Past Matrons & Past Patrons Night.

After the usual Chapter opening, all Past Matrons & Past Patrons are to be escorted to the East & stand in a semi circle, facing the Matron, who greets them:

My Sisters & Brothers:

There could be no group of people more welcome in this chapter than you, our Past Matrons & Patrons, eise to you, we owe a debt of gratitude that cannot be measured.

You contributed your time, your efforts, your enthusiasm; and your vision toward making your Chapter the splendid organisation that it is today; & when your terms of office were over, your efforts have still been a present help and inspiration to those who have followed you in office.

The circle of Past Officers then face the West and are introduced by name, with their year of service, followed by these greetings in verse:

**Worthy Matron:** Past Matrons & Past Patrons,
            So just & so fair,
            May God bless you always;
            For this is my prayer.
            And from your Worthy Matron,
            Who welcomes you here,
            Accept all good wishes
            And greetings sincerest.

**Worthy Patron:** - A house is built of bricks and stone,
            Of eild and posts and piers,
            But this chapter is built of your loving deeds
            That will stand through all the years.

**Associate Matron:** God grant the years may bring to you
            Richest blessings and friends so dear;
            Our need of you is very great;
            We want you always here.

**Adah:** Past Matrons and Past Patrons,
            The years have brought us you.
            We look to you with joy and pride,
            For you are Stars most true.
            Jephtha's daughter brings to you
            The blue flowers, symbols of fidelity and courage.

**Ruth:** We welcome you, dear faithful ones,
            Who have earnestly done your part,
            May blessed peace, God's wonderful gift,
            Dwell forever within your hearts.
            The gleaner, Ruth, brings to you
            The yellow flowers, symbols of constancy and devotion.

**Esther:** Once in a while our hearts do thrill
            When we find our dreams come true,
            But it's only once in a long, long time;
            We find sisters and brothers, like you.
            Queen Esther brings to you
            The white flowers, symbols of purity and justice.
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Martha:-- Your part in this beautiful life of service
        Inspires and cheers us on our way;
        We shall hold you in fond remembrance
Ready to serve you in every way
Trustful Martha brings to you
The green-flowers, symbols of faith and immortality.

Eleta:-- May all the blessings you have brought
        To others far and near
        Join hands and circle back to you
        Through many a happy year.
Eleta brings to you
The red-flowers, symbols of love and truth.

The ceremony is then concluded by the Worthy Matron:

        It's been a long, long trail together
        With love and friendship combined
        You help to wipe away our sorrows,
        Leaving your sunshine.

        In your dear old --- Chapter
        Your hours were not spent in vain,
        For in the hearts of every member
        You will live again and again.

        In your final march together
        Down the trail of evergreens,
        May our love live on forever
        In your long, long trail of dreams.

Associate Matron:--- "I'd rather be a "has-been"
        Than a "might have been" by far
        For a "might have been" has never been
        But a "has-been" was once an "are"

The Past Matrons and Past Patrons are then escorted to their seats.

Suggested a song to sung while the PM & PP are escorted to the East.

Worthy Matron:

        It is with— a privilege to present to you

        It is a privilege to present you to our members as our guest most
        honored guests and to give you what you have so richly earned — grateful
        appreciation for your work as leaders in the past, and also for your
        counsel and assistance, since your terms of office expired.

        You have every reason to be proud of your titles— Past Matrons
        and Past Patrons— and we surely hope that we, who are guiding the destinies of our
        Chapter at the present time; may follow in your footsteps in making it an ever
        greater influence for good in our community, an organization of which we may
        all be proud.

        With the hand of fellowship extended, we welcome you to this meeting, and
        I present you to the Chapter:

* The jolliest bunch of "has-beens"
You possibly could meet
Complaints and frowns are never found
Within their fair retreat.
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Worthy Matron continue—

For laughter always reigns supreme
No time for feeling blue
For the group of Matrons and Patrons, Past
Is always "Smiling through."

If the Past Patrons ever suggest they do not get equal attention with the Past Matrons, this poem will offset it:

"Of our Past Matrons oft we hear,
Of them make much ado,
A night we dedicate to them
Whish you all know is true.
But not all Stars are feminine,
Although we're prone to say,
"The sisters work is wonderful."
And cheer them on their way.
There's our Past Patrons—true as steel—
We could not do without—
For the beginning of our Order
Was due to man no doubt,
So let's drink a toast to Patrons past,
And present Patrons, too;
To brothers all, we love you, love you,
Because you're true.
Dear Patrons past, we drink your health,
You've e'er been friends in need;
May you see Stars, and Stars and Stars,
For you are Stars, indeed."

At the close of the program, ask some spokesman of the Past Patrons to read this humorous selection:

"Now we come to the part of our show
When we exhibit our "Ham-Beer" all in a row;
Quite a lengthy line is presented to you;
It shows you what a free dinner will do.
Year after year we look worse and worse,
It isn't our fault, it is Father Time's excuse; curses.
Honestly folks, it nearly breaks our hearts
To learn that we need so many spare parts.
Outside of spare parts our Patrons want are few,
But our Matrons need some accessories, too.
Like "Evening in Paris" and a permanent wave.
And some sort of rigging to make their lines behave.
Times were when these girls were real heart throbes,
Now I'll bet half of them are rebuilt jobs.
Well, rebuilt or not, they know how to win,
For every girl there fanned some fellow in.
And now just a word about us boys:
In our younger days we made lots of noise,
With a loud necktie and a collar up to our chin,
Our greatest trouble was how to begin,
But when we got started it didn't take long
To make all the girls sing the old Trolley song.
Now the trolley won't clang, the bell won't ring,
The busser won't buzz, and the girls won't sing;
Past Matrons and Past Patrons program
Continue--

Nothing left but the brakes, and they work fine,
But we don't need brakes at the end of the line.
Be that as it may, we all did our best,
And Chapter has surely been blest
With Matrons and Patrons, who stand in review,
We thank you tonight, and it's now up to you.