling, and it has its origin in the very beginnings of recorded history. It is the laurel wreath.

The importance of this symbol is not in specific recognition of any single attribute or attainment. The idea for which it stands can be achieved in any field and in the all embracing field of life itself. The laurel wreath is a symbol of honor.

While the laurel wreath may be placed upon you, honor can never be conferred upon you. It must be earned. Only you by attainment and achievement and devotion to the principles which make an art of living can earn for yourself honor. High deeds and noble ambitions of others may influence your life, but their honor can never be yours and your honor can never be theirs. The honor to which you are entitled is distinctive. Though each of you is to be honored for her achievements in life and in Beta Sigma Phi, those achievements are solely yours and unlike those of even friends and sisters who are closest to you. You are to be honored for all that you have become and for the promise of what you yet will be. For there is no highest distinction and ahead of you lie days and years to use for greater and greater achievement. Upon those who deserve to be honored their laurels rest, not they upon their laurels.

Those who have received the laurel wreath of honor are known as Laureates. As the poet laureate makes the song of his country, the Preceptor laureate carries the lessons of her living. Displayed before us are laurel wreaths. Soon each of you will be crowned, recognizing the honor you have earned for yourself and the pride each of us holds for your achievements. This laurel crown carries with it not privilege, but responsibility. It does not lift from you the requirement to progress and achievement, but recognizes your proven ability to go forward. There are other laurels and other honors which lie ahead, and you have the light to see the way.

The candle is returned to the First Officiant who returns to the center and completes the Ritual.

First Officiant: Sisters, you have been found worthy of a signal honor and may now accept the responsibility of keeping bright and fresh the laurels with which your achievements are recognized by practicing ever more intently and with ever greater devotion all that is beautiful, good, and true. Will you accept that responsibility?

Answer, "I will."

We place upon each of you now the laurel wreath significant of the esteem and honor in which you are held by your sisters and present to you your Laureate pin which will represent that laurel wreath. It's color is dark green, signifying the color of the laurel and the green of Fellowship which has accompanied you since your first days in Beta Sigma Phi. The pin embodies all the significance that has been a part of your experience since you received the Ritual of Jewels, only the meaning of its color has changed.

The Second and Third Officiants place their candles in holders and move to the front of the table and starting at each end of the line of candidate's place a laurel wreath on each candidate's head, presenting to her at the same time her Laureate pin. When all the laurel wreaths have been presented, they resume their places and take up their candles. The First Officiant continues.

First Officiant: Having received your laurels, each of you is known from this day forth as an honored Laureate. As such, you may now put on your Laureate pin.

When the candidates have completed the pinning of their pins, the Officiants extinguish the white candles and come around the table to congratulate each candidate in turn. Other members in attendance will follow the Officiants to extend their congratulations.

Beta Sigma Phi

MASTER RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth and the colored candles, as for the Ritual of Jewels ceremony. There are three Officiants behind the table. Officiants may be any member, preferably who holds the Master Degree or higher. Two of the Officiants hold a white candle to provide light for the Officiant who is reading at the time. As Officiants change, the candles are passed from one to another. The room is darkened before the candidates enter with only the candles on the table and in the hands of the Officiants lighted before the candidates enter.*

First Officiant: Sisters in Beta Sigma Phi, many years ago you began a journey. When you pledged yourself to Beta Sigma Phi, you started a pathway which was lighted by a torch and which led you through friendship and learning toward the fulfillment of your life. Though you continued the journey in the company of your sisters, it was your one special, unique life goal toward which you journeyed.

You have been strong and steadfast through the years of that journey. Along the way you have learned that there is an art of living. You have learned that you can create your own masterpiece, using for your palette our colors of red for Courage, yellow for Vision, blue for Humility, orange for Loyalty, green for Fellowship, and violet for Service. Just as every great artist and craftsman was apprenticed in his art, you have been apprenticed in the art of living. Every great artist comes at some point in this life to a peak of skill and creativity which is recognized by the title "Master," and most artists achieve this status with the creation of what is known as their masterpiece. Still, the masters carry on, creating even greater beauty. The masterpiece is succeeded by wonderful works; some equalling and some bettering the masterpiece.

Your life is like that. You have by now created the Great Picture, the form and color are there. The central work of your art was established, and now you add other creations which amplify and expand the scope and depth of your life. And so it will be as long as you live, and as long as you continue to learn and grow. Achieving mastery is not a pinnacle from which all pathways lead down. It is achieving a plateau from which every direction is a possible course. It is ability, imagination and desire fused into purpose. Your mastery is not a completion, but a challenge. It means nothing if it is not used. The world, having recognized a master through her work, may thereafter accept and acclaim her least effort. But you can never again accept less than your best. From knowledge and experience and understanding of your own talents you can choose more wisely those efforts to which you will bend your talents; but having chosen, nothing less than your best efforts and your greatest commitment will satisfy you.

The First Officiant, who has been standing in the center, exchanges the Ritual Book for the candle with the Officiant on her right, and the Second Officiant now proceeds.

Second Officiant: Sister, there is in candlelight surrounded by darkness a continuity which began when mankind first learned to control fire. Down through the ages, this early gift to man has persisted in both its destructive and its helpful and useful forms. Down through those same ages, mankind has written, by that light, its history, both good and bad. The need of people to group together for common purposes began very early in the journey through the ages. Your membership as an individual Beta Sigma Phi is a natural extension of that continuity. It grows out of the need to express the best that is in us, and to concentrate on the good, the true and the beautiful. To concentrate upon them not as objects of study and appreciation, but as living principles by which we build our lives.

Time is eternal. The day ends that it may dawn again, and each day is ours to use. Each life, although it is separate and unique, touches the life before it and the life that comes after it in an unbroken stream from the very beginning of time. You are the beneficiary of all that has gone before. You stand at this point in time as the heir to all the fortunes of knowledge, goodness, beauty and truth that mankind has amassed. They are yours to use in your life. They were passed on to you as you apprenticed yourself to life, and you increased and perfected them as you created your masterpiece. And you must hand them on, made better and grander, polished and perfected by your usage. You must return them to the stream of time, using them again and again for your own betterment and the betterment of your world as you follow your goals and purposes. They are yours to use and yours to give, and they will be the inheritance upon which future lives are built and with which future masterpieces are created.

Life does not stand still. Light radiates in every direction and will travel in a straight line forever, even to the stars. The candlelight we see tonight is a continuation of the fire that was kindled so long ago, and your life at this moment is a continuation of the stream of life that began when the world was young and will go on ahead of you forever. There is much before you; it is your privilege to carry on in the unbroken continuation of life. Out of the darkness came the light, and the light shall not go out forever.

The Second Officiant exchanges the Ritual Book for the candle of the Officiant on her left. The Third Officiant takes her place in the center and proceeds.

Third Officiant: The first color in the Beta Sigma Phi spectrum is red, and it represents courage. It is natural that courage should be the first named of the virtues. It is that virtue which underlies all others and makes them possible. Without courage, nothing is

possible, and with courage, everything can be possible. Courage and faith are closely related. Courage is impossible without faith and the demonstration of faith is impossible without courage.

Courage was required of mankind before the gentler virtues could be known. Before there was sufficient intellect for vision, there was courage. Before the ability to reflect made humility possible, there was courage. And before loyalty could be established, courage to display it was needed. The strength to open one's experience to other people in fellowship requires courage and the determination to be always useful requires great courage. All these virtues you have demonstrated. Now let the red ray of courage fuse those virtues in to a way of being, a way that is represented by the white light of the colors combined.

When you are just beginning on the path of life, it requires courage to look ahead. But there is little to lose. When you have invested many years in life and great effort and great love, there is much to lose. It requires courage to risk all that you have built by going forward. Yet, you never leave and can never lose those things in which you have invested the most. Perhaps it will require courage to avoid simply resting on your laurels. But to go ahead is the only possible way of reaping what you have sown, of receiving the dividends of your investment. You can't turn back, and you cannot rest for very long in the same place without losing the value of what you have already invested. It is courage through which you realize these things, and welcome the future.

Courage does not speak of the heroic effort, but of the unwavering welcome with which you meet the opportunities of the day. It is the quiet certainty that you will give your best and that you will push on undaunted toward the light of the torch. This day is but a way-stop on your journey. You have become a Master of the art of living. You have found the courage to carry you on.

The candle is returned to the First Officiant, who returns to the center and competes the Ritual.

First Officiant: Sisters, you have been found worthy and may now accept the challenge offered you as a Master of Beta Sigma Phi to continue the courageous use of all the talents and of all the virtues that you have mastered and to carry on in the light. Will you accept the challenge?

Answer, "I will."

You will now be known as Master of Beta Sigma Phi; an honor which you have earned and must keep earning day by day.

The Officiants now extinguish the white candles and come around the table to congratulate each candidate in turn. Other members in attendance will follow the Officiants to extend their congratulations.

Note: If is not possible for the Ritual of Jewels Assistants to wear dresses in colors designated, it is suggested that they wear either all white, all black, or alternate black and white; with wide ribbon draped from left shoulder to right hip, ending in a bow or loop, and of the color they represent.

Beta Sigma Phi

TORCHBEARER RITUAL

Instructions: The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth and the six candles in the Ritual colors on either side of a large white pillar candle as the torch. Red, yellow and blue on one side, and orange, green and violet on the other. There is one officiant behind the table with two candle holders to help her read. This candle may be of any color, yellow, black or white. The room is dark as the candidates enter. The candles should be lighted before the candidates enter. Seat them in front of the Ritual Table.

