

NOW THE YEAR IS ENDING

(Farewell to the Retiring Matron)
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This may be given on the last regular meeting night of the year, under the order of business "Good of the Order", or just before the closing of the chapter. After the Worthy Matron asks the Associate Matron if there is any further business to come before the chapter, the Associate Matron will begin this farewell by arising and responding as follows:

ASSOCIATE MATRON speaks:

Worthy Matron, for almost a year you have served this chapter in the highest position of authority and we, your officers, are all agreed that you have proven yourself to be "Worthy".

We have been glad to co-operate with you throughout the year. You have been a wise and earnest leader and we have been your loyal followers. If we have been able to add to any happiness or any degree of success to your year, we are delighted.

We appreciate you greatly,
And we love you quite a lot;
So we dedicate the following -
Hoping you'll for-get-us-not.

Associate Matron sits and the Associate Patron arises immediately before the Worthy Matron has time to respond to the foregoing. He speaks, then sits as soon as he is finished and the next officer begins. They should speak in rapid succession until all officers have spoken.

ASSOCIATE PATRON now says:

From the west where has been stated
"I have found the ballot clear"
Comes these words of commendation;
"You have pleased us well this year".

SECRETARY says:

I would write to you a letter -
Had we not this better way,
Of expressing to you verb'ly
What we simply wish to say.

TREASURER speaks:

This we wish to tell you, Matron
And we hope you're glad to hear,
That we'll treasure the remembrance
Of this very pleasant year.

CONDUCTRESS continues:

I have helped the 'Sociate (Sho-shate) Ma-tron,
Your instructions have obey'd -
And because you were our Matron
I have never been dismay'd.

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS goes on:

All my duties in our chapter
I've been very glad to do -
First, because I love it dearly -
Secondly, I've loved you, too.

CHAPLAIN speaks:

Through the year, I, to the altar
Went to lead us all in pray'r
And, to-night, I pray you'll never
Drift beyond God's tender care.

The MARSHAL arises and says:

All the duties of my office
Have seemed just like play to me -
Done with love, a duty ceases
Anything but joy to be.

The ORGANIST arises and says:

Through the year, within our chapter,
We have had sweet har-mo-ny.
May the years which follow this one
Bring you Life's rich melody.

ADAH arises to say:

The Fidelity of Adah,
I have taught throughout the year -
And you have exemplified it -
That is why we think you're dear.

RUTH arises to say:

With the Constancy of Ruth, here,
You have labored patiently;
May the golden sheaf of plenty
Never be withheld from thee.

ESTHER arises to say:

May the Purity and Virtue,
Which is taught in our White Ray,
Keep you safe above all slander
From henceforth, both night and day.

MARTHA arises and says:

May the trustful Faith of Martha
Strengthen you in Sorrow's hour;
Like a robe may it surround you,
Like a strong and mighty tower.

ELECTA arises to say:

Never shall the love, fraternal,
Which you've found within our Star,
Either leave you or forsake you
Whether you are near or far.

The WARDER arises and says:

May the tender watchful shepherd
Whom we call God - Father dear,
Keep you safe within Love's portals
Where there's none to harm or fear.

WORTHY PATRON:

Worthy Matron, it's been pleasant
To serve with you in the East,
So the duties of my office
I've not minded in the least.

May the years which stretch before you
Bring you blessings rich and grand;
Words seem futile to express this,
But I hope you understand.

The Associate Matron and Associate Patron arise simultaneously in the West. The Associate Matron says:

ASSOCIATE MATRON speaks:

Worthy Matron, if you'll grant ^{me} us
Permission to come to you -
We shall bring a lovely token
Which we feel to you is due.

They leave their stations and approach the East - the Associate Matron carrying a gift to the Worthy Matron, and the Associate Patron having one for the Worthy Patron. These may be inexpensive gifts, or whatever you wish to give. They may be personal gifts - one from the Associate Matron to the Worthy Matron and the other from the Associate Patron to the Worthy Patron; or they may be given by the officers collectively. Associate Matron and Associate Patron stop in front of the dais in the East and face the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron respectively.

ASSOCIATE MATRON continues:

This brings love to you, ^{our} ~~my~~ Sister,
May it, too, bring joy to thee
Every time you look upon it
With a pleasant mem ^{ory}.

Presents the gift)

ASSOCIATE PATRON ends:

Worthy Patron, through this year
You've served our chapter well;
Just how much you've meant to us
Is hard for us to tell.

We do thank you earnestly
For all you've done for us;
Please accept this gift which comes
Without ado or fuss.

(Presents gift.)

All officers may sing the following while the Associate Matron and Patron are returning to their stations. Tune -- "Now the Day is Over".

Now the year is ending;
In-stal-la-tion draws near,
But we'll not forget those
Who have served this year.

Farewell, Worthy Patron,
Farewell, Matron, dear,
Please do not for-get-us
Or this happy year.

The End