



FarmHouse Fraternity
Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative
The Direction and Study of Ritual

FarmHouse Fraternity has long designated itself, as the motto suggests, the Builder of Men. It is the belief of the Fraternity that a man is built holistically through intentional development in four concentrations: intellectually, spiritually, socially and morally, and physically. For this reason, FarmHouse Fraternity offers the following Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative is directed by Ritual. It is believed that daily men who bear a connection to our organization work to uphold the ideals and objectives of our Fraternity, earning the title of member. The following prescribed Ritual outlines an intentional pathway for eternal membership encouraging affiliated brothers to celebrate, discuss, actively practice, and become more knowledgeable of our Fraternity Ritual as it relates to daily life.

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INTRODUCTION AND ATTITUDE, SECRECY, SPATIAL SETUP, PROPERTIES

“Teach the Ritual, talk the Ritual, live the Ritual. The Ritual is the one thing about which a fraternity will grow. Make the Ritual the heart of the Fraternity and you have established the one rallying force which can call together and make successful a chapter under all conditions.”

Within the wall of the Fraternity, the treasury may be troubling, academic performance may be unsatisfactory, and social life may be stagnant, but if brothers come together to practice and study the Ritual of the Fraternity and its meanings, they will come to campus as brothers and the Fraternity will live. Clearly Ritual is important in the life of a fraternal organization.

One must treat the Ritual of our Fraternity with the utmost of respect and diligence – these Rites of Membership and Further Affirmations hold many meanings within the Fraternity and are a reflection of the path numerous brothers have been lead through in an effort of the Fraternity to live up to its motto: Builder of Men.

Introduction and Attitude

The formal Ritual of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that those partaking in the Rites are well rested and of a favorable mental attitude. The Ritual for the Rites of Membership should be rehearsed and performed with an attitude of appreciation and admiration. A serious demeanor is required.

It is important that Ritual be performed as written, and clearly with little substitutions, additions or deletion. Ritual, when performed correctly, illustrates in the physical form the connection between one chapter to another chapter, from one man to another man. The Ritual, all notes and marks denoting proper performance, have been selected for a reason – passed and approved by Conclave of our Fraternity. It has been said that the action of Ritual is emotion that cannot be put into words.

Performing the prescribed Ritual, especially those noted as the Rites of Membership, are of the greatest actions a chapter will perform.

Secrecy

It is a long standing tradition and point of pride among the brothers within our Fraternity that Ritual is open, meaning non-secretive. In fact, many chapters have encouraged guests to attend the performance of Fraternity Ritual. You will see in *Written and Prescribed Ritual* notations regarding secrecy.