Officiant: You come here today to take your rightful place as a Torchbearer of Beta Sigma Phi. Through your many years of service and study, you have reached the highest pinnacle of the Beta Sigma Phi experience. It is now as always, your place to shed the light of our torch for all sisters to follow and by your life, lead them in the ways of the Good, the True and the Beautiful. As you continue on your path, you now will light the way for yourself, and those who follow.

The Master Ritual was meant to be the zenith of your Beta Sigma Phi experience. Like so many other things in our sorority, you strove for more ways to give yourself to your organization, your sisters, and your families. Because of this, you deserve another step on your journey, another degree to mark the continued growth you have achieved.

You have lived your life like a shining light representing the long held attributes of our organization. Red is for your Courage, the courage to test yourself with new challenges and to encourage those with less experience to try. The color yellow stands for your Vision, the vision to become a sister in Beta Sigma Phi, to find

other women of like minds and hearts to add to those following the torch and to see those sisters through eyes of love, not judgment. Blue stands for Humility, an attribute that could have been easily overlooked as you become skilled in the ways of our sisterhood, but instead you have chosen to spread your light over all who surround you. Orange stands for Loyalty, an attribute your fellow sisters cherish and one that is apparent as we honor your many years in sorority. Green is the color of spring and of Fellowship, it is this color and this attribute that has kept you young at heart and spirit for all the years of your sisterhood. And finally, Violet, the color of the attribute of Service, a standard you have set high through all the years of your endeavors. You have always given more to others than you have taken for yourself. In all these attributes you have been a leader and it is only fitting now that you take your place as a Torchbearer to further shed your light on these values.

Again there is a consistency in the candlelight surrounded by darkness, a continuity that began when man first received the gift of fire, it could be used for good or ill as the recipient chose. You and all who receive this degree have proven that your choice for your fire was good. You lit a torch from that fire and have carried it all your life to lead yourself and others to the good, the true and the beautiful. Mankind has always had a need to band together for protection and even more for comfort and love. You have chosen this tribe of women to be your home and now you take your place at the pinnacle of that tribe, able by your shining example, to light the way for all the others.

Every sister who came before has touched your life through her experience and love of Beta Sigma Phi and your life will do the same. Daily it will radiate a pool of light that others will be bathed in and know the true meaning of that life. One day you will be ready to lay down your burden. When it is time, you will not lay

down your torch but you will pass it to another, so that the experience will not be lost. You will go on to the next phase, to the undiscovered country from which no one returns - to pick up your torch and light your way and the way of those who will one day follow. Know that those sisters you will leave behind will hold you in their hearts forever and the light from your torch will burn brightly in their hearts forever.

We long for your stay to continue, we are all enriched by your knowledge, your humility and your love. May your life be one of peace and beauty where you are always surrounded by your sisters. We will always be able to find you by the light your torch will shed, as we will still see it's light when you have passed from us. Light is the fastest thing in this world, once it is kindled, it travels forever out into the darkness lighting the way. Your life is like that, when your life was kindled, the flame was thrown out into the world, to travel outward, ever onward, to act as a beacon for all who see it. There is still much before you and still, out of the darkness, comes the light and the light will not go out forever.

In your last Ritual, you focused on the color red, of Courage, because your leadership in the organization was well represented by that color. Now your color will be purple, or violet, the color of Service. It is your mantle to use the light you shed as a Torch-bearer to help all those who surround you and touch your life. By your shining example, you will show them the virtue of service to others and how in the long run, the person giving service to others, does indeed give themselves the best gift. It is no surprise that one of the rewards for service is love and that love will be the fuel for your torch. You have been wrapped in the love of your sisters from the beginning of your journey, that will never cease. Certainly there is also a love from those you have never met because of the service you have so selflessly given to others. It is the shining example of this attribute that will furnish an unquench-

able fuel for the Torch you will carry from this moment on. It is in your hand to carry this light with pride as well as humility, to know what sights to shine a light upon and what is better left shrouded in darkness.

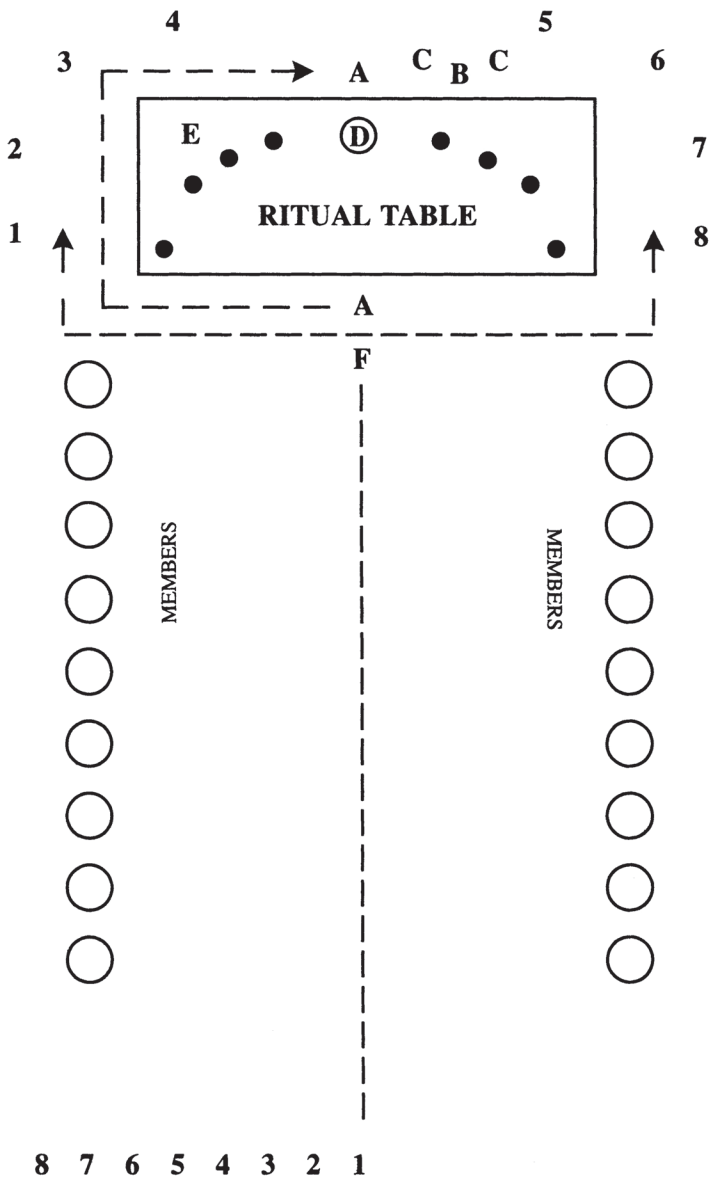
We have always looked to you for guidance and have followed your light, now you have officially taken the step to be a Torchbearer of Beta Sigma Phi. Sister(s), you have been found worthy to pick up the Torch of Beta Sigma Phi and take the designation of Torchbearer, will you accept the challenge?

Answer, "I will."

You will now shine out as a TORCHBEARER of Beta Sigma Phi, again, an honor you have earned and will continue to earn each and every day of your life.

The Officiant and candle bearers will now extinguish their candles and come around the table to offer congratulations to the candidates, give them their new TORCHBEARER pin and help them pin it on. The rest in attendance will then join in congratulating the new TORCHBEARER sister(s).

Diagram for The Order of the Rose



KEY EXPLAINING THE DIAGRAM FOR AN ORDER OF THE ROSE RITUAL

- A.** Recipient(s).
- B.** Officiant who reads the Ritual. Dress: Gold, Black or White.
- C.** Two or four Torchbearers holding lighted candles. Dress: Black or White.
- D.** Vase to accommodate full number of roses to be used.
- E.** Eight empty candle holders. Three on each side in arch near rose bowl. Other two at corners of table, forward right and left.
- F.** Assistants pause in front of the Ritual Table to place candle in holder and present rose to Recipient(s).
 - 1.** First Assitant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Black
 - 2.** Second Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Red
 - 3.** Third Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Yellow.
 - 4.** Fourth Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Blue.
 - 5.** Fifth Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Orange

6. Sixth Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Green

7. Seventh Assistant (Ritual of Jewels Rose-Bearer). Candle and Dress: Violet.

8. Eighth Assistant (Exemplar Rose-Bearer). Candle: White; Dress: White or White and Gold.

Note: If it is not possible for the Ritual of Jewels assistants to wear the colors designated, it is suggested that they wear either all white, all black, or alternate black and white; with wide ribbon draped from shoulder to hp, ending in a bow or loop, and of the color they represent.

Beta Sigma Phi ORDER OF THE ROSE

Instructions: *Officiant stands in center back of table with two or four Torchbearers standing beside and slightly back of her, holding lighted candles to light her reading. Members and guests not assisting with Ritual stand in two rows facing each other, well to right and left of Ritual Table, so it may be clearly seen from all places.*

Occasionally the Order of the Rose is conferred on more than one candidate. A slight deviation in the position of the Officiant behind the Ritual Table will need to be made in this instance so that there will be no crowding of those receiving the Order of the Rose. It is recommended that after the Officiant has read the opening paragraph and indicates to the recipients of this honor, that they are to take their places beside her behind the Ritual Table — that she move as far to the left as necessary in order for the recipients to be centered in back of the table. If there are two torchbearers, one will move to the right

so that she stands to the right of all the recipients and the other will move to the left so that she stands to the left of the Officiant. If there are four Torchbearers — then two will move to the right and two to the left. Since all other participants in ceremony face the candidates from the front side of the table there need be no change in their instructions regardless of how many are receiving the Order of the Rose.

