THE DEAREST TIES

Past Presiding Officer in charge of meeting begins, with a serious, appreciative tone. She addresses Past Presiding Brother Officer being welcomed.

A tie may be of any size
A tie may be of any hue.
But, the dearest sweetest tie
Binds all of us to you.

A Past Presiding Brother interrupts with a respectful but very confidential tone.

With your permission, dear sister,
We boys would like to have the floor.
We'd like to welcome this brother.
For we've a surprise in store.

You see, we've noticed that he needs
Things to drape beneath his chin.
We've noticed that the ties he wears
Are getting threadbare, wearing thin.

We wanted to do something special
To honor this very special man.
With your kind indulgence,
May we execute our plan?

Past Presiding Officer in charge looks miffed but nods her head in agreement. A second Past Presiding Brother rises, holding a very old dilapidated looking tie in his hand, and then he addresses Junior Past Presiding Brother.

Now, this tie, Brother Past ...........
Might not look like very much.
But, it's held up for years and years
Of meetings, conferences and such.

I wore this dear tie of mine
To seventeen dinners of chicken and peas.
And then to ten of scallops and ham,
To countless potlucks, so if you please,

Don't raise your eyebrows and look
With disdain, dismay nor askance,
Wrap it around your neck to wear
To your next fraternal dance!

This brother offers gift with much dignity and returns to his seat looking regretfully back towards the tie he has just given away. Another Past Presiding Brother rises and addresses the Junior Past Presiding Brother.

I too have a special tie for you,
Got it for Christmas back in thirty-nine.
It's been the mainstay of my wardrobe.
I must say it wore real fine!

I kind of hate to part with this.
    We've been through a lot together.
We've fixed flats and carried paraphernalia
    From place to place in all kinds of weather.

We've sat in rigid silence through,
    Speeches, Welcomes, and Greetings,
We've stayed up when exhausted,
    Sweeping the hall after meetings.

A fellow gets attached to a tie like this.
    It's almost like a friend you know.
Feels nice and comfortable and looks,
    Pretty much all right wherever you go.

This brother retires and another brother approaches carrying a box of old ties. Each of the ties has a little note pinned to it describing an occasion suited to the wearing of the tie. (Unusual, humorous, or especially decorated ties add to the humor of the occasion.) Each note could bear the signature of the "friend" donating the tie.

A Real Eye Catcher
For a Night Out with the Boys
What the Well Dressed Man Wears
The Dime Store's Best
For the Man of Distinction
Only One of Its Kind
Just the Ticket for Traveling
Ideal for Ice Cream Socials
Tie Carefully to Cover Worn Spot
Practically New
Perfect for Card Parties
Dandy for Rummage Sales
Just the Thing for Square Dances
Excellent for Pot Lucks
Grand for Board Meetings

All the Past Officers felt the same.
    They all wanted to give you a tie.
Some couldn't select just one to give
    So the number of ties began to multiply.

And the Past Sisters loved the idea.
    They started to clean out every drawer,
Before we really knew what had happened,
    Brother, we had ties for you by the score.

Everyone wanted to make a presentation,
    Give it personally with a little rhyme.
But, with the number of ties we've got,
    We simply did not have enough time.

So I've been selected to do the honor
    To give you these gifts and to also say
That the grand job you did as Brother
Was perfection in every single way.

We welcome you to this association
  Of Past Officers with pleasure
We hope you've enjoyed our little fun
  And that each of your ties you'll treasure.

  Junior Past Presiding Officer then selects ties with notes pinned on them and reads them aloud to the group.