

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

This ceremony should be practiced by the Grange and presented with respect when new members are being received. The new member(s) should be assigned a sponsor and should be seated between the Chaplain and Executive Committee. Packets of materials about the Grange should be prepared for each new member.

Secretary: Worthy Master, we wish to welcome the following as members of our Grange. (*Reads list of names.*)

Master: It is indeed our pleasure to welcome you as a member of _____ Grange. The Grange strives to improve and enhance the lives of those living within this community and works with others to better the community in general. It provides a unique opportunity for young and old, families and individuals to interact in a spirit of fellowship.

Worthy Assistants, please escort our new members and their sponsors to the altar. (*Master calls all to rise. New members and their sponsors are escorted to the altar.*)

Master: (*standing between the Graces and the altar*) A Grange member is recognized for high character, commitment to principles, concern for others and for financial responsibility. A Grange member exemplifies these characteristics on a daily basis. As a member of our Grange, we expect that you will support the organization by contributing time and talent to the best of your ability, will meet your financial obligations in a timely manner and will support the constitution and by-laws of the Grange at all levels.

In return you can expect from this Grange fellowship a chance to explore and develop your personal talents and the opportunity to serve.

With this understanding, do you agree to become a member of _____ Grange? If so, answer, "I Do."

New Members: I DO.

Master: Worthy Chaplain, please ask our heavenly Father to be with us on this occasion.

Chaplain: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe and giver of every good and perfect gift, we ask you to be with us on this occasion and to bless those who have become members of this Grange and all connected with our Order. We ask all in thy Holy Name. Amen.

Master: I will now explain to your our salutation, the voting sign, and use of the gavel. (*Does so*)

Pianist: *(Plays Welcome Song. During the first time through members come forward and form the Friendship Circle by joining hands around those at the altar. When circle is formed, pianist again plays the Welcome Song and the first verse is sung by all who wish to join in the singing.)*

Master: As we enclose you within a circle of friendship, so does this Grange pledge to you a pure friendship enduring through life. To help you become more acquainted with us and with the Grange, I ask each of your sponsors to serve as mentors for you for the next year. The mentors will act as your personal guide, helping you become familiar with the organization and its traditions. *(Presents New Members Packets)* Please accept this certification of membership and familiarize yourself with the materials included.

And now Brothers and Sisters, let us loose hands, but ever hold fast to the principles of our Order. Let us again join in welcoming our new members.

(Following the ceremony and introductions, the members are seated.)