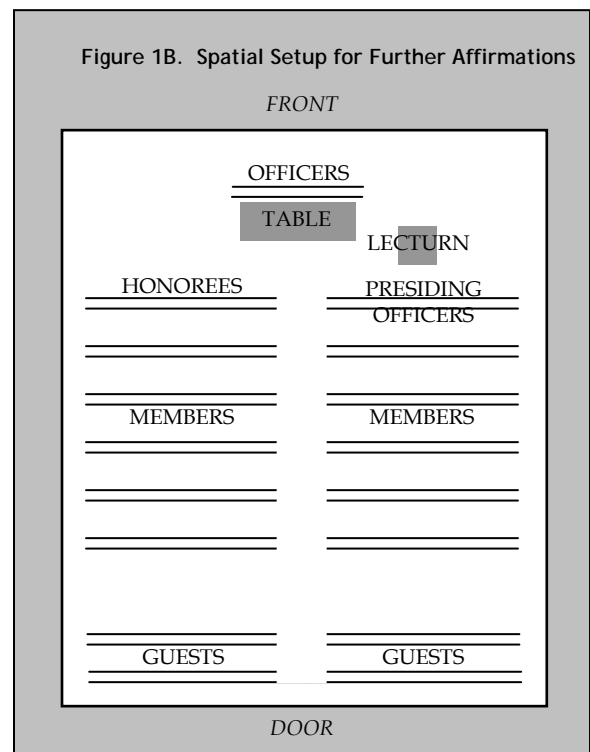
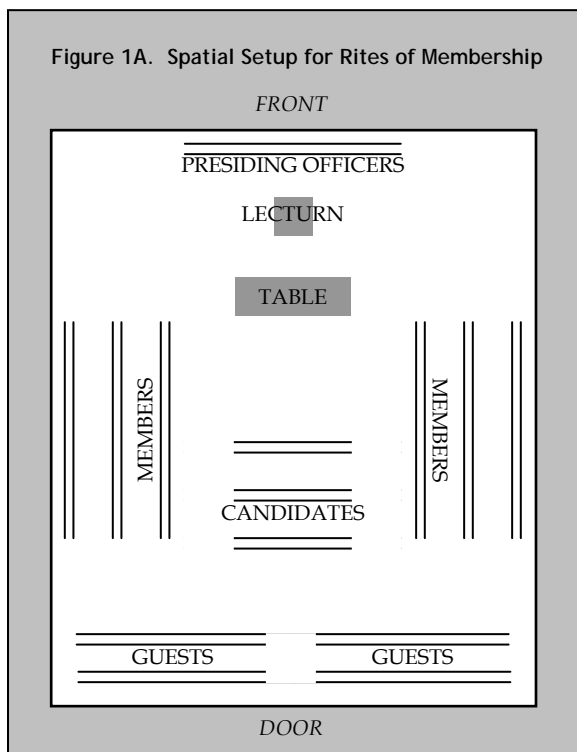
Within the *Rites of Membership*, The Green Extent Rituals are intended to be public and encouraged to be performed in the presence of non-members; The Gold Extent Rituals are intended to be public, however, it is encouraged that young men who potentially seek membership into the Fraternity abstain from viewing the ceremony in order to first experience in the mind of personal connection and appreciation; and The White Extent Rituals are encouraged to be performed only in the presence of men associated with the Fraternity as these ceremonies are a reflection of the dedication of a Brother and meaning may only be appreciated by associated men.

All *Further Affirmations* are performed at the discretion of the local chapter, association, or International Board employing such. Guests may be invited to attend or a call for brothers only can be issued. It is also up to the performing group as to what point of membership a man is to have obtained in order to take part in Further Affirmations, however the performing group should make note of Ritual Committee suggestions offered in the Introduction section of each Ritual. Regardless of the membership qualifications, or lack thereof, placed on each Ritual at no time should Rituals be opened to members or associations of a particular chapter or association solely. For example, no restriction may be placed on the performance of a particular Ritual by Chapter A disallowing a brother of Chapter B to attend.

All Rituals may and will be published openly to the public by the International Headquarters Staff and International Board in congruence with our policy of non-secrecy. Though Rituals may not be performed or attended by all, Rituals may be read and studied by all. Our Ritual captures the true essence of our organization as proper performance and recitation exemplifies the objectives, values, beliefs and intent of our Fraternity.

Spatial Setup

Why is the arrangement of the room really necessary for successful Ritual, and does it really matter who sits where? When performing and studying Ritual, there is no question the answer to this is yes. Ritual, to have an impact on the chapter, candidates, guests, and the overall operations of the chapter, must be intentional, specific, and meaningful. Ritual is a part of our daily lives. It is dictated by tradition and habit. Enjoying meals with family, observing a church or religious service, even attending a course in a campus classroom you experience ritual. You know where to sit, how to act, of what mood you should appropriately acquire, and find yourself comfortable in habit. Why would celebrating the ideals of our Fraternity be any different? Know that though spatial setup is a small part of our prescribed Ritual, the impact it carries and the emphasis it offers is huge. Simply by entering a room in which time has been taken to appropriately arrange and dress will offer a change in mood and attitude. Ritual is serious, and though celebratory, the mood is humbling and respectful.



