

## Honoring Past Matrons and Past Patrons

*Instructions- Divide the list of Past Matron's and Past Patron's into two sections- Start the second section with the name of the first living Matron or Patron, all preceding in the first section.*

*Each speaker should get up from his or her chair, and with the exceptions of the Secretary, and the Worthy Patron, should approach the Alter before speaking. The Warder- or whoever is closest, should dim all lights, except the Alter Light, before the Worthy Patron speaks. Then, as each person finishes their speech, the house light should be raised a little, until by the time the Worthy Matron speaks, the lights are at full strength. Alternatively, each speaker could use either an electric candle or small flashlight to turn on when it is their turn*

*Worthy Patron- (Remains in the East)*

We are here tonight to honor the women and men that have led this chapter through laughter and tears, good times and bad.

*Secretary- Reads first section of Matron's and Patrons and their years if so desired.*

*Past Matron or Patron- should approach the Alter and stand either at the South side or the North side- whichever is most convenient.*

I am the Ghost of Matrons and Patrons Past. It was a little different in our day- The men would go off to work, or out to the fields, while the women stayed home. The children would go off to the one-room school house- thank goodness we were able to afford a School Marm- either walking- and no, it wasn't up hill both ways- or riding their bikes and ponies, then come home and help Mom with the chores around the house. And then, when Dad came home, the entire family would sit down to eat a meal, the older children would help the younger ones with some school work,, and if we were lucky, Grandma and Grandpa lived close enough to come over and sit with the children or the older ones would be left in charge. And Mom and Dad, if they hadn't already fallen asleep from exhaustion, could tidy up and meet their friends and neighbors at the Star Chapter for some fellowship. Still, despite the effort it took, enough of us had the Masonic Spirit and were willing and able to keep the Chapter alive and vital in our lives.

*Secretary- Reads second section of Matrons and Patrons and their years if so desired.*

*Current Associate Matron or Patron- should approach the Altar and stand in the West.*

I am the Ghost of Matrons and Patrons Present. It is a little different in our day. In many cases, both Mom and Dad go off to work. The children go to school, either walking- and it still isn't uphill both ways- or being picked up by the school bus. Then, after school, it's either home for chores, or off for sports, or some other after school activity. When we all get home, rush to get the food on the table, hopefully everyone can sit down to eat at the same time, the kids are off to do their homework, or talk to their friends on the phone, or on the computer. The babysitter shows up, or if we were lucky, a neighbor we know can come over and watch them. And Mom and Dad, if they haven't already fallen asleep from exhaustion, can tidy up and meet the friends of the Star Chapter for some fellowship. Those of us who have children grown at least don't need to look for a babysitter- but it is still a rush to try and make the meetings. Still, in spite of the effort it takes, enough of us have the Masonic Spirit and are willing and able to keep the Chapter alive and vital in our lives.

*Should be a newer member, hopefully one that is in line, and has not served as Matron yet- should approach Altar and stand opposite the Past Matron.*

I am the Ghost of Matrons and Patrons Future. It will be a little different in our day- both Mom and Dad will be working, sometimes more than one job each. The children will be computer-bound for games and school and everything important in their lives. Many of us will feel no need to leave our homes for fellowship, when the world is at our fingertips, simply by connecting to the Web. So, where do we find the time or the necessity of a Masonic Spirit- unless you in the Present are willing to take the time to show us what this beautiful Order is about and why it should be important to us? So, in spite of the effort it takes- we need to know the reason this Order is important- so that we, too, can keep the Chapter alive and vital in our lives.

*Current Matron- Approaches Altar from the East.*

I am the Spirit of the Order of the Easter Star, an Order founded on the Masonic principles of Charity, Truth and Brotherly Love. We began tonight in near darkness, and the faith and belief of a few in the beginning helped that light grow. It shines till brighter now in the Present- but we must all be aware and sharing with others our Belief in this Order, our desire to see it continue, and our knowledge of what a great change this Chapter can

make in the live of our future Sisters and Brothers, or it would be too easy for the flame to flicker and die, blown out by a strong wind- or simply allowed to go out through neglect. Yes, I am the Spirit of the Order of the Eastern Star, as are all of us present here tonight, a spirit that is well and strong in this Chapter- thanks to the members and especially to the Past Matrons and Past Patrons with whom we are so richly blessed, both those who are with us tonight and those who are present only in memory. Let us remember and honor our Past- and use those lessons to shape our future.

*Worthy Patron-*

This concludes this portion of the ceremony- *waits fir speakers to return to their places-*

*Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron-*

Will all the Past Matrons and Past Patrons, of this Chapter, or of any Chapter, please rise so that we may give all of you a very hearty and thankful round of applause?