

CEREMONY TO HONOR TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OR OLDER MEMBERS

Under Good of the Order

Worthy Matron: Will the _____ members please stand. Sister Conductress and Sister Associate Conductress, you will present them in the West.
(the Conductress presents them as a group and does not give individual names)

Worthy Matron: It is certainly a pleasure to be able to honor you this evening. During the many years that you have been members of our Order, fraternal associations have brought you much happiness. You have watched our Chapter grow through the years, and have helped to make it what it is, and for this we are very grateful. We realize that it was your plans, your addition of new members, and your efforts to hold our fraternal hand together that has placed our Chapter on the foundation on which we find ourselves today. With hearts full of love for your many years of service, the rest of the members extend to you the hand of friendship and loyalty. We know that your usefulness is far from being at an end, for you enter into our ceremonies and our fellowship just as wholeheartedly as ever.

Through future days may you find much contentment,
Through the years yet before you, good luck;
May you at all times have much peace and gladness,
And if you have shadows, much pluck.
We wish you the comforts the years can bring you,
You'll find that our greetings are true;
Because the past years have proven you faithful,
It's with pride we bring honors to you.

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will escort our Sisters and Brothers to the East.

The Worthy Matron then introduces the Sisters, and the Worthy Patron, the Brothers.

Worthy Patron: We are happy to honor you tonight,
For you've served us all these long years;
You have been faithful to all of your tasks,
Through the joys and, sometimes, the tears.

So we're giving to you a gift wrapped in love
And held fast by a fraternal tie;
For if clear be your skies, or if dark be the days,
You will always find us standing by.

Conductresses pass out gifts as soloist sings.

. (This would be for Charter members)

If twenty-five year members are being honored, the W.O. would probably want to invite them to the dais and would present them with their pins. It is also fun to have each one tell the exact date she was initiated and in what Chapter, since a lot of twenty-five year members are affiliates.

Remember: the giving of gifts or favors is always optional. It mostly depends on what is the custom in the Chapter.

Soloist sings. Tune - "Always"

You have been so true, so true,
And you've always served us, too;
Not just while you're here,
But through every year,
You have been sincere, and dear, always;
We'll always be true to you,
And we'll always love you, too;
May each gift now say
We wish you would stay,
Not for just today, but always.

We bring thanks to you, to you,
For the work you always do;
May the coming years,
As each one appears,
Be so free from tears, and fears, always;
We will always look to you,
That you'll always help us through,
So let us repeat,
Our love is complete,
Not just when we meet, but always.

Worthy Matron instructs Conductresses to return honored members to their places in the Chapter room.