

Virtual News – Reports from the

Many of our members have inquired as to what our online chapters were up to. The answer is - lots! Read their reports from the virtual world of Beta Sigma Phi.

Online Beta (OLB) is the second online chapter, following Online Kappa. They now sport 75 members. The chapter motto is "Sisters with the Key to Friendship", although they are also infamous for using any excuse to blow bubbles and toss confetti.

Online Beta does almost everything that a land chapter does. There are monthly business meetings, programs, socials and service, except that it is done in the cyber world via email. In addition to a program, social and service committees, there are also recipe/crafts and sunshine committees. The recipe/craft committee shares fun crafts each month. They share recipes that are fast and easy as well as yummy. The sunshine committee remembers all the members' important dates and special happenings...birthdays, anniversaries and any other special days.

Programs have included discussions where they share their thoughts on a given subject, to presentations on themes such as "High Definition Television and What to Look for in Purchasing a new TV," "Mardi Gras and Carnival," and "Women and Money," just to name a few.

Last year the social committee established the Beta Buds Bus and took monthly tours through the U.S. and Canada. Over a 12-month period, all 50 states were visited in the US and several Canadian provinces. Each

month there was a theme for a social connected to a particular location.

Online Beta members contribute to the Beta Sigma Phi International Disaster Relief Fund. In addition, the service committee shares ideas such as safety tips, health tips, and educates the chapter on topics that range from depression to breast cancer. An ongoing service project is "Random Acts of Kindness," started in February with the National Random Acts of Kindness week, which was February 11-18.

Quote from a **Member of OLB** "Sisters from Pennsylvania, Mississippi, California, Georgia and Texas gathered recently in San Antonio for a weekend of shopping, eating, and touring San Antonio. We had a wonderful time and for many of us it was the first time we actually met face to face. There were no strangers among us."

In **Online Sigma** news, members would like to report they are busy planning a reunion to be held this month on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Their chapter actively supports breast cancer research, child health, literacy and animal rescue, among other causes.

Beta Sigma Phi Online Chapter Front

Online Lambda represents what sisterhood in Beta Sigma Phi is all about. Although many have not met each other personally, members report that the friendship quotient in the chapter is so large that the sisters feel as if they have known each other for years. When any chapter sister experiences one of life's many curveballs, Online Lambda members are there to comfort or lend an ear. If there are problems within the chapter, it is discussed among the sisters and resolved. Meetings are held on Sunday of every month at approximately 3:30 p.m. ET. The guideline set by International for meetings is followed closely, there is always a program presented, along with social, civic awareness, officer and committee chair reports. Yardstick goals are important, and bylaws have been set up for chapter members.

Online Theta is thrilled about their involvement with an outreach service project, during the summers of 2006 and 2007 at a foster home for abused and neglected children in Quetzaltenango (the locals call it Xela), Guatemala. Since becoming a recognized chapter in 2006, Online Theta has celebrated Founder's Day in style. In 2006, there was a virtual Founder's Day fete on Mackinaw Island, Michigan. In 2007, the Founder's Day event was held in San Antonio, Texas with other online chapters. **Online Theta** member and **Okahoma Xi Theta**, **Bartlesville** member Christina Bates compiled a power point CD of the activities, which every member received. This year, the

online chapter will gather once again in San Antonio for Founder's Day. Approximately one half of the members will be there in person, with the others attending via the web. New officers will be installed at the Founder's Day dinner, and will be "live on the net" so that all members of Online Theta will be attending the celebration.

Online Theta members make it a practice to click daily on the breast cancer site <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/> and also the other sites supported by the chapter such as those that support food donations, children's health, literacy and animal rights.

Online Kappa was established in the year 2000 and began with 25 members. From the outset, members voted to not have a chat-room type of chapter, but instead, to have actual meetings, programs and socials. They have introduced online chapters to several new, exciting members.

As you can see, the world of Online Beta Sigma Phi is one that is very exciting and can also complement your land chapter. We will start a regular series on online chapters and hope to have a new report each month on their activities.