In the opening paragraph of the ceremony for the Order of the Rose which is read by the Officiant, the wording will need to be changed slightly since as it now reads it refers to only one candidate. It is suggested that if you are conferring the degree on more than one you write lightly in pencil above these words that need to be changed to the plural.

Music preceding and during ceremony should be Beta Sigma Phi songs and other suitable “Rose” songs. So that the ceremony may proceed smoothly, it should be carefully rehearsed.

Officiant reads: Dearly Beloved, we are gathered together to confer an honor on one who has highly honored us, to give evidence of our appreciation to one who has given generously of herself to our organization and to our way of life.

We are met here to confer the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi on a cherished and devoted member whose thought, conduct, and purpose reflect the highest ideals of Beauty, Love, and Truth.

Officiant now steps to her left, gestures to the place she has vacated, and addresses honoree.

_____, will you please stand here beside me to receive from us this recognition and this honor.

When honoree is in the central place, the song of Beta Sigma Phi may be sung. At this time the First Assistant, Pledge Rose-Bearer, in black dress with black candle in left hand and yellow rose in right, advances slowly from the rear, pauses a few steps from Ritual Table, waits there, then steps forward, extends her candle and addresses honoree.

First Assistant (Pledge Rose-Bearer) reads: As a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi I bear this Torch — a symbol of the light within my soul — a guide to lead me from the darkness of selfishness into the light of love and loving service to others.

But when my footsteps falter, when my light seems dim and my heart is faint, I am not alone and my Torch is not my only guide, for, in the Golden Circle of Friendship of Beta Sigma Phi there are those, like you, who from the wisdom of your mind and from the kindness of your heart inspire and guide me.

Places candle in holder at front left corner of table. Extends hand with rose, continues:

As a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi I present to you this token of gratitude for your inspiration and guidance; the yellow rose of our sorority signifying the purity and wholesomeness of our undertaking.

Places her rose in the vase, then takes her place beside her candle at the left of Ritual Table.

Music may be played softly; Second Assistant with lighted red candle in left hand and yellow rose in right advances slowly from the rear, faces honoree and speaks.

Second Assistant reads: The Torch of Learning is many-colored though the flame is forever one. The white Light of Love comprises the whole spectrum of Beauty — as Love and Loveliness are both one and many hued.

The red of the flame is an ever-burning brand, a badge of the brave and the strong.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of your dauntless and undeviating pursuit of the principles of Beta Sigma Phi.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for the virtue of your courage, I give you the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Places rose in the vase. Walks to place back of table corresponding with position of the candle she has placed in holder.

Music (optional). Third Assistant advances with yellow candle in left hand and yellow rose in right, faces honoree and speaks.

Third Assistant reads: It is written: “WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH.” In Beta Sigma Phi we dream of noble things. We dedicate ourselves to the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. We open our hearts and minds in gratitude and growth to all avenues of love and loveliness. We follow the Torch. We are seekers of the Light.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of the high ideals of Beta Sigma Phi.

Extends the rose.

In gratitude for your vision I give to you the yellow rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Places her rose in the vase, takes place to left of Second Assistant, corresponding the position of her candle.

Music (optional). Fourth Assistant advances, blue candle in left hand and a rose in right, faces honoree and speaks.

Fourth Assistant reads: It is written: "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK." In Beta Sigma Phi we learn that the attirement of the Queenly Woman is not in flaunting garments of pride and personal aggrandizement, but in the gentler qualities which grace a life with consideration and courtesy, constructive action for the good of others, and service free from selfishness.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of that perspective which keeps us reverent before the miracle of being, and respectful toward our fellowman.

Extends the rose.

In gratitude for your humility I give to you the Rose of our Sisterhood.

Places rose in holder. Takes place to left of Third Assistant, corresponding to the position of her candle on table.

Music (optional). Fifth Assistant with orange candle in left hand and rose in right advances and addresses honoree.

Fifth Assistant reads: Though we be tested many times, though we be sorely tried, yet have we promised to make every sacrifice and exert every effort in the fulfillment of the ideals of Beta Sigma Phi.

Though we journey to the end of the earth alone, with only the inner eye to see, yet have we promised to be steadfast in our obligation.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our earnest and unswerving purpose.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for your unfailing loyalty I give to you the yellow Rose of our Sisterhood.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of the Officiant, corresponding to position of her candle.

Music (optional). Sixth Assistant with green candle in left hand and rose in right advances and addresses honoree.

Sixth Assistant reads: The full meaning of the friendship of Beta Sigma Phi can never be fully expressed in words. It lies deep in our hearts.

Like the Phi of our emblem, it is the golden circle embracing all other meanings and giving to us a union of unbroken strength.

It begins with the intimacy and enjoyment of our chapter sisters and extends in time to the ends of the earth and to all mankind.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our love for one another and for our fellowship.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for the blessing of your friendship I give to you this yellow rose.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of Fifth Assistant, corresponding to position of her candle.

Music (optional). Seventh Assistant with violet candle in left hand and full blown rose in right, advances and addresses honoree.

Seventh Assistant reads: IN LOYAL AND LOVING SERVICE TO OTHERS THE LOVE OF SELF IS FORGOTTEN.

In the beginning we pledge ourselves to this goal. In the achievement of this goal we lighten the burden of one another. We further the purpose of our organization: Life, Learning, and Friendship. We reach the realm of Beauty, Love, and Truth.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our goal, our gift of our Self to Life.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for your unselfish service to others I give to you this rose whose heart, like yours, is opened in full-blown blessing to the world.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of Sixth Assistant, corresponding to position of her candle.

No music, but the hush of silence as the Eighth and last Assistant advances slowly from the rear with white candle in left hand and in her right a perfect rose tied with a gold bow and with the ORDER OF THE ROSE pin attached to stem. She addresses honoree.

Eighth Assistant reads: As the sum of all colors is loveliness and the sum of all light is that perfect luminosity, the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE, so, the sum of our purposes in Beta Sigma Phi is to translate into life this love and loveliness; to make life a masterpiece through renunciation of selfishness, and through appreciation and expression of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful.

As we go forward together we draw ever nearer to our ultimate desire, the PERFECT.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE.

Extends the rose.

It is my privilege to place in your hand and keeping this perfect flower, and with it to present the emblem of the ORDER OF THE ROSE OF BETA SIGMA PHI. May it be to you a permanent token and perpetual reminder of our love and gratitude.

Places rose in hand of honoree. Takes her place to right of the table beside her candle.

Officiant reads: In the time of Diotima, in the place of Mantinea, the rose was dedicated as the Queen of Flowers. Her sovereignty has never waned. Regal in form, enchanting in color, exquisitely fragrant, she lends her majesty as graciously to the humblest garden as to the stately acres.

It is fitting, therefore, that the rose, choicest among the many beautiful blossoms of this earth, should have been chosen as the flower of Beta Sigma Phi. It is fitting, also, that the yellow rose, joyous and sunny is its hue, should be the flower of our organization.

It is dear to us for its freshness and purity. In times of sorrow, and in times of gladness it is with us, always a reminder of the special love and understanding of our Sisterhood.

Such dearness, such all-encompassing grace, such special love and understanding as are symbolized to us by the yellow rose are the same qualities which cause us to nominate you for the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

As you have honored us, so would we now honor you.

Let us repeat in unison our Closing Ritual.

Soft music as all present give the Closing Ritual.

At a convenient time following this ceremony, either after refreshments, if the affair is a party, or at a special meeting, or in another suitable manner, the honoree should be asked to speak to the members in acceptance of this honor.

Beta Sigma Phi

ORDER OF THE ROSE

(Alternate Shorter Version)

Instructions: *The Ritual Table should prominently display the eight candles called for in the ceremony. An empty vase should be placed in the center of the table. One attendant will hold the roses and fill this vase with roses as the ceremony progresses. A second Attendant lights the candles as directed by the Officiant. The Officiant should indicate the Attendants' actions with a nod or subtle gesture to "cue" the lighting of candles and placement of roses. The Officiant stands in the center back of the table with one or more additional attendants standing beside and slightly behind, holding lighted candles to light her reading. Members and guests not assisting with Ritual stand in two rows facing each other, well to the right and left of the Ritual table, so it may be clearly seen from all places. Recipient(s) stands with guests until called.*

Occasionally the Order of the Rose is conferred on more than one candidate. A slight deviation in the position of the Officiant behind the Ritual Table must be made in this instance so there will be no crowding of those receiving the Order of the Rose. If there are multiple recipients, the wording of the opening paragraph of the ceremony will need to be changed slightly since as it now reads it refers to only one candidate.

Soft music may be played in the background if desired. Classical pieces such as Pachelbel's Canon work well. So that the ceremony may proceed smoothly, it should be carefully rehearsed.

Officiant reads: Dearly beloved, we are gathered together to show honor to one who has honored us, to show our appreciation to one who has given generously of herself to our organization and

to our way of life. We are met here to confer the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi on a cherished and devoted member whose thought, conduct, and purpose reflect the highest ideals of Beauty, Love, and Truth.

