

#16
Folder 29

This short and simple ceremony is to honor the Retiring Worthy Matron. It may be put on preceding Installation, or at the first meeting afterwards. It requires the Marshal, and Star Point Officers... and the Associate Matron, if it is preceding Installation, or present Matron, if at first meeting afterwards.

Associate Matron: This is the beginning of the end for our Retiring Worthy Matron.

This has been a busy year. With much bustle and ado we have done all that our Worthy Matron expected of us,- and we have seen her do much more than any of us. Always she told us that it was only for the one year, and then she would be back at her own fireside again. I was thinking if she intends to spend so much time at her fireside, there should be some logs provided, to keep the fires going.

What do you think about it, Sister Marshal?

Marshal: You are right. I, too, can remember when Sister ---- wanted us to work a little harder. She always said that a year was not long,- and that next year she would be at home by the fire. (She rises, and taking a large metal, wicker, or wooden basket from the floor in front of the Secretary's desk, she moves to Adah.

Marshal: Sister Adah,

Adah: Sister Marshal.

Marshal: Can you help our Worthy Matron, who wishes to spend long hours beside her fire?

Adah: Yes, I can. Here is a log for the fire. It is a good big log and will keep the home fires burning for a long time. But, if she is going to sit by the fire, she will need something to read. Here is a magazine.

Marshal moves to Ruth's station.

Marshal: Sister Ruth.

Ruth: Sister Marshal.

Marshal: You also have heard our Matron speak of spending hours by her fire. What do you think of it?

Ruth: I think we'll just have to keep her interested in coming to Chapter.

But, for her evenings at home, here is a log for the fire. Besides, if she is going to be reading magazines, she will need a good light. (She gives an electric light bulb, in addition to a log of firewood. Marshal moves to Esther.

Marshal: Sister Esther.

Esther: Sister Marshal.

Marshal: I am gathering logs for the fire of our Worthy Matron.

Esther: And I have one, too. It is good and dry, and will burn easily. But, if Sister ---- is going to be reading before her fire, I will give her this apple. I always like to eat an apple, while I read.

Marshal moves to Martha.

Marshal: Sister Martha.

Martha: Sister Marshal.

Marshal: We are remembering that our Retiring Matron plans on spending long evenings by her fire. Have you heard her say so?

Martha: Yes, I have. And, I have brought a log for her fire. Mine is just a small log, because we hope that she will be coming to Chapter to every meeting. But for the evenings at home, I wouldn't want her to be bored. So here are some

knitting needles. I know from experience that knitting passes the times quite easily. Marshal moves to Electa.

Marshal: Sister Electa.

Electa: Sister Marshal.

Marshal: Now that Sister --- is going to have free time to spend before her fire, we are gathering logs, that she may be warm and cosy.

Electa: And I have two logs. One for her love of our Chapter, and one for the Chapter's love for her. And, knowing that she would have some knitting needles, I have here some lovely red wool. She can knit some warm bed socks with it. That will keep her warm, after our logs have been burned. She can still think of us, then.

Marshal moves forward to East, where she bows to Retiring Matron. Then she presents the tribute.

Marshal: Sister ----. I have gathered tribute for you. Logs for your fire, as you keep the home fires burning, after a year well spent, serving in our East. May every flame from them warm your heart in fond remembrance. You never wearied of doing your job well. We have enjoyed working with you, - and will enjoy still more continuing this service. Together we will share our work and fun. We would not deny you your home fires, - but let them be in addition to the fires of warmth we have for you here.

She presents it. While she stand there, Choir or Soloist sings to tune "Keep the Home Fires Burning." the words:

Keep your home fires burning,
But we'll all be yearning,
For the hours we shared with you,
Throughout the year;
You took every duty,
And you gave it beauty,
That is why we song to you
Of love sincere.

Keep your home fires burning,
And as you are turning
Pages in the golden book
Of memories fair;
Think of every Member,
With a love so tender -
Hoping you'll come back again
Our joys to share.

Marshal returns to station.

Music is played for all marching.

This concludes the short ceremony.