

Dear Members,

We are so thrilled to be able to get the *Torch* to members. We hope you enjoy this new online format. We will also, as soon as possible send the printed *Torch* as well.

As many of you know, Beta Sigma Phi, along with countless other organizations, has been experiencing an economic downturn, We are confident that this is only a temporary situation and we will once again be on a regular schedule with sending the *Torch*.

Conventions have started! They were just what the doctor ordered for those of us at international who travel to celebrate sorority with our members. Once we see your enthusiasm, your dear hearts and the joy you have when you are with your sisters, it helps us to refocus on what is really important. To be with the ones we care about, the ones that make us laugh, the ones that let us know it is OK to eat that brownie or buy a certain purse. The ones that accept us, and love us for just being who we are.

Mr. Ross started this organization during the most critical financial period in the history of this country. And he did it. Women then had no money yet wisely they recognized, even at the inception of our organization, that sorority is more than a luxury, it is quite often, a lifeline.

I was very fortunate to go to Abilene, Kansas this past Founder's day with International's Laura Ross Wingfield. We traveled to the birthplace of sorority's founding for two very special reasons: a magnificent display case, chock full of Beta Sigma Phi history was assembled and placed in the local historical museum, and Helen Pepper, our first member, spoke to the sisters gathered. It was a magical afternoon as she took us back to 1931 when a young salesman walked into the Sunflower Hotel and greeted Helen, who was working as a desk clerk. The rest, as they say, is history. And what a rich history it is!

As editor of the *Torch*, myself and Betsy Thomas, my most capable assistant (and godsend!) are continually amazed by the letters we receive about the reaching out of our members, whether it is to help a sister, or a complete stranger. It never ceases to amaze all of us at International of the innate goodness and generosity of our sisterhood. We are lucky to have each other. Indeed

May you all have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,



Laurey Lummus
Torch Editor

TORCH STAFF

Torch@betasigmaphi.org

Editor - Laurey Lummus

Graphic Designer - Eric Burgess

Assistant Editor - Betsy Thomas

BETA SIGMA PHI INTERNATIONAL

Address: 1800 West 91st Place
Kansas City MO 64114-0500

Phone: **816-444-6800**
(8:30 am - 5:00 pm CST M-F)

Fax: 816-333-6206

Insurance Only: 800-235-2806

Long Term Care Insurance: 888-290-7207

Gifts Only: 800-821-3989

DIVISION CHAIRMEN

Viola Dorrian *violad@betasigmaphi.org* - Canada, GA, Greece, HI, IL, IN, MN, NM, Norway, Scotland, WA, WY, & Russia

Vivian Iddings *viviani@betasigmaphi.org* - AK, AZ, CT, DC, DE, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, MT, NH, NJ, NV, NY, PA, Puerto Rico, Germany, RI, VA, VT, & WV

Laura Ross Wingfield *laura@betasigmaphi.org* - On-Line Chapters & Conventions

Cynthia Meadows *cynthiam@betasigmaphi.org* - AL, AR, CO, NC, TN, OH, OK, SC, TX, Belgium, & Zimbabwe

Romayne Phillips *romaynep@betasigmaphi.org* - Austria, Australia, CA, England, Finland, FL, ID, IA, LA, Mexico, NE, ND, OR, Saudi Arabia, SD, UT, & WI

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Torch Department -

Torch@betasigmaphi.org

Membership/Rushing Department -

Rushing-FriendlyVenture@betasigmaphi.org

Gift Department -

Gifts@betasigmaphi.org

Home Page -

http://www.betasigmaphi.org

Beta Journal -

http://www.betajournal.com

Beta Sigma Phi is an international women's friendship network. It also provides educational programs to its members and opportunities for service to others. We are women of all ages, interests, and educational and economic backgrounds, and are the largest organization of our kind in the world. For Beta Sigma Phi membership information call:

1-888-BETA-2B1(238-2221)