



Starting a Chapter with Sigma Beta, Inc

Sigma Beta is an organization for women looking to inspire growth through philanthropy.

General Information

Sigma Beta, Inc. was founded in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on January 5, 1923, by Sophia Maier Johnston. Members generate the friendship and enthusiasm that has marked many years of continued growth and development. While Sigma Beta is one of the oldest national women's organizations on record with many projects to its credit, membership fees are less than most national organizations.

The national publication, "The Charlotta," contains news of Sigma Beta activities. All members are encouraged to contribute articles for publication. Each member's subscription is covered by her national dues.

Sigma Beta has much to offer a prospective member. You will enjoy the privilege of participating in the work and fun, gain enduring friendships and have many chances to express your talents. While you are giving precious time to Sigma Beta, you will be doing something worthwhile and know you are making others happy.

Sigma Beta actively solicits new chapters as well as new members and their ideas. Our members are always excited to share their love and dedication to Sigma Beta with potential new members and we appreciate that you have expressed an interest in our organization.

Objectives

The objectives of this philanthropic, not-for-profit organization shall be:

- a. To promote the organization of Sigma Beta chapters throughout the United States of America, and to supervise and control such chapters.
- b. To promote charitable and cultural endeavors, and to benefit all members in a social way.
- c. To promote fellowship among the various chapters of this sorority.

Charitable Endeavors

Charitable Endeavors are the main purpose of Sigma Beta, both on the chapter and national level. Individual chapters choose their own local charity projects.

All chapters take an active part in the national charity projects, which change yearly. Since inception Sigma Beta has donated \$1.7 million to national charity projects.

Many chapters volunteer time and money to local charity projects. Chapter charity projects range depending on their interest. In the 2021- 2022 fiscal year, chapters donated \$16,948.

The Sophia Maier Johnston Memorial Scholarship, established in 1971 and directed by Sigma Beta members, offers grants to disabled college students. Yearly scholarships are awarded at the National Convention.

Social Activities

Sigma Beta combines business and fun. Sorority business is conducted at monthly chapter meetings. Each chapter schedules various social activities throughout the year.

Sigma Beta's jurisdiction is geographically divided into seven areas called provinces. For the annual province meeting, one or more local chapters serve as hostesses. This is a one day meeting held in April or May, at which time province officers are elected, installed and other province business is transacted. The social meeting for this function is usually a luncheon.

The annual convention, with one or more chapters acting as hostess, is held on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday prior to October 25. There are many social events during the weekend in addition to the business meetings. The weekend gives members the opportunity to become acquainted with Sigma Beta sisters from all parts of the United States. Husbands and guests may be included in an evening of fun.

The crowning of the "Sigma Beta of the Year" takes place at the Saturday luncheon. Chapters submit letters presenting a member who has done outstanding work for Sigma Beta during the past year. An impartial group of judges selects one member from the letters submitted to receive this honor.

The highlight of convention is the charity session. Speakers present various projects for the consideration of the convention body. The convention concludes with the Sunday brunch, at which time the national officers are installed.

All members are encouraged to attend convention and take an active part in the policy making of the organization. Convention is an experience Sigma Betas enjoy and look forward to each year.

Questions & Answers

How many women do you need to organize a new chapter and is there an age limit?

Four. There may be as many more members as you desire. The minimum age is twenty-one when joining a new chapter and eighteen years when joining an established chapter.

What will it cost to organize a new chapter?

The charter and installation fee shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each charter member. The charter fee shall be payable at the time of pledge service. National dues and charity assessment shall be payable at the time of installation. For chapters installed after October 1, charter members, only, shall be exempt from national dues and charity assessment until the following January 1.

What are the financial obligations of each member?

Sigma Beta Pin - The national bylaws require that each member have a pin. These pins range from the standard pin to a jeweled pin. Therefore, the financial obligation of a charter member of a new chapter would be \$45.00 plus the cost of the pin of your choice. Established chapters usually charge an installation fee which is set by the chapter (Note: Prices on pins are subject to change.)

National Dues and Assessments - National dues are \$45.00 annually, due January 1 and delinquent March 1. National charity assessment is \$5.00 annually, due January 1 and delinquent March 1.

Chapter Dues and Province Assessments- Each chapter is self-governing regarding dues and assessments.

Are there other obligations as a member?

Yes, your loyalty and devotion to Sigma Beta's main aims, ideals and projects. You will be expected to attend your chapter meetings regularly and to take an active part in each project of your chapter and the national organization.

What do you do as a pledge?

The period between pledging and formal installation, which is usually four to eight weeks, gives you time to become acquainted with the national bylaws and learn more about Sigma Beta. During this pledge period, a new chapter also elects its officers and establishes its committees.

Is membership in Sigma Beta continuous?

Yes. If a member moves to another city, she may be a member-at-large of her present chapter or transfer her membership to another chapter. A member also has the privilege of being an inactive member if she finds she will be unable to attend her chapter meetings for a period of time.

What are the obligations of the chapter?

Chapter Meetings - Active chapters are required to hold one business meeting each month except July and August. Some chapters also hold monthly or quarterly social meetings.

Visitation - A province officer visits each chapter annually. At visitation, she gives a review of our national bylaws and asks a variety of questions about Sigma Beta. She will also check your chapter properties and books. Province officers work closely with the national officers and will be glad to answer questions or help with problems.

Province Meeting - Province dues are \$20.00 annually and must be paid before your province meeting. This \$20.00 is paid from your chapter treasury. Each chapter must send one delegate to their province meeting and all members are urged to attend.

Convention - The national convention is the highlight of the organization's year. Each chapter must send one delegate to the convention and all members are urged to attend.

What supplies will a new chapter need?

As a chapter, you will be furnished a charter, gavel, bible and a parliamentary procedure book. You will also receive notebooks containing instructions for conducting business meetings for your president, secretary and treasurer. Each member will receive a copy of the Sigma Beta Manual and National Bylaws. In addition to the properties furnished, you will need a banner, table cover and two officers' robes.