

# **Ceremonies BCT 101**

## **(Brass, Candles, and Tablecloths)**

### **BRASS**

- Wash brass in hot soapy water, rinse and dry well after using.
- If needed, polish with Wenol, Haggerty or Wright's Silver Polish. These products work better than Brasso.
- Store in silver cloth bags (purchase bags online or make them from tarnish protectant cloth, also online.
- DO NOT store in Saran Wrap or plastic bags.
- DO NOT polish items that have been lacquered. Polishing removes the lacquer.
- Take your rings off to protect the brass. Brass scratches easily.

### **CANDLES**

- Don't splatter the wax! Hold your thumb in front of the flame and puff out the candle. No splatter!
- Always light candles before the ceremony, blow out and dab a little bit of fingernail polish on the cooled burned wick. The candles will light instantly!
- To secure candles in the candlestick, Dip the base of the candle in hot water, or, wrap the base in Saran Wrap then insert in the candlestick.
- Wax in the hole in the candlestick? Put it in the freezer. The wax usually pops off! Use a wooden toothpick or a plastic knife to remove extra wax.
- Red birthday candles may be purchased online.
- Place a circle of waxed paper under the candlesticks for the induction ceremony. Any drips should land on the waxed paper. Use 2 widths of waxed paper if you need to. A microwave plate is a great pattern.
- If the candles drip on the table cloth, freeze the cloth, scrape off the excess wax with the back of a knife. Iron with a warm iron on the wrong side of the cloth with 3 or 4 layers paper towels on both sides of the cloth to absorb the wax. Use dry cleaning solvent to remove the red stain. Good luck!
- Clean the soot out of the snuffer to protect the tablecloth. Use 0000 steel wool, add a little oil to the steel wool (cooking oil is fine) and wipe the inside of the bell. Wipe out the soot with a paper towel.

- If you plan to use votives, add a little bit of water (½ tsp) to the glass before you add the candles. The candle will come out very easily. You can also freeze the votive and the candle wax pops off!
- Find red candles around Christmas and keep a supply on hand.

## FLOWERS

- If you use artificial flowers for the table, add fresh greenery to the arrangement of artificial flowers. Long slender blades of grass, nandina, any greenery that will not wilt works fine.
- Baby's breath, the little tiny white flowers sold at many grocery stores, brighten the artificial arrangement and are inexpensive.
- Consider giving your new member a silk rose. Add some gold and red ribbon to lighten it up a little.
- Watch Hobby Lobby and Michaels sales for flowers, ribbons and candles. The sales rotate every 2-3 weeks.

## OTHER HINTS

- Banner storage: You need a pool noodle (the larger ones are better), felt and glue. Measure your banner, width and length. For the felt, you need the length of the banner, plus the circumference of the pool noodle and about 20 extra inches. To save money, you can piece the felt for the banner. Cut the pool noodle about 8" wider than the banner. Cut and piece the felt 6" wider than the banner. Cut the felt, the length of the banner PLUS the circumference of the noodle AND about 20" extra. Glue the felt around the noodle one time, cover the glued area with plastic wrap and allow it to dry. Remove the plastic. Lay the banner at the top of the noodle and roll the banner carefully around the noodle. Secure with safety pins (or Velcro if you want to get fancy!)
- Wrinkled banner? DO NOT press up and down on the banner, it will stretch. Press width-wise, side to side, with a warm iron on the wrong side.
- Metal repair: Bayou City Metal 832-273-6113 in Houston does an excellent job. They will also clean off the old lacquer and relacquer.

Frances Ziegenhals  
Alpha Iota, Area 4, TSO  
[fz5@ziegenhals.org](mailto:fz5@ziegenhals.org)

Betty Hill  
Alpha Iota, Area 4 TSO  
[clbehill@yahoo.com](mailto:clbehill@yahoo.com)

979-533-4276

832-253-7614