

Dear Sisters,

October 1, 2020

The organizing committee and our venue remain hopeful that by June, 2021, we will be free to travel and gather once again. In consultation with the Hotel Vancouver it is agreed that in the event that our convention must be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all funds will be returned to our registrants. We are anticipating that this decision will be revisited in January, 2021, when we hope to make the final decision as to how or if we move forward.

In the event that the Canadian/U.S. border does not re-open in the new year, specifically due to the pandemic, our U.S. Sisters will be refunded. If the border is not open, but Canadians are still able to travel inter-provincially, then the convention will transition to a Canadian only event. Again, the definitive decision will hopefully be made early in the new year, there is much to consider, and almost daily the protocols and the possibilities change.

The Hotel Vancouver will also return all deposits made on hotel rooms, if cancellation is due to the pandemic. For those who are booked to take the Alaska cruise following the convention, of course it is at the discretion of the Government of Canada as to if and when our ports will open. We understand that the decision to allow the ships into our ports might be made by the end of this year.

It has been said, over and over again, that these are “challenging times”! Preparations for a convention the size of the 90th Anniversary celebration of Beta Sigma Phi, and 85 years as an “international” organization, have been ongoing for close to four years. It is indeed now more than challenging, it is heartbreaking to have to ponder cancellation, but a positive mind-frame is needed. To give a typed thank you specifically to the executive, and also to the reps from the twelve area councils, and to our hotel venue (which has been beyond fabulous!) seems very “trite” but it is sincere, we keep working at it, in the hope that we will meet in Vancouver and will have an even greater reason to have the best party ever - because in Beta Sigma Phi, we do better when we’re together! God bless, stay safe, and let’s do everything we can to defeat “the horrid bug!”