Gold Gavel Banner Service

This ceremony may be given under the "Good of the Order." All Past Matrons and Past Patrons are seated in the south east section of the room - on side in the section east of the Conductress station. At the proper time, the worthy Matron rises and says:

WORTHY MATRON:

It is always a wonderful evening when we honor the Past Matrons and Past Patrons in our chapter. So much of the glory of our order belongs to you. So much is yours by right of service past. It is yours by right of the one full and glorious year when you guided the destiny of this our beloved chapter.

Sister Marshal, accompanied by the Chaplain, you will retire and bring into this room the banner we have prepared to fly in honor of our Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

(They retire from the room and return bringing a banner to the Worthy Matron. It is approximately 3 feet by 5 feet and is white satin or other soft white material.)

WORTHY MATRON looks at it and says doubtfully.

It is a beautiful pure white banner -but-

SECRETARY interrupting:

But isn't it quite blank for a banner?

TREASURER:

I'm sure it can't be complete!

WARDER:

Worthy Matron, I have a bit of material here. I feel that if it is placed on this banner it will help.

Organist, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Ruth, Esther, and Martha get up at one time.

ORGANIST says:

We too have bits that most assuredly belong upon the flag.

WORTHY MATRON:

Sister Secretary, is there a paste pot available?

SECRETARY:

There is, Worthy Matron.
WORTHY MATRON:

Sister Marshal, you will bear the white banner while the Sister Chaplain bears the paste pot. Visit each of the stations where the members have bits to contribute to the flag.

The Chaplain bears a bread board with a paste pot on it and a towel with a damp end. This gives the officers something solid to work on, and a towel with which to clean their fingers after they have pasted.

While they paste they chat - informally, but so that it may be heard, etc. Just casual chatter.

Shall I paste it here or here?
Do you really think this will work?
Oh I do hope that I get my bit in the proper place.
This must form a fine true flag.
I believe it is going to be all right.
Let us hope so anyway.
Oh yes, it is going to be most attractive, and they will like it, too.

A wonderful, wonderful flag it is, to honor them tonight.
It is the proper emblem, and it is the color right.

When the Marshal and Chaplain go from each officer, the flag is held gathered in around the standard; it is not carried unfurled so that the emblem on the flag remains a surprise. The last one they carry the flag to does not paste on a piece, she just sees for sure that the pieces are pasted good and flat - last check on it.

WORTHY MATRON:

Come before me and let me have a glimpse of the flag as it is now.
(Shows just to worthy Matron --the Marshal holding standard and Chaplain holding out the flag.)

Yes, it is a proper banner. You may show it to the honored guests.
(Turns and shows it to the guests.)

For the balance of this meeting -let this banner, with its emblem of achievement, have a place of honor at the left of the Worthy Patron.

ASSOCIATE MATRON rises and says:

The golden gavel stands for service and it could only mean service completed in our East, It belongs to each of you personally by right of achievement. This golden gavel banner represents years of preparation and the one final year of realization. I think it a most beautiful flag, and I know you to be worthy of calling it your own. (Sits.)

CONDUCTRESS rises and says:

The pieces which were placed upon this banner to form the golden gavel are pieces from the heart of the Order of the Eastern Star, One piece was composed of protection, peace, and devotion, and it represents the
Warder, Sentinel, and Chaplain. Each piece contains a part of the service you have performed. (Sits.)

**ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS** rises and says:

One piece of this emblem was for Security, Harmony, and Leadership and represents the Treasurer, Organist, and Associate Conductress. This' designates more of the service you have given, more from the heart of the Eastern Star. (Sits.)

**TREASURER** rises and says:

Direction, Intelligence, and Divine Guidance were also placed in the emblem representing the Marshal, Secretary, and the Associate Patron. They are essential parts of the complete whole, and are pieces from the heart of the Eastern Star. (Sits.)

**WORTHY PATRON** rises and says:

There is more meaning in this banner. We placed one piece for Light, Preparation, and Fidelity; and these represent the Associate Matron, Conductress, and Adah and are beautiful part; of this wonderful emblem. The heart of the Eastern Star would be incomplete without them. (Sits.)

**ASSOCIATE MATRON** rises and says:

And finally there was a piece for Constancy, Purity, Immortality, and Charity. This was the part which represented Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. And we find that the heart of the Eastern Star is filled to the brim, and that the emblem is complete in all its glory. (Sits.)

**WORTHY MATRON:**

These all form the emblem of the gavel, the mark of the Worthy Matron and of her Worthy Patron. We take the gavel and change it to one of gold, and give to you a fitting emblem of honor; we place it upon the pure white cloth representing the white and undefiled field of our Altar. We have made for you a perfect Past Matrons and Past Patrons banner - the Banner of the Golden Gavel.

**SONG:** Tune "Oh Dem Golden Slippers"

**First Verse:**

Oh your golden gavels that you have won
So's you could sit in the bright sun
For the year you spent here in the East
We'll sing you a song at the very least.

**Chorus:**

Oh dem golden gavels
Oh dem golden gavels
Dem golden gavels we give to you
We are proud of everything you do.

Second Verse:

With the golden gavels we give you love
You helped keep the Star shining up above
Dem golden gavels we bless your hearts
You did well when you played your parts.

Chorus:

Oh dem golden gavels
Oh dem golden gavels
Dem golden gavels we give to you
We're proud of everything you do.

Third Verse:

And the golden gavels that you wear
Cause you won them on a day so fair
All you dear ones, whom we love so well,
We have you here to tell.

Chorus:

Oh dem golden gavels
Oh dem golden gavels
Dem golden gavels we give to you
We're proud of everything you do.

Repeat chorus  (soft and slow):

Oh dem golden gavels
Oh dem golden gavels
Dem golden gavels we give to you
To keep the long years through.

WORTHY MATRON:

Sister Marshal, will you take this tray and present it to each Past Matron and Past Patron present, in order that they might take their favor of the evening and of this year. You are indeed worthy of the golden gavel. May the days come and go' and may you cherish this little token from your chapter; and in its own small way may it cause the light from our star to shine through your days and fill your hearts with joy in your service.

The tray of miniature white banners or gavels made from paper or plastic and tied with gold ribbon is passed. The song to tune of "Oh, Them Golden Slippers" may be sung while the tokens are being distributed.
OPTIONAL SUGGESTION:

Refreshments for the evening:

Have a table with a centerpiece which has a golden gavel in the yellow flower arrangement. Use yellow candles (these could have a tiny gold gavel tied on with gold bow about midway down the candle). This carries out the golden gavel idea throughout the evening. Yellow and white table is final touch. Punch for evening could be yellow - cookies and tiny yellow napkins, etc.

Included is a pattern for gavel which is to be outlined in pencil on the white satin flag. It may be increased in size to three feet. Each person pasting on a piece re-checks the pieces and flattens them smoothly. Gold paper should be used to make this banner most effective. Practice for this ceremony may be carried out with plain paper or plain wrapping paper or banner may be made from an old sheet. Save the white satin banner for the night itself.
THE END