Sisters and brothers, it is with sincere pleasure, deep appreciation, and very great nervousness, that I begin this, my first official speech to you.

For the past six years -- as I sat out there is" one of those comfortable chairs where you are tonight -- I had a sneaking suspicion of something of which tonight I am very sure! He who planned our beautiful ritual played a fast one on the newly elected Worthy Matron by giving her the gavel without giving her a pretty little speech of acceptance to go with it. It is quite a sensation to be here for the first time and to realize that you are on your own.

But as I stand here tonight, and look out into your smiling faces, I am comforted, for your smiles and nods of understanding tell me that you want me here or you would not have elected me to this office; and if this is true you must be ready and willing to give me and my officers that co-operation and support that we shall need in carrying on the work of our beautiful order through the coming year.

I am very proud and happy to be Worthy Matron of this chapter. However, my happiness is 0' er shadowed by one regret. My coming to the East means that --- --- --- (Retiring W. M.) must leave it, and she has filled this station with such dignity and poise, so capably and well that I am sure each of you here tonight shares with me this regret.

Sister --- --- ---, I want you to have this little gift from me in appreciation of the happiness that has been mine in serving as your Associate Matron during your year in the East. May it serve as a symbol of friendship that will last and grow in the coming months, for we do not intend to let you drop out of the picture entirely. We shall be coming to you many times for aid, comfort, and protection as we try to get along without your very able leadership.

(After Response):

I want to thank you, Sister --- ----, in behalf of myself and my officers, for this very beautiful and impressive installation ceremony, which you planned with such care and executed so ably with the help of those who took part tonight. I wish to thank them also --- and all who are responsible for the beautiful flowers and gifts which were presented to me tonight.

I'm sure my officers feel deeply honored, as I do, to have been installed by --- ---. So far tonight --- --- --- has had to say only those things which were prepared for her. Perhaps she would like to say something of her own. She has already been presented to you tonight, but won't you join with me in according her a hearty welcome?

(After her talk):

While we are passing out the speeches we should not lose sight of the fact that we have a new Worthy Patron. We have already been informed that he is a jolly fine fellow. I know this to be true, for he and I have just finished sharing a most comfortable year in the west. I'm sure he must have something he would like to say to you now -- Brother --- ---.
(After his talk):

I hope you will not rush away in search of the food, --- --- --- has promised you, for it is customary at this time for the Worthy Matron to announce her committees for the year.

I want to thank all those who responded so graciously when requested to serve on committees, and I am grateful too for these very capable and congenial elective officers you have given me to work with for this year, and also for these newly appointed officers who have consented to work with us. I'm sure they will prove to be, an inspiration to us all through the year.

(Read Committees):

We new committee members and officers are starting a new year with high aspirations and a desire to make 20--an outstanding one. We shall need the co-operation and support of every member of ----- --- Chapter. We are to have no big projects this year. The war years are over. It is the privilege of those of us living now to be a part of this strange--new--wonderful--Atomic Age! The Age of the Atom! I thought it might be well for those of us who are here tonight to give a little thought to the Atom.

Let us consider the ATOM. We used to think of it (if indeed we thought of it at all) as a little insignificant -- shall I say SPECK? Perhaps that is how those of us who are not members of committees, or officers, but only members, feel about ourselves. That we are little and insignificant, that it doesn't matter if we come to meetings or not -- that no one will even notice that we aren't filling one of those chairs on the side.

But we who live in this Atomic Age know that this is not true. We have learned that there is in that little Atom a strange new energy and power of which the world had never dreamed.

We, in Star, would also learn -- if when our meetings come, each would make the effort to be "Atom" -- we should find in our chapter a strange new energy and power of which we have not yet dreamed.

So won't you, when you go home tonight, take a little time; go to your calendars; and on the (whatever night your chapter meets) of each month mark a little speck; then during the year when you leaf through your calendar and come to those dates, say to yourself "those are the Eastern Star meetings and "They Want Me Atom"!

Let's start with our very first meeting ---- --- ---- (Date). (Announce interesting facts about that meeting.)

THE END