Officiant now steps to her left, gestures to the place she has vacated, and addresses honoree.

_____, will you please stand here beside me to receive this recognition and this honor.

When honoree is in the central place, the Attendant advances slowly and lights the black candle.

Officiant reads: As a pledge, you bore this Torch – a symbol of the light within your soul – a guide to lead you from the darkness of selfishness into the light of love and loving service to others. So do I bear this Torch. But when my light seems dim and my heart is faint, the Torch is not my only guide, for in the Golden Circle of Friendship of Beta Sigma Phi there are sisters like you, who inspire and guide me with the wisdom of your mind and the kindness of your heart.

Attendant takes a rose and places it in the vase.

Officiant reads: I present to you this token of gratitude for your inspiration and guidance; the yellow rose of our sorority signifying the purity and wholesomeness of our undertaking.

Attendant lights the red candle.

Officiant reads: The Torch of Learning is many-colored, though the flame is forever one. The white Light of Love comprises the whole spectrum of Beauty – as Love and Loveliness are both one

and many hued. The red of the flame is an ever-burning brand, a badge of the brave and the strong. I present this Torch as a symbol of your dauntless and undeviating pursuit of the principles of Beta Sigma Phi.

Attendant takes a rose and places it in the vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for the virtue of your courage, I give you the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Attendant lights the yellow candle.

Officiant reads: It is written: "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH." In Beta Sigma Phi we dream of noble things. We dedicate ourselves to the Good, the True, the Beautiful. We open our hearts and minds to all avenues of love and loveliness. We follow the Torch. We are seekers of the Light. I present this Torch as a symbol of the high ideas of Beta Sigma Phi.

Attendant takes a rose and places it in a vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for your wisdom I give you the rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Attendant lights the blue candle.

Officiant reads: It is written: "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK." In Beta Sigma Phi we learn that the attirement of the Queenly Woman is not in flaunting garments of pride and personal aggrandizement, but in the gentler qualities which grace a life with consideration and courtesy, committed action for the good of others, and service free from selfishness. I present this Torch as a symbol of that perspective which keeps us reverent before the miracle of being, and respectful toward those with whom we share the world.

Attendant takes a rose places it in a vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for your humility I give to you the Rose of our Sisterhood.

Attendant lights the orange candle.

Officiant reads: Though we be tested many times, though we be sorely tried, yet have we promised to make every sacrifice and every effort in fulfillment of the ideals of Beta Sigma Phi. Though we journey to the end of the earth alone, with only the inner eye to see, yet have we promised to be steadfast in our obligation. I present to you this Torch as a symbol of our earnest and unswerving purpose.

Attendant takes a rose and places it in the vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for your unfailing loyalty I give you the yellow Rose of our Sisterhood.

Attendant lights the green candle.

Officiant reads: The full meaning of the friendship of Beta Sigma Phi can never be fully expressed in words. It lies deep in our hearts. Like the Phi of our emblem, it is the golden circle embracing all other meanings and giving us a union of unbroken strength. It begins with the intimacy and enjoyment of our chapter sisters and extends in time to the ends of the earth and to all humanity. I present this Torch as a symbol of our love for one another and for our fellowship.

Attendant takes a rose laces it in the vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for the blessing of your friendship I give to you this yellow rose.

Attendant lights the violet candle.

Officiant reads: “IN LOYAL AND LOVING SERVICE TO OTHERS THE LOVE OF SELF IS FORGOTTEN.” In the beginning we pledge ourselves to this goal. In the achievement of this goal we lighten the burden of one another. We further the purpose of our organization: Life, Learning, and Friendship. We reach the realm of Beauty, Love, and Truth. I present this Torch as a symbol of our goal, our gift of our Self to Life.

Attendant takes a rose and places it in the vase.

Officiant reads: In gratitude for your unselfish service to others I give to you this rose, whose heart, like yours, is opened in full-blown blessing to the world.

No music, but the hush of silence as the Attendant lights the white candle. In one hand she holds a perfect rose tied with a gold bow and with the ORDER OF THE ROSE pin attached to the stem.

Officiant reads: As the sum of all colors is loveliness and the sum of all light is that perfect luminosity, the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE, so the sum of our purposes in Beta Sigma Phi is to translate into life this love and loveliness; to make life a masterpiece through renunciation of selfishness, and through appreciation and expression of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. As we go forward together, we draw ever nearer to our ultimate desire, the PERFECT. I present this Torch as a symbol of the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE.

Attendant extends the rose.

Officiant reads: It is my privilege to place in your hand and keeping this perfect flower, and with it to present the emblem of the ORDER OF THE ROSE OF BETA SIGMA PHI. May it be to you a permanent token and perpetual reminder of our love and gratitude.

Attendant places the rose in the hand of the honoree.

Officiant reads: In the time of Diotima, in the place of Mantinea, the rose was dedicated as the Queen of Flowers. Her sovereignty has never waned.

It is fitting, therefore, that the rose, choicest among the many beautiful blossoms of this earth, should have been chosen as the flower of Beta Sigma Phi. It is fitting, also, that the yellow rose, joyous and sunny in its hue, should be the flower of our organization. It is dear to us for its freshness and purity. In times of sorrow and in times of gladness it is with us, always a reminder of the special love and understanding of our Sisterhood.

Such dearness, such all-encompassing grace, such special love and understanding as are symbolized to us by the yellow rose are the same qualities which cause us to nominate you for the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi. As you have honored us, so we would now honor you.

If the recipient(s) is to receive the Order of the Rose gold pin, which may be purchased in advance, then the following paragraph should be read. Otherwise, the ceremony is closed with the repeating of the Closing Ritual.

Officiant reads: Accept from us this golden rose, the emblem of the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi. Wear it as evidence of our recognition and appreciation, and as a reminder of our gratitude to you for exemplifying the highest aims and purposes of Beta Sigma Phi.

Officiant reads: Let us repeat in unison our Closing Ritual.

At a convenient time following this ceremony, either after refreshments if the affair is a party, or at a special meeting, or in another suitable manner, the honoree should be asked to speak to the members in acceptance of this honor.

Beta Sigma Phi

SILVER CIRCLE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual is for members who the chapter is satisfied have been in Beta Sigma Phi for 25 years or more (either active participation in a chapter, or on leave of absence, or as members-at-large for some of these years). No certification by the International Office is required. The Ritual may be presented by a single chapter at a regular chapter meeting or at a special social event. It may also be presented by city council at a special social event or at Founder's Day.*

The Ritual should be read by another 25-year member, or by a member specially selected for this honor.

The Ritual Table should be set up with a white cloth or a Ritual Cloth, one silver candle should be placed in the center of the table, with the six candles in the Ritual colors arranged in order with three on each side of the silver candle (or, if you prefer, two groups of candles, each containing a red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet candle arranged in the order named, may be placed on each end of the Ritual Table). None of the candles are lighted when the Ritual begins. The Officiant then stands behind the table with an attendant to her right and another to her left, each holding a lighted candle. All candidates for the Ritual stand in a semi-circle in front of the Ritual Table.

Officiant: Sisters in Beta Sigma Phi, you stand once more as you have so many times in the past before the Ritual Table. You stand not in darkness as once you did, for the light of Beta Sigma Phi shines forth from you. The torch you have carried so well lights the way for those who follow you. Now its light falls upon these candles of colors red, yellow, blue, orange, green and violet, representing the six virtues to which you have for so long been pledged. Let us recall them together.

Attendants will light the candles as they are called for by the Officiant. The attendant to the right begins with a candle on the right end of the table which is red. When her three candles have been lighted, the Officiant on the left lights the three candles on the left side of the table, beginning with the center, which will be the orange candle.

Officiant: We light now the red candle, and the red of that flame shall be courage, such courage as you have demonstrated in your many years of membership. It is the courage with which you have pursued our ideals and by which you have overcome many difficulties, achieving your goals, making the most of your talents.

We light now the yellow candle, and the yellow of that flame is vision, which has given enthusiasm to your courage, which has enabled you to see beyond your own self, to perceive those things worth hoping for and to be assured of the reality of those great ideals and truths which cannot be seen.

We light now the blue candle, and the blue of that flame is humility. It is that humility that you have felt which has caused you to seek nothing for yourself and which makes us all meek in the presence of the miracle of being.

We light now the orange candle, and the orange of that flame is loyalty, loyalty which you have displayed toward your sisters, your chapters, and your organization, and which is a part of every relationship in your life. It has kept you steadfast and enabled you to set aside discouragements.

We light now the green candle, and the green of that flame is fellowship which you have extended not only to us, your sisters, but to all fellow beings. It is friendship which makes of life a garden rather than a barren waste.

We light now the violet candle and the violet of that flame shall be service which arises from both humility and courage. It is a gift of yourself which you have made to life, forgetting yourself.

We need these candles as symbols no longer, for the virtues they represent shine forth from you and we have before us the silver candle (light silver candle), representing the silver circle of Beta Sigma Phi, of which you have become a member in grateful acknowledgment of your 25 years of steadfast devotion to those virtues, and that light which shines from you shall not go out forever.

Welcome to the Silver Circle of Beta Sigma Phi.

