

Dear Sister,

At each Ritual and Convention, we light candles as a symbol of our Torch. The flame clearly reflects the special bonds and closeness that we share as sisters in Beta Sigma Phi. As we light one candle from another, the original loses none of its brilliance.

Remember when you spoke the words of the Opening Ritual and you pledged to assist in any and every way to shed the light of our Torch throughout the world? I believe you meant it. It is now time to put those words into action.

I, and the rest of the staff at International, are challenging you and every other member to add one new pledge. That's one new pledge for each current member of Beta Sigma Phi over the next two years. We have no doubt that you are capable of doing this. If you do, it will tip the scales in the direction needed to keep Beta Sigma Phi around for decades to come.

Since 1931, Beta Sigma Phi sisters have always stepped up to a challenge. During World War Two, you were challenged to sell \$14 million in war bonds. You sold \$22 million. When the Statue of Liberty was restored, you were challenged to raise \$100,000. You raised \$130,000. When Hurricane Katrina struck, you gave some \$250,000 in disaster relief grants. All of that was possible through strength in numbers. No individual chapter could have made such an impact. When we pull together, we can move mountains. You took a group that started with seven women in the small town of Abilene, Kansas, and helped it grow into a worldwide organization of more than 250,000 women. Beta Sigma Phi is still a large, strong organization with 121,796 members. More than half of those members are paid-for-life. It's clear that while we remain strong, we will not stay strong in the future if we don't take action now.

I know growing the membership seems like a daunting task, but it can be done. A great example is Georgia Kappa Beta, Douglas. Their roster was standing at 15 members, and on Nov. 6 they added 12 new sisters. The members of Kappa Beta have challenged every chapter to follow their example - to step up and meet or even exceed this challenge of one new pledge per member. Members of Missouri Beta Nu Master, Cape Girardeau, have added six new pledges, and say they love the "breath of freshness and excitement" that new members brought with them.

Not all chapters and members have felt the need to rush new members. They may be comfortable with their current group. Others might feel it is too intimidating, or too difficult. You don't have to look far for new members. They're out there, and they're not strangers. They're at your beauty salon, your PTA meetings, your bunco party, your book club. They're your in-law's, your husband's friend's wives, your mothers, sisters and daughters. All you have to do is look.

We can no longer wait for someone else to add new pledges. Everyone can participate at all chapter degree levels. Knowing the challenges you have taken on and have overcome, rebuilding our organization should be an easy goal if you start now, with determination to push on, undaunted, toward the light.

Just a reminder - you can submit your new Pledge forms to International on our website. For your convenience just [click here](#) to complete a pledge form.

I am thy sister,

Laura Ross Wingfield
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P.S. if you need any assistance or have any questions please contact us at the above phone number or send an email to: rushing-friendlyventure@betasigmaphi.org