

RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE

(Option) Prelude from *Song Book VI*

(The room arrangements and materials needed are similar to a new member initiation ceremony. Please see the *Ceremonies* (Revised 1994) booklet.)

Chairman of Ceremony Committee: I present to you these women as longstanding members of our chapter. They have proven themselves to be eminently worth of honor and respect by their years of service to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. They are (Names). (*The chairman or sponsor may choose to tell something about each member.*)

Presider: We are honored to recognize these women as longstanding members of (Chapter Name) Chapter of (State Organization) of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We honor their years of service to education and encourage them to continue to further the highest ideals of the teaching profession and of humanity.

Sisters, you have long led your friends and co-workers as respected professionals in the educational community. You have honored the history and heritage of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. You have supported and preserved the organizational structure of the Society, and have embraced the responsibilities, obligations and opportunities of membership. These are the Seven Purposes of the Society which you have embodied for us all:

First Speaker:

To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship

To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education

To advance the professional interest and position of women in education

To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators

To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators

To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action

To inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

Presider: All members of the chapter, state and international levels are expected to give their full support to the implementation of programs of work and policies for the fulfillment of these Seven Purposes. This commitment binds our members in cooperative, continual and consistent efforts to strengthen and sustain our Society. We thank you for your firm adherence to these Purposes and your cooperation in the united effort to realize them. (Lift hand to signal members to respond.)

Members: Thank you.

Presider: Years ago you assumed the responsibilities of membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. You see before you the symbols of our society.

Second Speaker: Our key is a golden ellipse. Across its center are the Greek letters. Above them a wreath of laurel leaves symbolizes the distinction which you, and others like you, who wear this key have achieved. Below the letters is a cup which represents knowledge. The members of our chapter thank you for your achievements and the knowledge you have shared with us and with so many others. (Lift hand to signal members to respond.)

Members: Thank you.

Second Speaker: Our coat of arms consists of a red shield with a band of gold. Three Tudor roses on the band symbolize the Society's ideals of friendship, loyalty and helpfulness. We thank you for your constancy in revealing these ideals to us all. (Lift hand to signal members to respond.)

Members: Thank you.

Second Speaker: The flaming lamp and the open book on the shield signify scholarship and knowledge. The laurel sprays are the traditional symbols of achievement. We thank you for the ongoing light you have held out to (Chapter Name) Chapter of (State Organization) of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. (Lift hand to signal members to respond.)

Members: Thank you.

Presider: Now, as these exemplary members are honored before us, I ask that the members all repeat after me the pledge of loyalty and cooperation: I promise that as a member (pause for members to repeat) of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (pause) I will be loyal to the policies, (pause) participate in the activities of the Society (pause) and pledge a commitment to the Society Purposes. (pause)

Presider: The name, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, signifies key women educators. Before us stand three tall candles. I ask that (honoree with most years of service) now light your candle and kindle the flames of the three larger candles, which represent loyalty, cooperation and the ideals of the Society. (The chairman of the Ceremonies Committee may light the match for the small candle for the honoree.)

Just as you light this candle for us all from one flame, may the light from these candles remind us as educators of our responsibilities to lighten the darkness of ignorance and spread knowledge and understanding.

(Pause for a moment of silence while places are resumed after the candles are lit.)

We offer you these tokens of our appreciation. (Secretary may hand token to each honoree Presider may present recognition certificate. Presider recognizes each member by name, stating her year of initiation. If roses are used, a rose may be presented to each initiate.) You are each honored members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We salute your contributions to our Society, and pray you will continue to flourish with us, sharing our friendships, hopes and goals.

(The ceremony closes with singing “The Delta Kappa Gamma Song.” It is also appropriate at the conclusion of the ceremony for those present to individually thank the honored members.)

Submitted by Corrie Logan, Zeta Chapter, TSO