Beta Sigma Phi

GOLDEN CIRCLE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth. A Vase of yellow roses in the exact number of recipients is placed in the center, with the Ritual colored candles arranged in order in a semi-circle across the table, back of the flowers (may use two groups of Ritual colored candles, one on each side or one group with three on one side and three on the other). There are three Officiants behind the table. Two of the Officiants hold a white candle to provide light for the Officiant who is reading. The room is darkened and the candles are lighted before the recipients enter. Members attending form a circle beginning at one end of the table and ending at the other end. They may be seated or standing. Attendants escort each recipient to the center of the circle as her name is called.*

Officiant: Will _____ please come forward?

Once again you stand before the Ritual Table, you stand in the light you entered fifty years ago, with all you have learned, all you have accomplished, and all you have dreamed arrayed around you like a vast garden blooming in riotous color.

And in that flowering is found every color of the spectrum. Red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet. These hues you know so well, representing virtues to which you have been devoted for fifty years, are present in this garden, as in your life, in every shade and tint. By that great variety is shown the range of your experience and the breadth of your values.

There are cool and shadowed places in your garden, restful and welcoming as your friendship. Here are the deepest greens, the green of fellowship.

There also are bright and lively yellows, carrying the eye beyond the near borders, as your vision has extended beyond the short and narrow view.

And blues are there in many shades, reminding us of your humility. They combine with the yellow of vision to produce those vibrant greens we have seen before.

In the deepest shade are violet hues both warm and cool, but all gentle and quiet, reminding us of the spirit of service, composed of the red of courage and the blue of humility.

The joyous brilliant quality of red blossoms in every shade proclaims the courage with which you live your life. Red is part of this garden as courageous devotion to ideals is part of your life. The colors of red and yellow intermingle to form the color which represents that one virtue which has sustained all the others for fifty years. Together they form orange, the color of loyalty. And it is for this, more than anything else, that we honor you today. Your loyalty to your sisters and to Beta Sigma Phi over the years is like a golden circle. It is a circle which includes all who are worthy of your friendship and excludes only those things which are unworthy or unlovely. Everything of the good, the true, and the beautiful is a part of your golden circle, and life, learning, and friendship are part of its fabric.

Because you have been loyal to these precepts for fifty wonderful years, we now bestow upon you the award of the Golden Circle. Now accept this yellow rose token of this honor and of our love and respect for you.

The two candle holders put out their candles and one (or both if there is more than one recipient) hands a yellow rose to each recipient and congratulates her.

Beta Sigma Phi

DIAMOND CIRCLE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth. A large white pillar candle is placed in the center, with the Ritual colored candles arranged in order in a semi-circle across the table, back of the pillar candle (may use two groups of Ritual colored candles, one on each side or one group with three on one side and three on the other).*

The Ritual should be read by another 60-year member, or by a member specially selected for this honor. May appoint one or two assistants to hold white candles to provide light for the officiant. The room is darkened with only the candles lighted before the recipients enter. Members attending form a circle beginning at one end of the table and ending at the other end. They may be seated or standing. Recipient(s) stand in the center of the circle.

Officiant reads: When you joined Beta Sigma Phi sixty years ago, the world was a different place. It was a slower and kinder world. People, not only your sisters, were able to spend time with you. There was true understanding and true caring. You were very much a part of that world. You are very much a part of the world as it is now.

Yes, you are part of the world as it is. Still you have not forgotten to understand and to care. Beyond doubt, your sisters have supported you in these most important virtues. Over the years, you have grown, not only in goodness, not only in stature, but in those virtues that distinguish a Beta Sigma Phi.

Let us recount those virtues to which you have shown absolute loyalty. The first of those is courage. You have shown it in abundance as you faced the realities and the challenges of this world.

Elected or not, you have been a leader. You have shown the courage to live life to the fullest.

The second is vision. Nothing is possible without it. You must see and understand, if you are to accomplish anything.

The third is humility. With all that you have accomplished over all the years, you are still humble. Humility is required as we grow older. All that you have accomplished could lead to conceit, but humility is the emotion by which we charm the world.

The fourth virtue is loyalty. The combination of courage and vision go together to create loyalty. It is through loyalty that you display both courage and vision. Over your years in Beta Sigma Phi you have displayed loyalty again and again. No other virtue could have led you to remain so many years a member. For this International and your sisters are profoundly grateful.

There is no other virtue that will take the place of fellowship. That its color is green is appropriate. All the world finds green a cool and comfortable color. No other virtue is so readily demonstrated, and so well received. Your sisters have found in you a true example of fellowship. May it be a part of you forever.

The last virtue is service. It does not mean that you serve every cause and find all things worth serving. It means that you are ready and willing to provide service to a cause in which you believe. More than that, it means that you are ready, and have over the years shown that service is a part of your nature.

Please accept the award of The Diamond Circle. You have richly deserved it.

Beta Sigma Phi

RITUAL OF WELCOME

Instructions: *For installation of transfer members, the Ritual Table is set with a white cloth and Ritual colored candles arranged in order in a semi-circle across the table (may use two groups of Ritual colored candles, one on each side or one group with three on one side and three on the other.*

A vase of yellow roses in the exact number of transferees is placed in the center to be presented to her as indicated.

An empty seat in the center of the seating arrangement shall be kept for the formal seating of the transfer member.

The transferee waits, with an attendant, at the rear of the room. The meeting is begun with the Opening Ritual as customary at regular meetings.

Officiant standing and addressing the group:

Sisters in Beta Sigma Phi: Tonight it is our privilege and our pleasure to receive into fellowship in this chapter a member formerly active in _____ Chapter of _____ (state), at _____ (city). (Name of transferee), will you please come forward?

Attendant escorts the transferee to a place in front of the table, facing the Officiant. A short pause ensues to insure quiet.

Officiant (addressing the transferee): Beta Sigma Phi?

Transferee: I am thy sister.

Officiant: The fellowship of Beta Sigma Phi requires of us that we shall give to one another that love which causes us to share in whatever of good or sorrow may come to any one of us. It requires of us that love which makes us slow to expose a fault and eager to believe the true and the good.

Are you willing to accept from us, and to extend to the members of this chapter these obligations of our fellowship? If so, answer "I am."

Transferee: I am.

Officiant comes from behind the table and giving to the transferee the Beta Sigma Phi handclasp.

Officiant: Accept, then, our hand in fellowship. (She then presents the yellow rose and continues.) The poet says, "Your friend is your need answered. He is your field which you sow in love and reap in thanksgiving...let your best be for your friend."

Attendant gives the handclasp to the transferee.

Attendant: Welcome to our golden circle of friendship.

Officiant (addressing the attendant): Please seat _____ as an official member of _____ Chapter.

The attendant takes the transferee to the seat reserved, and the meeting proceeds.

Beta Sigma Phi MOTHER'S RITUAL To Honor Beta Sigma Phi Mothers

Note: This is a special ceremony that may be used by all chapters and degrees.

Instructions: *A long table is covered with a white cloth reaching to the floor. In the center is a vase filled with yellow roses*, enough to provide each Mother with her own rose during the ceremony. These should be placed loosely in the vase so they may be removed easily – one by one. Six yellow candles are placed in holders on each side of the roses.*

If each Mother is to receive the gold Beta Sigma Phi Mother's pin, it should be pinned on black and gold ribbons with a straight pin attached (so that at the proper time in the ceremony, it can be pinned easily over the heart), and place along the front of the ritual table – spaced evenly apart.

As many straight chairs as there are Mothers should be placed in a semi-circle facing the ritual table – leaving enough space between for the member behind each chair to have easy access to come forward and escort her Mother when indicated.

The Officiant stands behind the ritual table with two members (preferably two members whose Mothers are not present) – one to her right and one to her left – holding candles. All candles are lighted and soft music may be playing as each member escorts her own Mother into the room, seats her, and takes her place behind her Mother's chair.

Officiant: Dearly Beloved, we are gathered together to pay tribute to you, the Mothers of Beta Sigma Phis, and to acquaint you

with those things which unite us with the illustrious Sisterhood of Beta Sigma Phi. As Beta Sigma Phis, we learn that the only right we have is the right to be useful, to be kind and helpful and friendly to our fellow beings. We shall be steadfast, faithful and fearless in the pursuit of the high ideal. To be a Beta Sigma Phi is to renounce selfishness and to assume a Queenly quest.

The first great lesson of our Sisterhood is LOVE – not only love for living creatures, but that all-embracing love for souls we never saw, souls gone from the earth long before, but whose messages have come down to us in works of art, in music, architecture, in books, pictures, and all avenues of loveliness.

It shall be that love which makes us slow to expose a fault and eager to find and believe the True and the Good. It shall be that love which causes us to share in whatever of Good or of Sorrow that may come to any one of us. It shall be that love which crowns a woman in her “Queenly quest” – enriching most who give the most.

Beta Sigma Phi is not a secret organization, nor an exclusive one. Its members are selected because it is felt they can measure up to its ideals and purposes. Ideals and purposes implanted by you and fostered by your love and devotion so that when we reached womanhood and became eligible for membership in Beta Sigma Phi, we were qualified and could continue to follow these goals.

We want you to be informed of the outward symbols of our Sisterhood. The badge of Beta Sigma Phi is shaped like the great Phi, a golden circle of friendship. We are bound in a union of unbroken strength. Beta signifies Life – a gleam of time between two eternities. The shaping of our own Life is our own work. It is a thing of beauty, or a thing of shame, as we ourselves make it.

