

No. 603

Honoring:
 PAST MATRON'S AND PAST PATRON'S NIGHT
 By Lola Lamoreux

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At the sound of the gavel all members and officers are seated in their usual places.

Worthy Matron:

Sisters and brothers, we are very happy tonight in honoring the Past Matrons and Patrons of this Chapter. Will they please rise? Sister Marshall and Sister Conductress, you will escort our Past Matrons and Patrons to the East.

As they are being conducted to the East, members will all sing the following song, which should be typed and passed around before the meeting opens.

Tune: Long, Long Ago. (Can be found in any book containing old well-known songs.)

Welcome, dear members who served us so well,
 Not so long ago, not so long ago.
 You did more for us than we can ever tell,
 Not so long ago, long ago.
 We're glad you are here and we honor you tonight,
 We hope it will be an evening of delight.
 We need you and love you and wish you great joy,
 All the days of your life that you live.

When song is over the Worthy Matron presents the Past Matrons, and the Worthy Patron the Past Patrons. The guests are given a hearty welcome by Chapter Members.

Worthy Matron:

Sisters and brothers, in the history of our great country it has always been a custom to pay a respect to our pioneers. Those who left their homes and pushed westward into the wilderness to hew the paths for the future generations have a special place in our hearts and memories, and it is right that they should have, for were it not for their fortitude and persistency our pathways would still be very different.

What is true of the pioneers of our great land is true in the same measure in the history of our order. The Matrons and Patrons who have marched before us have hewn pathways for us. They have worked faithfully and untiringly to establish Chapters in the outposts of our country. Were it not for their earnest labors and great devotion to our order we should not have the pleasure of being here tonight.

Past Matrons and Past Patrons, we recognize you as the pioneer leaders of our Chapter. We appreciate the efforts that you have put forth in the past, and the work that you are still striving to do, in making the Eastern Star a truly bright and shining light, that leads us on to a higher plane of living.

This evening will be an outstanding one for all of us, and we are the ones who are honored in having you present as our special guests. We hope as we celebrate this occasion each year you may be with us again and again.

May God bless you and keep you,
 And make each day a pleasure,
 Is the wish in the hearts of us all
 For you whose love we so treasure.

The Past Matrons and Patrons are seated on the North East and South East sides of the Chapter room.

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Five sisters (these may be the Star Points if necessary) dressed in old fashioned costumes if at all possible, enter through the Chapter room door. Each carries a lighted candle the color of a Star Point. They advance in one line to Associate Matron's station, then turn East to Esther's station. The line then divides, the first going to Adah's station, second to Electa's, third to Ruth's, fourth to Martha's and fifth to Esther's. They stand beside these stations outside the labyrinth. As each sister speaks she advances to the Altar and places her candle on it, then remains there.

Adah:

Our past matrons and patrons had the spirit of pioneers,
And with the fidelity of Adah carried on without doubt or fears
Because of their convictions they were so very true
Upon the Altar we will place this candle of the blue.

Ruth:

Our past matrons and past patrons like the pioneer of old,
Had the constancy of Ruth, in courage were strong and bold.
Because they served unselfishly and humbly day by day
Upon the Altar we will place the lovely yellow ray.

Esther:

These officers were ready any sacrifice to make,
When a duty called them, for the Chapter's sake,
Because they served so joyously in the cause of right
Upon the Altar we will place the pure ray of white.

Martha:

Our past matrons and patrons had faith in our great cause,
And followed in the paths of right without a single pause.
Upon the Altar we will place this candle of faith's green
Because they shed its rays afar that by others it was seen.

Electa:

In the spirit of Electa's love we honor these guests tonight,
As we pay them these tributes which are truly theirs by right.
Upon the Altar now we place this red light of love,
And wish for them many blessings from the Father in Heaven above.

The sisters all bow.

Music - A Carland of Old Fashioned Roses is sung.

While this is sung the sister representing Electa may present each past matron and patron with a red rose or a small gift from the Chapter, although this will not be necessary. At the close of the song the sisters retire led by the sister representing Adah.

This ends the ceremony.