

Rushing

An Open letter to Contact Chairman/Vice Presidents

by a Member-at-Large

Dear Sisters,

Ten years ago, I was a Beta Sigma Phi pledge. As part of my pledge training, I learned about the privileges and responsibilities of membership, including the privilege of transfer.

Since my husband had a good job that did not require him to move around, and our children were enrolled into an excellent school, transferring was the furthest thing from my mind. However, as our children grew and graduated from high school, we decided to look for some land and build a home in the country.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my membership by holding various offices, participating on committees, and even helped plan a state convention. My husband is an Envoy and our daughters are Legacies, together we have enjoyed our involvement with Beta Sigma Phi.

As we prepared to move, I informed the International office of my new information. I was sure I would hear from a sorority sister within a couple of weeks.

A month went by without a call. Then it was two months; then it was three. I decided to take the initiative and called the International office expressing my unhappiness with the lack of contact. They had copies of the letters they sent letting the local Contact Chairman know I was new in town looking for a chapter - so they followed through with their promise. I asked for the name and number of the Contact Chairman. I telephoned her and left a message on her answering machine and proceeded to wait again.

For almost six months now, I have been a member-at-large – not by my own choice, but because I have not been contacted by any members in my new town. (There are fifteen chapters). What I had thought would be an easy move to a chapter of new sisters waiting to welcome me and my husband has turned out to be somewhat difficult. I am still waiting.

I do hear from my original chapter and Council sisters and they always ask what chapter I have joined, and sadly, I tell them of my dilemma.

Please don't let this happen in your area. It might be you next time. Extend the hand of friendship to any member and prospective members as soon as you receive the name. This contact is very important for the survival of our organization. How many other members have we lost due to lack of contact?

Yours in Beta Sigma Phi, Paula

(Read on about another member in the same situation miles apart.)

Not being contacted as a transferee into a new area has prompted me to write. As Beta Sigma Phi has helped bring out the best in me, so have I strived to bring out the best in those around me. Beta Sigma Phi has been my guiding light through the darkest of times.

For now, I am doing what I can to become active again. I have received information on starting a new Friendly Venture chapter and have written to another member-at-large locally. I hope she is as enthusiastic as I am about starting a new chapter. I have contacted the local councils but have yet to get any assistance and that is so important at times like these.

I will go ahead and reach my goal of starting a new chapter, I feel I owe this much to Beta Sigma Phi after all the honors bestowed upon me in the past as part of this great organization. I want to Rekindle the Torch of Friendship.

Sincerely,

Rebecca



“Watts New in Rushing”

Gloria Osborn, a member of **Arizona Xi Gamma Sigma, Scottsdale**, and the vice president of the **Scottsdale, Arizona City Council**, shares a great idea with us. She states that when she receives a name from International, she immediately sends an email out to all the chapter Vice Presidents. They can then call the prospective member, transferee, or member at large right away. She doesn't wait until the next council meeting to share the information, which could be more than a month away. GREAT thinking and action Gloria!! Thank you.

Another Look at Rushing

By Arizona Laureate Alpha Epsilon, Tucson member Joanne Gallego

Arizona Laureate Alpha Epsilon, Tucson has members ranging from their 60s to their 80s, and what fun they have! They have taken the rushing bull by the horns and rushed from the member-at-large list with great success. They prefer, as Joanne says, “to recruit those members who are already familiar with our traditions.” Here is Joanne’s account of the two such experiences.



Here are members of **Arizona Laureate Alpha Epsilon, Tucson** in their popular pink t-shirts. “This was a ways and means project for convention and an area luncheon,” writes Joanne. “They read, ‘What happens with our sisters, stays with our sisters.’ For both events we raised close to \$1,000 and this was the easiest project we have ever done.”

“My husband and I had a yard sale, with a good neighborhood turnout. We were fortunate to meet a new neighbor, Olga Escotar. We talked about her recent move (from Douglas to Tucson) and somehow Beta Sigma Phi came into our conversation. Olga became very excited - she had belonged to a chapter in Sierra Vista, Arizona! She and her husband had really enjoyed their chapter activities and both were really missing

them. She was so anxious to be active again, in fact we know car pool to chapter meetings.

