Founder’s Day Highlights

Each Founder’s Day is a time for celebration of everything Beta Sigma Phi. Here are some snippets from our sisters with some glimpses into celebrations from coast to coast.

Tweed

A Founder’s Day celebration was held at the Thomasburg Hall with ladies from three local chapters participating in the Order of the Rose ritual. The hosting chapter, Ontario Xi Zeta Phi, Tweed, honored two members, Jo-Anne Albert and Gayle Thompson, who received pins featuring a delicate rose inside a heart. Both Gayle and Jo-Anne have donated greatly to the purposes of sisterhood and Founder’s Day seemed like the perfect time to recognize them. Gail Brown led her group in a skit and presentation to all in attendance, who also enjoyed a lovely meal catered by Terry Ward. Together, the sisters forged the Sisterhood Agreement: “Sometimes in life you find a special friend. Someone who changes your life by just being part of it. Someone who makes you laugh until you can’t stop. Someone who makes you believe that there really is good in the world. Someone who convinced you that there really is an unlocked door just waiting for you to open it.”

Portland

Texas Preceptor Kappa Lambda, Portland celebrated Founder’s Day and Beta Sigma Phi’s 85th Anniversary on April 24, 2016 at Redfish Willie’s Waterfront Grill in Aransas Pass, Texas. The theme of the celebration was “Preceptor Kappa Lambda Garden of Friendship Brunch”. The sorority’s opening ritual was recited by all members and the sisters sang the National Anthem. President Susan Johnson welcomed everyone. Linda Makelki celebrated her Golden Circle ceremony for 50 years of dedication to Beta Sigma Phi and the sisterhood. She received a certificate and pin from International Office. Last year’s recipient of the award, Barbara Hansen, was the officiant and two long time members, Colleen Duzich and Ronda Sheppard were the assistants. Barbara read the ceremony which talked about the vibrant colors in the garden being the colors of the sorority’s virtues and the garden of friendship which was all appropriate for the theme of the celebration. Afterward, Vicki Wilkerson introduced three member-at-large sisters that attended. They are Stella Beck, Gwen Munson and Liz Dorris. Nancy Edson said the Beta Sigma Phi grace and Lynn Hargrove read the Founder’s Day Pledge which was recited by all members.

New Braunfels

Verna Mae Dean of Texas Torchbearer Gamma, New Braunfels, was honored at the chapter’s Founder’s Day event in 2016 for 70 active years of membership in sorority. She was a charter member of Texas Zeta Iota, New Braunfels, when the chapter was formed in
Harlingen
At the 2016 Founder’s Day celebration, the members of Texas Preceptor Xi Epsilon, Harlingen held a special ritual for member Deloria Connell for her 60 years of sorority membership. Deloria pledged in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1956. When she moved to Harlingen, she became a member of Alpha Theta. She has held every office except treasurer, and has also been a representative on the Harlingen City Council many times. “She has helped many new chapters get started and has always been an inspiration to all members,” said member Kathryn Burke. “You will always be greeted with a kiss and hug and she never meets a stranger. She loves our revealing day meeting and continues to amaze all of us with her costumes. You never know what she will appear in.” Kathryn said the chapter loves Deloria’s collection of dolls – too many to count! “She is still going strong and enjoying life, and we are proud and happy to have her as our sister.”

Mingo Junction
Members of the Ohio Beta Delta Master, Mingo Junction chapter met at a local restaurant to celebrate Beta Sigma Phi’s 85th Founder’s Day. Sandy Villamagna led the opening ritual. Nancy Lonetto read the highlights from the previous year. Kathy McKenna led the Founder’s Day Pledge. Linda Cole presented awards and gifts to the members. Ina Chidester presented Linda Cole with the president’s pin, and she was also named “Woman of the Year” for going above and beyond. A Golden Circle ritual was held for Ina Chidester and Llelia Buffone for their 50 years in Beta Sigma Phi. Each was presented with an engraved heart from the members. Beta Delta Master progressed to a Torchbearer chapter—their new name is Ohio Torchbearer Omicron, Mingo Junction.

Lake Havasu City
Arizona Delta Omicron, Lake Havasu City, was responsible for making and providing the table arrangements for Founder’s Day. They represented all six Beta Sigma Phi attributes in a lovely topiary on reflected mirrors, accented with votive candles at each table. It was a lovely addition to a fun time.

Rockland
Who are these lovely ladies? Those are our sisters from Maine Preceptor Beta, Rockland. They used the opportunity of their Founder’s Day celebration to honor a new member with the Ritual of Jewels degree, two members with their Masters Degree and nine members—that’s nine!—were honored with the Torchbearer degree.

Milwaukee
Lynn Moerke, president of Wisconsin Laureate Alpha Zeta, Milwaukee, was quite disappointed to be missing a Founder’s Day celebration. “It was always fun for her to get together with the other sister chapters in the Milwaukee City Council, hear of their activities during the year and see the awards given—especially Woman of the Year,” said member Pamela Laurion. “But who could resist a chance to go to Florida?” As it turns out, Lynn re-connected with some friends in Florida Preceptor Theta Sigma, Sarastoa, and was invited to their Founder’s Day lunch—she wouldn’t miss it after all! When her sisters in Milwaukee heard that she would be attending the Founder’s Day event in Florida, wheels were put into motion. Plans were made and emails were exchanged. For little did Lynn know but she had been voted Woman of the Year! Sisters in Wisconsin and Florida were thrilled to be able to coordinate this surprise presentation, on the same day at the same time, halfway across the country. “Everything went off without a hitch,” said Pamela. “It was a special presentation for a special sister!”