Let it be known to you that the Sigma signifies Learning. It is wealth to the poor, honor to the rich, an aid to the young, and a support and comfort to the aged.

The flaming torch is the light of learning – a guide – meaning that we are guided by the light of learning, and are a guide to others. The yellow rose is the flower of our organization, signifying in its purity and freshness the wholesomeness of our undertaking.

The six jewels represent six virtues – Courage, Vision, Humility, Loyalty, Friendship, and Service.

Officiant: We pledge ourselves to Beauty and Loveliness. We learn that “Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty.” We learn that truth is the shadow of perfection – the form and color of eternal good.

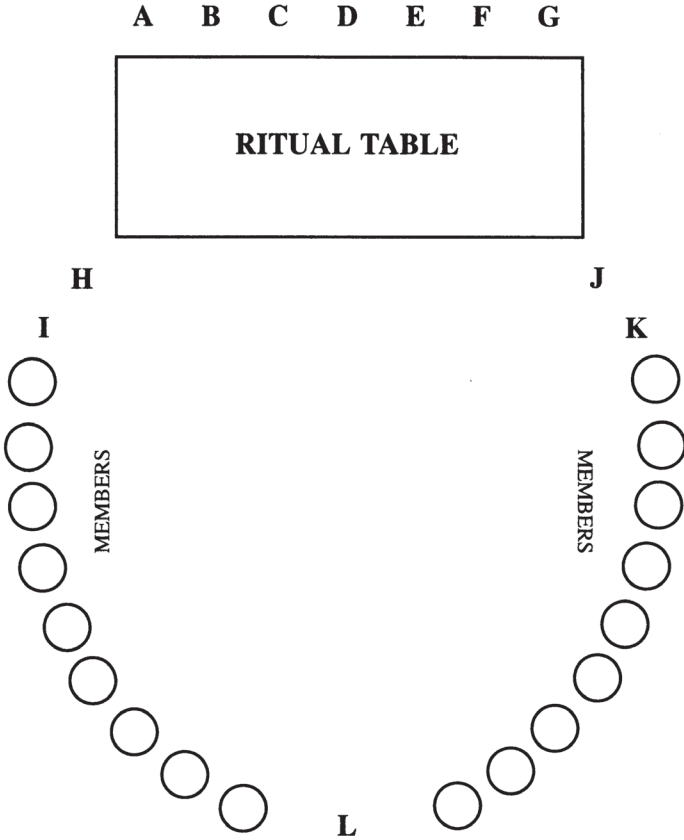
Will you, (name), come forward and receive the Beta Sigma Phi rose, symbol of our Sisterhood and of our love for you?

Each daughter escorts her Mother to the ritual table as her name is called, and presents her with a rose. If the Mother's pin is to be given, the daughter will take one of the beribboned pins and pin it over the heart of her Mother. When all Mothers have been escorted to their chairs, the Officiant continues...

Officiant: Sharing with you the aims, the purposes, the ideals of our Beta Sigma Phi, and the meaning of the symbols of our Sisterhood, have been precious moments to us that we will cherish always. It is traditional for our meetings to end by standing in a circle for our Closing Ritual. We invite you to share this with us by forming an inner circle within ours, while we repeat the Closing Ritual, and then join hands for the Mizpah benediction.

Closing Ritual

Diagram for Installation of Officers



- A SPONSOR
- B PRESIDENT
- C VICE-PRESIDENT
- D RECORDING SECRETARY
- E CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- F TREASURER
- G DIRECTOR
- H RETIRING VICE-PRESIDENT
- I RETIRING RECORDING SECRETARY
- J RETIRING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- K RETIRING TREASURER
- L OFFICIANT (RETIRING PRESIDENT)

Beta Sigma Phi

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Instructions: *A table is placed at one end of the room. On it are arranged the properties used as symbols in the ceremony. If the occasion is a formal party, a black bowl of yellow roses, and candelabra, may be added, and chapter members other than the retiring officers and the officers to be installed may each hold a lighted candle.*

The officers to be installed stand back of the table, facing the members, right to left in the following order — President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. The Sponsor should stand to the right of the President and the Director (or Advisor) to the left of the Treasurer (if you have one). The other members shall form a horseshoe facing the officers to be installed with the outgoing officers at the two ends of the horseshoe nearest the table. The retiring President or some member appointed by the Executive Board shall preside as Officiant.

The Officiant who conducts the installation shall stand at the center of the horseshoe (some member may stand beside the Officiant and hold a lighted candle so the Officiant can see to read the Ritual), and as she finished reading the Installation Ritual for each new officer, the retiring officer of the same title shall present to the incoming officer the symbol of the office.

On occasions when you are installing only one or possibly two officers who have been appointed to fill vacancies for unexpired terms of office, the Officiant should read the installation for that office with an appointed member presenting a symbol of that office.

Officiant reads: We are assembled now to install the officers of _____ Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

President

Officiant announces the name of the office and then the full name of the officer to be installed, repeats her first name in salutation and reads as follows:

_____, to you has come an honor and a real opportunity. We have chosen you to be our constituted leader through the coming year, with full faith in your integrity of character, your loyalty to our ideals and your fidelity to the trust imposed upon you.

May it be your resolution, therefore to represent the membership faithfully and truly, and to foster harmony and unity in all our undertakings.

To you, all officers and committees look for guidance and assistance. To you they are responsible for the fulfillment of their duties.

To you, in the fulfillment of this obligation, each member pledges full allegiance.

You accept a privilege and assume a responsibility to have a part in the cultural and social life of your community, your state, and your nation.

In your acceptance of the office of President, will you pledge yourself to these obligations?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of President."

Retiring President presents gavel.

Retiring President: On behalf of _____ Chapter, I now present to you this gavel, symbol of authority, and token of the trust we hold in you.

Vice-President

Again Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Vice-President of this Chapter you are highly honored by our sisterhood. You are entrusted with a number of important and traditional duties. The most important of these is assuring the future of our chapter through careful and enthusiastic rushing. Second to that is the training of new members for full participation and enjoyment in Beta Sigma Phi. In the absence or disability of the President you are responsible for assuming her duties. As Chapter Hostess, you will extend the traditional courtesies to our members and our guests.

In the absence of the Treasurer, you are authorized to assume her duties.

You are expected to give full cooperation and loyalty to our President and to foster and promote chapter unity at all times.

In your acceptance of this office will you pledge yourself to assume these responsibilities and to accept these obligations?"

Answer, "I pledge myself, to thy utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Vice-President."

Retiring Vice-President presents Book of Beta Sigma Phi.

Retiring Vice-President: On behalf of _____ Chapter, I present to you this Book of Beta Sigma Phi, symbol of your duties and as a reminder of the traditions and courtesies of our sisterhood.

Extension Officer

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Extension Officer an unusual opportunity has come to you to serve our great sisterhood. You have been selected to hold high the Torch of Beta Sigma Phi that many lovely unpledged sisters may see its light and share the privilege of membership in new chapters that can be sponsored by our chapter through your able leadership.

In your acceptance of this office will you pledge yourself to assume these responsibilities and to accept the obligations of Extension Officer?

Answer, "I pledge myself to the utmost of my ability to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Extension Officer."

Retiring Extension Officer and Officiant presents properties of the office.

Retiring Extension Officer: On behalf of _____ Chapter, I present to you the properties of the office of Extension Officer."

Recording Secretary

Officiant announces the office and the full name of incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Recording Secretary you are the custodian of this chapter's history and the transcriber of its activities. It becomes your opportunity and your responsibility to transcribe faithfully the minutes of our meetings, and to keep these minutes at all times available to the President and the chapter. In addition to these duties you are especially obligated to prepare and forward to the International Office the monthly reports and minutes required to ensure our chapter's good standing in the International Organization.

Will you pledge yourself to the careful fulfillment of these duties?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Recording Secretary."

Retiring Recording Secretary presents properties of the office.

Retiring Recording Secretary: On behalf of _____ Chapter, I present to you our minute book, in which you shall record a full and accurate report of all our meetings, our attendance and our activities.

Corresponding Secretary

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Corresponding Secretary of our Chapter you have been given an added opportunity for service in the great sisterhood of which you are now a vital part. We depend upon you to give prompt and courteous response to chapter correspondence, retaining carbon copies of all such correspondence in a file accessible to the chapter at all times and to give a report of this at each

regular meeting. In your acceptance of this office will you pledge yourself to the acceptance of these obligations?

Answer, "I pledge myself to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Corresponding Secretary.

Retiring Corresponding Secretary presents chapter stationery and other properties for her office.

Retiring Corresponding Secretary: On behalf of _____ Chapter, I now present to you the properties of the office of Corresponding Secretary."

Treasurer

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Treasurer of this chapter, you become the trusted custodian of chapter finances. It is your duty to collect and disburse all monies of the chapter. You are required to keep an accurate account book of such receipts and disbursements, to give a report of these at each regular meeting, and to submit your account to the Executive Board for auditing at the expiration of your term of office. It is your responsibility to maintain the financial integrity of the chapter in every way possible, and to give prompt attention to the payment of financial obligations due to or by the chapter at all times.

Will you pledge yourself to the conscientious fulfillment of these duties?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Treasurer."

Retiring Treasurer presents account book.

Retiring Treasurer: On behalf of _____ Chapter, and as property of your office I present to you the account book of our chapter. This book has been audited and balanced under the approval of the Executive Board and is now entrusted to your care with full confidence in your integrity.

