

ONWARD MATRON, PATRON

- This may be sung under "Good of the Order" at the last regular meeting night on which the retiring Worthy Matron serves in the East.
- The Incoming Matron directs the Bible to be closed and opens this ceremony by arising and addressing the retiring Matron and Patron as follows:

INCOMING MATRON speaks:

"Salutation, Sister _____ and Brother _____
The word "hello" slips off the tongue without much effort on our part;
But when it's time to say "good bye", we find it very hard to start.
I know not why this should be so, I just know it seems quite true.
Therefore, because we're not to part, we shall not say "good bye" to you.

Instead, we'll say "we thank you, dears" for your good work in the past year.
You've served our chapter faithfully; In every way have done your best.
So to the altar, will you come? We ask this as a last request."

- The Organist strikes a chord to tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and Officers arise simultaneously.
- Chaplain and Marshal simultaneously turn towards center of the room and to go to meet the retiring Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron when they descend the dais.
- The other officers leave their stations simultaneously with the Chaplain and Marshal and go to form a circle
- Chaplain and Marshal stop far enough apart to leave space between them for the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, to whom they bow, then face west simultaneously. The Chaplain offers left arm to the Worthy Matron and the Marshal offers right arm to the Worthy Patron.
- The four advance in straight line to places in large circle forming around the altar.
- The officers sing the following verse and chorus while going to their places in the circle

SONG: *Tune -- "Onward, Christian Soldiers".*

"Onward, faithful mem-bers,
Of the Eastern Star;
While its rays shine o'er us
Naught our way can bar!
Onward to the altar,
Let us wend our way;
For the year is ending, And
we wish to say:"

Farewell to the Outgoing Matron and Patron

CHORUS:

"Thank you, Worthy Matron;
Thank you, Patron fine;
We have served so gladly
In this year of thine."

- When chorus is ended and all are in their places in the circle, the Marshal, without leaving the circle speaks first and as follows:

MARSHAL:

"To the altar, we have brought those who've lived the lessons
Taught in our Star, so clearly.
In the East, they've served us well;
So, tonight, we wish to tell that we love them so dearly."

- As soon as the Marshal finishes her/his speech, the Associate Matron leaves the circle to go to the west side of the altar while the Worthy Matron comes to stand on the east side of the altar.
- The Associate Matron speaks as follows:

ASSOCIATE MATRON:

"Sister _____, Worthy Matron of _____ Chapter, we have come to the altar to express our thanks for faithful service, well done, and to offer you a token of our appreciation for that service.

"You have been a wonderful Worthy Matron and we, your officers of 20__, thank you most sincerely.

"Instead of saying "Good bye", we shall say "Onward, Worthy Sister", to new duties and higher honors in our Order, as we ask you to accept this gift with our love and best wishes."

Presents gift to Outgoing/Jr-Past WM

- The Worthy Matron and Associate Matron return to their places in the circle.
- The Associate Patron leaves the circle to go and stand on the west side of the altar while the Worthy Patron comes at the same time to stand on the East side.
- The Associate Patron speaks as follows:

Farewell to the Outgoing Matron and Patron

ASSOCIATE PATRON speaks:

"Brother _____, the officers of 20__ wish to thank you for serving this chapter for the past year in the capacity of Worthy Patron. You have received the highest honor that was in their power to bestow upon you. They feel that you have proved worthy of that honor.

"Instead of saying "Good bye", we are saying "Onward, Worthy Patron" to more duties and more honors in our grand and noble order."

We ask you to accept this gift with our thanks and very best wishes.

Presents gift to Outgoing/Jr-Past WP

- They return to their places in the circle.
- The Chaplain then goes to stand by the altar and with bowed head offers the following prayer:

CHAPLAIN:

"We thank Thee, God, for people who reflect you in their loving deeds and cause us to feel that Thou art near. For Thou art Love and Thou art dear.

"We thank Thee for their words, their smiles, and their companionship through miles; Of life's hard places which would be more difficult without their company.

"We're told that 'All good gifts from above are sent by Thee, Oh God of Love; And so the least that we can do is thank Thee for these faithful two."

- Chaplain returns to her/his place in the circle.
- The officers now sing the 2nd verse.
- When they begin the chorus, they should start the return to their stations, singing the chorus while they go. As soon as all have arrived and the singing is ended, they shall be seated simultaneously.
- Proceed with any further business.

Farewell to the Outgoing Matron and Patron

SECOND VERSE:

"Onward Matron, Patron,
May the coming years
Bring success and glad-ness,
With no cause for tears.
Work well done should nev-er
Soon forgotten be ~
So we'll not forget how you have
Served here faith-ful-ly."

SECOND CHORUS:

"Thank you, lovely Matron,
Thank you, Patron fine;
We've been glad to serve you,
Through this year of thine."

THE END

- A SUGGESTION: Don't forget to tell the officers that just the first verse and chorus are sung while going to form the circle around the altar.
- The second verse and chorus are sung while they are returning to their stations.