

*Welcome*

GOING OUR WAY  
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,  
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,  
Hamilton, Missouri.

New members are introduced and welcomed by Worthy Matron as follows:

It is indeed a privilege to welcome you as members of this Chapter. The word welcome carries with it a fraternal meaning, and signifies that there are no strangers in our fraternal Order. We are all united in a bond of mutual fellowship and love because of our interest in this beloved Order.

We are happy that you have joined our group, and that you are going our way. To be a member of our Order requires time and effort, and we feel sure that you are willing to give these that you may be able to obtain the inspiration which comes from the many lessons taught to you in our beautiful Order. We extend to you a most cordial welcome, and we want you to feel that you are at home in our fraternal family.

We are so glad to welcome you as members of our clan;  
We know that you so willingly will do all that you can;  
We want you to be faithful to our Chapter every day;  
We want you to walk hand in hand with us along the way;  
And when the journey's end is reached, you'll better be by far,  
Because you have been members of our own dear Eastern Star.

Worthy Patron welcomes new members as follows:

I wish to add my welcome to that of the Worthy Matron by saying that we are greatly pleased to have you as members of our Order, and we hope that you will enjoy your associations with us as we work together through the years to come.

You perhaps realize that the benefits derived from any organization are governed by the time and effort you put into it, and as the Order of the Eastern Star is a service giving organization, you will soon learn that your service is a part of its requirements. We are indeed very happy to extend to you the hand of fellowship, and we trust that you will receive much pleasure and benefit from membership in this wonderful Order, where we try to forget our personal interests in our thoughtfulness for the welfare of our Chapter, and our fellow members. We are indeed happy to welcome you.

At close of Worthy Patron's speech, Marshal escorts new members to position in semicircle west of Altar. As soon as semicircle is formed, Conductress and Associate Conductress, with (or without) lighted candles, take position one at each end of semicircle, and as they do so, Marshal returns to her station. Worthy Matron hands basket to Marshal and speaks:

Sister Marshal, go out in the garden,  
You will find such lovely things there;  
We know many flowers are blooming,  
For their fragrance is filling the air;  
And we'll put them all here together,  
That we may all our privileges share.

Marshal receives basket from Worthy Matron. This basket may contain gifts or flowers for new members, or gifts and flowers may be given by Star points. Bibles may be presented, if desired.  
Marshal bows, and Star points rise.

Marshal speaks:

If you find in your part of the garden,  
A gift you will so gladly share,  
Will you bring it that we may together,  
Show our friends what they'll find waiting there;  
For you can each bring them a message,  
From our heroines so noble and true,  
That will give to all those who hear it,  
A personal interest in you.

Star points with Associate Matron from aisle on north and south of Altar, facing Altar. Marshal passes to these officers in turn and collects gifts or flowers which she places in the basket, after which she presents them to new members as follows:

We cannot bring gifts of great value,  
For we have neither silver nor gold;  
But what we do give will be cherished,  
For it's value to you is untold;  
We know through the years you'll be faithful,  
And give of your best every day;  
And we hope that our welcome will tell you,  
We are glad you are going our way.

After gifts are presented, soloist sings:

Tune: "The Band Played On."

We are so glad you are numbered with us,  
In our Eastern Star;  
We know you will be just as happy as we,  
In our Eastern Star;  
For we keep the halls ringing, with laughter and singing,  
And you have no cause for alarm;  
We're not much for show, but you'll love it we know,  
In our Eastern Star.

We are very sure you will like our work,  
In our Eastern Star;  
For you are our friends and we are now your friends,  
In our Eastern Star;  
For when we are all working, there's no time for shirking,  
And work never does any harm;  
So you will be glad, and you'll never be sad,  
In our Eastern Star.

You will love Adah, and you will love Ruth,  
In our Eastern Star;  
Our Esther, and Martha, and Electa too,  
In our Eastern Star;  
You will love all our colors, our beautiful colors,  
The blue, yellow, white, green, and red;  
These things are for you, and we know you'll be true,  
To our Eastern Star.

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