Director or Advisor

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the Director or Advisor and reads:

_____, as (Director or Advisor) of _____ Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, we look to you for stimulus and direction in the quest we have undertaken. We depend upon you to be present at our regular meetings and to guide us in the planning and presentation of our cultural programs. From you will come inspiration and vision conducive to our success and our achievement.

In your capacity as Advisor you are expected to assist the chapter in the understanding of the rules and regulations of the International Office and to adhere to the standard program outlines promulgated by it. As a symbol of your honor and your responsibility I present to you a copy of the Book of Beta Sigma Phi.

In accepting these symbols will you pledge yourself to the fulfillment of these obligations?

Present the Book of Beta Sigma Phi.

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to fulfill the duties of the office of (Director or Advisor)."

Officiant: May you, in your unselfish devotion and loyal efforts in Beta Sigma Phi, realize the fuller life and that inner joy which springs from a good work well and faithfully done.

Sponsor

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the Sponsor and reads:

As Sponsor of _____ Chapter, we look to you for guidance in all matters where the wisdom of your mind and the kindness of your heart may serve us as a model for growth and understanding.

We depend upon you to advise us in all social matters and to guide our Social Committee in the preparation and fulfillment of social activities, and to assist in all ways possible to help us improve the general standing and prestige of our chapter.

As a symbol of your office we present to you the yellow rose of Beta Sigma Phi. In accepting this symbol will you pledge yourself to gracious service?

Presents yellow rose.

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to fulfill the responsibilities of the office of Sponsor."

Officiant: May you, in this gift of yourself to life, be enriched and blessed forever.

Installation Ceremony for an Honorary Member (One who is neither a Director nor Sponsor)

As an Honorary Member of _____ Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, you are embracing a new honor and accepting a real privilege. The honor shall be that we look to you for inspiration in all matters where the wisdom of your mind and the kindness of your heart may serve us as a model for further growth and understanding.

The privilege shall be the love we give to you and those who, like yourself, take time from the pressing affairs of a full life to give of themselves to their fellow beings. May you, in this gift of yourself to life, be enriched and blessed forever.

Ceremony for Chapter Members

After all officers have been installed, the Officiant asks the other members of the chapter to rise and repeat after her:

As a member of the International sisterhood of Beta Sigma Phi and of this chapter, I recognize the importance of my full support for the chapter and its elected officers. I pledge myself to give that support and my loyalty. I confirm the right of each member of the chapter to her own opinion and affirm that I will abide by chapter decision, whether that decision coincides with my own opinion or not.

I promise to offer to the chapter the best that is in me, the best ideas of which I am capable, the best effort at my command, and the fullest understanding and friendship for each of my sisters. I realize that my chapter cannot consider my opinions if I do not express them. And I promise to offer to the chapter every good and constructive idea I can, realizing as I do so that not every idea can be used and the will of the majority must be followed. When

I am a part of the majority I will have every consideration for the needs and desires of the minority and when I am part of the minority, I will extend the same thoughtfulness and consideration.

Officiant then states to the elected officers:

The members of _____ Chapter have affirmed their loyalty to the chapter and to you, as its elected officers. Does every member of this chapter now reaffirm the pledges just made? Answer, "I do."

If desired, the Closing Ritual may be repeated in unison at the completion of this installation service.

Beta Sigma Phi

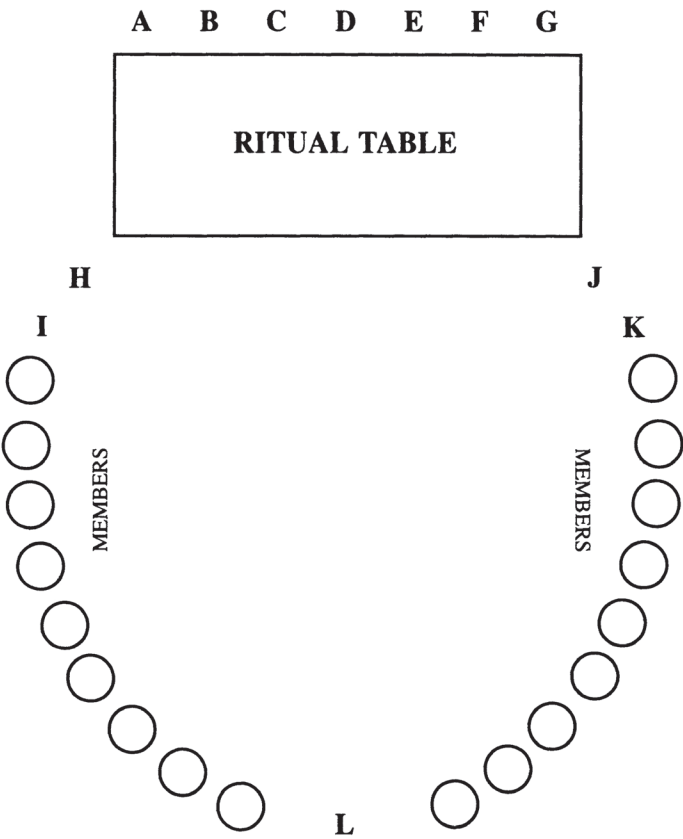
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

FOR CITY COUNCIL

Instructions: *A table is placed at one end of the room. On it are arranged the properties used as symbols in the ceremony. If the occasion is a formal party, a black bowl of yellow roses, and candelabra, may be added, and council members other than the retiring officers and the officers to be installed may each hold a lighted candle.*

The officers to be installed stand back of the table, facing the members, right to left in the following order — President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. The City Council Sponsor (if you have one) should stand to the right of the President. The other council members shall form a horseshoe facing the officers to be installed with the outgoing officers at the two ends of the horseshoe nearest the table. The retiring President or some member of the council whom you especially want to honor, may be appointed by the Executive Board to preside as Officiant.

**Diagram for Installation of
City Council Officers**



- A** SPONSOR
- B** PRESIDENT
- C** VICE-PRESIDENT
- D** RECORDING SECRETARY
- E** CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- F** TREASURER
- G** DIRECTOR
- H** RETIRING VICE-PRESIDENT
- I** RETIRING RECORDING SECRETARY
- J** RETIRING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- K** RETIRING TREASURER
- L** OFFICIANT (RETIRING PRESIDENT)

The Officiant who conducts the installation shall stand at the center of the horseshoe and as she finishes reading the Installation Ritual for each new officer, the retiring officer of the same title shall present to the incoming officer the symbol of the office.

Officiant reads: We are assembled now to install the City Council officers of the _____ City Council of Beta Sigma Phi.

President

Officiant announces the name of the office and then the full name of the officer to be installed, repeats her first name in salutation and reads as follows:

_____, to you has come a real opportunity. We have chosen you to be our constituted leader through the coming year, with full faith in your integrity of character, your loyalty to our ideals and your fidelity to the trust imposed upon you.

May it be your resolution, therefore to represent the membership faithfully and truly, and to foster harmony and unity in all our council undertakings.

To you, all council officers and committees look for guidance and assistance. To you they are responsible for the fulfillment of their duties. As City Council President it is your privilege to serve not only our Beta Sigma Phi Council and the entire membership in this city, but also to serve humanity by wise guidance of our council's efforts.

You accept a privilege and assume a responsibility to have a part in the cultural, social and civic life of your community, your state, and your nation.

In your acceptance of the office of City Council President, will you pledge yourself to these obligations?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of City Council President."

Retiring President presents gavel.

Retiring President: On behalf of _____ City Council, I now present to you this gavel, symbol of authority, and token of the trust we hold in you.

Officiant: May your heart be strengthened for the duties before you and may you guide our council in making new gifts to life that will reflect honor upon Beta Sigma Phi throughout the world.

Vice-President

Again Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Vice-President of this City Council you are highly honored by our sisterhood. You are entrusted with a number of important and traditional duties. In the absence or disability of the President you are responsible for assuming her duties. As chairman of the city council's membership committee, you will cooperate in every way possible with Vice-Presidents of chapters in this city and assist them with the training and guidance of pledges as they prepare for the Ritual of Jewels Degree. You are also expected to assist transferees in contacting chapters promptly. As City Council Hostess you are responsible for the extension of traditional courtesies to our members and our guests.

In the absence of the Treasurer, you are authorized to assume her duties. You are expected to give full cooperation and loyalty to our President and to foster and promote inter-chapter unity and harmony within our council at all times.

In your acceptance of this office will you pledge yourself to assume these responsibilities and to accept these obligations?"

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Vice-President."

Retiring Vice-President presents Book of Beta Sigma Phi.

Retiring Vice-President: On behalf of _____ City Council, I present to you this Book of Beta Sigma Phi, symbol of your duties in guiding our Vice-Presidents and assisting our transferees, as well as reminders of the traditions and courtesies of our sisterhood."

Officiant: May your heart be strengthened for the duties before you and may your efforts enrich the lives of all Beta Sigma Phi pledges and transferees in this city, and by so doing may your honor reflect upon us all.

Recording Secretary

Officiant announces the office and the full name of incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Recording Secretary you are the custodian of our city council's history and the transcriber of its activities. It becomes your opportunity and your responsibility to transcribe faithfully the minutes of our meetings, and to keep these minutes at all times available to the President and the council. It is your duty to

prepare and forward to the International Office, the reports and minutes of our regular meetings required to maintain our council's good standing in the International Organization.