Another incident was at church. Every first and third Sunday I work to prepare breakfast after four masses. We provide burritos and menudo. While visiting with the breakfast chairman we discussed anniversaries. Our bishop was planning to hold a special mass and dinner celebrating 25 and 50-year anniversaries. I mentioned that we signed up to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Church member Margie Crokeza asked what my husband and I were doing to celebrate our anniversary. I replied, ‘My sorority will hold a party one night and the family will hold one the next.’ She put out her hand and said, ‘I am thy sister.’ She had been inactive for many years and is anxious to be active again. She will attend our Beginning Day.

I am also in contact with four other members at large and hope that they will one day choose to become active with our chapter.

We also have a name game I would like to share with you. The group is told we are going on a trip and need to pack a suitcase. Each person must submit an item that starts with their initial. For instance, the first person says, ‘my name is Joy and I’m taking jewelry.’ The second person states, ‘my name is Mary and I’m taking money and Joy is taking jewelry.’ It goes to each person but they must repeat every name already mentioned. It breaks the ice and all are eager to help when someone forgets a name!

I was invited into sorority in 1955 in Wisconsin. The friendships have been great through the years for myself and my husband. Laureate Alpha Epsilon is a career format chapter meeting once a month for business and one social. Almost all our socials include our husbands, making our husbands a part of our activities has really tightened our sisterhood bonds.

Congratulations To The Top Rushing Chapters!

9 New Pledges:

Georgia Xi Zeta Delta, Washington
South Carolina Epsilon Epsilon, Fort Mill

8 New Pledges:

Arkansas Delta Psi, Springdale
Illinois Xi Beta Phi, Marion
Texas Beta Eta Pi, San Antonio
Delaware Xi Upsilon, Ocean View

7 New Pledges:

Arkansas Beta Alpha, Mena
Arkansas Beta Theta, Arkadelphia
Arkansas Delta Lambda, Wynne
Iowa Xi Epsilon Xi, New Hampton
Missouri Xi Beta Lambda, Brookfield
Missouri Alpha Epsilon Delta, Kansas City
Missouri Preceptor Theta Epsilon, Liberty
Texas Xi Alpha Epsilon Nu, Madisonville

6 New Pledges:

Arizona Eta Sigma, Yuma
Georgia Beta Delta, Elberton
Georgia Kappa Omega, Swainsboro
Iowa Xi Zeta Epsilon, Dallas Center
Iowa Xi Epsilon Xi, New Hampton
Idaho Beta Phi, Challis
Illinois Beta Nu, Carmi
Kansas Sigma Iota, Abilene
Michigan Kappa Sigma, Charlevoix
Missouri Tau Psi, Neelyville

(6 New Pledges continued)

North Carolina Upsilon, Winston Salem
Nebraska Epsilon Iota, Blair
Oklahoma Eta Sigma, Watonga
Oregon Zeta Sigma, Burns
South Dakota Alpha Upsilon, Yankton
Texas Alpha Psi Beta, Lockhart
Virginia Theta Theta, Clintwood
Wyoming Laureate Psi, Upton

5 New Pledges:

British Columbia Preceptor Delta Gamma,
Langley
British Columbia Delta Gamma, Kelowna
California Delta Kappa Iota, Live Oak
Iowa Alpha Gamma, Marshalltown
Iowa Xi Omega, Cedar Falls
Illinois Beta Pi, DuQuoin
Kentucky Alpha, Paintsville
Louisiana Preceptor Alpha Chi, Rayne
Minnesota Xi Kappa, Austin
Missouri Xi Kappa Rho, Savannah
North Carolina Epsilon Chi, Wallace
North Dakota Alpha Delta, Hettinger
Ohio Laureate Delta Epsilon, Hamilton
South Carolina Epsilon Delta, Beaufort
Texas Xi Lambda Zeta, Gonzales
Texas Alpha Theta Omega, White Deer
Texas Alpha Tau Delta, Rockdale
Texas Preceptor Omicron Omega, Plano
Texas Xi Upsilon Eta, Wheeler