Will you pledge yourself to the careful fulfillment of these duties?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Recording Secretary of _____ City Council."

Retiring Recording Secretary: On behalf of _____ City Council, I present to you our minute book, in which you shall record a full and accurate report of all our meetings, our attendance and our activities.

Officiant: May your heart be strengthened for the duties before you and may your honor reflect upon us all.

Corresponding Secretary

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Corresponding Secretary of our city council, you have been given an added opportunity for service in the great sisterhood of Beta Sigma Phi. The membership of our city council is depending upon you to give prompt and courteous response to all our council's correspondence and to give a report of this at each regular council meeting. As Editor you shall be responsible for radio publicity; for sending news items and pictures to the local newspaper, also to The Torch; and copies of all local publicity to International Office.

In your acceptance of this office will you pledge yourself to the acceptance of these responsibilities?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Corresponding Secretary of our city council."

Retiring Corresponding Secretary presents Council stationery.

Retiring Corresponding Secretary: On behalf of _____ City Council, I now present to you the properties of the office of Corresponding Secretary."

Treasurer

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the incoming officer and repeats the first name in salutation.

_____, as Treasurer of this city council, you become the trusted custodian of our city council's finances. It is your duty to collect and disburse all monies of the council and to confer with chapter Treasurers when called upon. You are required to keep an accurate account book of council receipts and disbursements, to give a report of these at each regular meeting, and to submit your account to the Executive Board for auditing at the expiration of your term of office. It is your responsibility to maintain the financial integrity of this council in every way possible and to give prompt attention to the payment of the council's financial obligations.

Will you pledge yourself to the conscientious fulfillment of these duties?

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to accept and fulfill the duties of the office of Treasurer."

Retiring Treasurer presents account book.

Retiring Treasurer: On behalf of _____ City Council, and as property of your office I present to you the account book of our council. This book has been audited and balanced under the approval of the Executive Board and is now entrusted to your care with full confidence in your integrity.

Officiant: May your heart be strengthened for the duties before you and may your honor reflect upon us all.

City Sponsor

Officiant announces the office and the full name of the Sponsor and reads:

As Beta Sigma Phi City Sponsor of _____, all chapters in our city look to you for guidance in all matters where the wisdom of your mind and the kindness of your heart might serve us as a model for growth and understanding.

We depend upon you to advise us in all social matters and to guide our social committee in the preparation and fulfillment of social activities, and to assist in all ways possible to help us improve the general standing and prestige of Beta Sigma Phi in our city.

As a symbol of your office we present to you the yellow rose of Beta Sigma Phi. In accepting this symbol will you pledge yourself to gracious service?

Presents yellow rose.

Answer, "I pledge myself, to the utmost of my ability, to fulfill the responsibilities of the office of City Sponsor."

Officiant: May you, in this gift of yourself to life, be enriched and blessed forever.

Honorary Member

As an Honorary Member of _____ City Council of Beta Sigma Phi, you are embracing a new honor and accepting a real privilege. The honor shall be that we look to you for inspiration in all matters where the wisdom of your mind and the kindness of your heart may serve us as a model for further growth and understanding.

The privileges shall be the love we give to you and those who, like yourself, take time from the pressing affairs of a full life to give of themselves to their fellow beings. May you, in this gift of yourself to life, be enriched and blessed forever.

If desired, the Closing Ritual may be repeated in unison at the completion of this installation service.

Beta Sigma Phi IN MEMORIAM

Instructions: A single yellow rose in a black bud vase, and a single black candle, burning in a black holder should be the only articles on the Ritual Table. A black cover may be used, instead of the usual white, if desired.

“Song of Beta Sigma Phi” may be sung at the beginning and close of the ceremony, or played very softly, preferably by a violin or harp, during the reading of the memorial service. Members should stand in a horseshoe, holding lighted candles. The chapter President, Sponsor or Director reads:

Dearly Beloved: We are gathered together tonight in sorrowing sisterhood to consecrate in our hearts and memory the life and virtues of a dearly departed member (give name, chapter affiliation, date of membership in sorority, offices held and services rendered to sorority. This should be a brief, concise record, the ovation confined to the statements following.)

As she stood before in Darkness as an initiate, so stands she now as an initiate to the mystery of Death, and we in the somber shadows of our grief.

The glowing torch of her bright self must be henceforward absent from us here, but the clear light of her spirit shall remain, undimmed, to guide and strengthen us whom she preceded.

In life she was devoted to the good, the true, the beautiful, and was by color, form and music touched to tears. With loyal heart and with unflagging effort she faithfully fulfilled her duties here. Then, being weary for a moment, she lay down to rest, using her

burden for a pillow, and fell into that dreamless sleep that kisses down her eyelids still. While yet in love with life and raptured with the world she passed to timeless silence and to formless space.

So, every life, no matter if its every hour be rich with love and every moment jewelled with joy, must, at its close become to those who stay, a tragedy as sad and dark as can be woven of the warp and woof of mystery and death.

But in this night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustling of a wing.

She was a faithful and true friend, a treasure inestimable in possession, and deeply lamented in the loss. If we in her lifetime were not always worthy of her love, let us now in her death resolve to be more worthy of the love of all other members of our sisterhood. Nothing is more common than to talk of a friend, nothing more difficult than to find one, nothing more rare than to improve by one as we ought. She has taught us it is best to live in time as friends to those with whom we would be to all eternity, for true friendship is infinite and immortal.

The record of generous life runs like a vine around her memory and her every sweet, unselfish act is now a perfumed flower. Were every one to whom she did a service to bring a blossom to her grave she would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers.

Life is a narrow vale between two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. But through the mist of our tears the light of love beholds a rainbow, the rainbow of her virtues; the red of her courage, the orange of her loyalty, the yellow of her vision, the green of her fellowship, the blue of her humility, and the violet of her service.

Character survives, goodness lives, love is immortal.

The torch of our sisterhood lighted her way on earth, but she hath now no need for sun or moon. But we have need to keep forever bright within our hearts the memory of her living presence.

Speech cannot contain our Love. She was, she is, our sister.

Closing Ritual

Beta Sigma Phi Graveside Service

The following may be used as an informal service to honor a departed sister.

Today we are gathered in a spirit of thanksgiving and joy for the honor of knowing and loving our sister, _____.

In life she was devoted to the good, the true, and the beautiful. We are blessed by her gift of a true and generous spirit. Her strength of character and loving soul has transformed us on so many levels. On this beautiful day, because of our faith, we know that she is standing, smiling and blessing those around her.

_____ possessed the Red Ray of Courage that made her fearless and dauntless in the pursuit of our ideals.

_____ experienced the Yellow Ray of Vision which gives enthusiastic courage and is the substance of things hoped for.

_____ bore the Blue Ray of Humility which makes us seek nothing for ourselves and keeps us meek in the face of eternity.

_____ earned the Orange ray of Loyalty which keeps us true and steadfast in our obligations.

_____ gloried in the Green Ray of Fellowship and enjoyed all fellow beings.

_____ gave eagerly to the Violet Ray of Service in which love of self is forgotten.

These Rays were worthily reflected in her life and in a realm where the rainbow never fades, character survives, goodness lives, and love is immortal.

She was, she is, our sister. We will remember her with love, tremendous admiration, and a deep sense that we are far better individuals for having known our sister, _____.

At this point the service may include the reading of a favorite verse and/or the placement of a yellow rose for the departed.

Beta Sigma Phi

DECADE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth and the six colors of candles: red, yellow, blue, orange, green and violet, arranged in the order named in a semi-circle across the table. A yellow rose for the recipient of the ritual is placed at the front of the table. There is one Officiant, but a second may be asked to hold a candle to provide light for the Officiant who is reading.*

Officiant: Will _____ please come forward. You see before you the six candles you have seen so often before. You know what they have always represented since first you witnessed them _____ years ago. Today, they have an added meaning.

Each of these candles represents some part of the years your membership in Beta Sigma Phi. It is possible that one of their colors would be special to one period and it is equally possible that the virtues they represent were called upon every single day.

Vision, of course, would have come to the fore when you were introduced to Beta Sigma Phi and pledged yourself. The yellow candle represents that great virtue.

The virtue of loyalty is represented by the orange candle, and it is a virtue that has been a part of your life. That your loyalty has extended for _____ years is not only a confirmation, but an honor that you bestow upon your organization.

The blue candle represents humility. It is a virtue we should all possess. We should be humble in the presence of long-standing vision and loyalty and such devotion to all virtues of Beta Sigma Phi.

The sweetest of all virtues is represented by the green candle. That virtue is fellowship. It is a virtue which you have bestowed upon your sisters and which you have received from them for such a very long time. Fellowship lifts the heart and provides comfort in adversity and warmth at all times.

The light that speaks of sharing is shed by the violet candle. It is the color of service, which is not simply a matter of giving money or spending time. It is before all that a matter of the heart and your service to others for _____ years reveals the size and capacity of your heart.

There is finally the first color represented by the red candle. Courage is the virtue upon which all others rest. It is the virtue which surely has been called upon time after time in your long and wonderful membership. It is the virtue that makes possible the accomplishment of great things and that makes possible the devotion you have displayed over the many years. It is the virtue which you possess in abundance.

We honor and thank you. We return in full measure the love you have shown for us and our friendship is yours.