Two spatial setup plans are offered within our Builder of Men Affirmation and prescribed Ritual. Figure 1A illustrates the setup for the 5 Rites of Membership. Presiding officers should be seated at the front of the room. Only enough seating for the presiding officers noted should be allowed. Members not taking a role in performing the Ritual should be seated on either side of the room facing inward. In front of the presiding officers should be a lectern for use only by the President. A complete script for the Ritual should be placed on the lectern along with a Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Directly in front of the lectern should be a table which is to be draped in a plain green, gold or white cloth as noted in the introduction to each Rite. Brothers reading from the Ritual will come forward and stand behind this table when

reading, except where an alternate location is noted. Candidates should be seated in the center of the room facing the table. Guests should be seated at the back of the room facing the front. The main entrance to the meeting room should be in the back if such is an option. A sentinel should be elected by the chapter or appointed by the President. This brother will sit at the door, inside the room and manage the entry of Brothers and guests as well as perform Ritual as noted. The sentinel should only allow admittance into the room at appropriate times, times when not to disrupt the ceremony. Ultimately the setup of the meeting room and correctly directing the Ritual is the responsibility of the sentinel.

The second spatial setup offered is noted for Further Affirmations, Figure 1B. President, Director of Administration, Chaplain and Historian should be seated at the table located in the front of the room. A lectern for use by all presiding officers should be located in front of their seats. Candidates or Honorees should be seated adjacent to the presiding officers. Members should be seated directly behind Honorees and Officers, with guests to follow behind.

Properties

Appropriate colored, plain table clothes should drape the table as noted in the Ritual.

A gavel for the President, a Revised Standard Version Bible and the complete written Ritual should be placed at the lectern for the Rites of Membership and on the table for Further Affirmations.

A FarmHouse Flag should be placed at the front of the room. It is also complementary for a United States and Canadian flag to be displayed at the front of the room.

If possible, a depiction of our Badge or Coat of Arms should be visible in the meeting room.

rites of membership

Outline of Membership Structure

FarmHouse Fraternity affirms its dedication to being Builders of Men through the following Formal Rituals:

FarmHouse Fraternity recognizes five categories of membership: Prospective Membership, Chapter Membership, Alumnus Membership, Associate Membership, and Honorary Membership. Within these categories, 3 Extents of Membership are noted: *The Green Extent Membership* (of which men in the Prospective Membership category are placed), *The Gold Extent of Membership* (of which men in the Chapter Membership category are placed) and *The White Extent of Membership* (of which men in the Alumni Membership category are placed).

The Star has much meaning within our Fraternity. The 5-Pointed Star is placed on our badge symbolizing “a striving for those things that are noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing.” We are told the star should be “guiding to the wearer.” We also see three stars on our crest symbolizing the three great attributes of fraternity love and esteem: loyalty, helpfulness (and generosity) and pride in efforts and accomplishments. For this reason, the star has been chosen to guide us through our pathway in becoming life-long brothers of the organization. Each of the 5 points of the star reminds us of a different point of membership. The 5 Points of membership and coinciding ceremonies include: The First Point of Membership: The Shield Ceremony, Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership; The Second Point of Membership: The Star Ceremony, Conferring of Prospective Membership and Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership; The Third Point of Membership: The Crescent Ceremony, Conferring of Imminent Membership and Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership; The Fourth Point of Membership: The Pearls Ceremony, Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood; and The Fifth Point of Membership: The Rubies Ceremony, Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership.

The following is an outline of the Formal Ritual of FarmHouse Fraternity:

I. The Green Extent

The color green or the color of spring meaning new birth and fresh growth represents the first Extent of Membership. The color green should inspire every man associated with our Fraternity to pride himself in the history of our organization, that of agricultural interest. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a green cloth.

Rituals prescribed in The Green Extent are intended to be public and encouraged to be performed in the presence of non-members.

First Point of Membership: The Shield Ceremony

Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership

To be performed at time invitation is given to candidate –or- at first organized meeting of new membership, prior to The Star Ceremony.

Second Point of Membership: The Star Ceremony

Conferring of Prospective Membership, Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership

To be performed at start of the 12-Week New Member Education Program. Ceremony intended to be performed outside of chapter weekly meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow.

Third Point of Membership: The Crescent Ceremony

Conferring of Imminent Membership, Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership

To be performed no greater than 12 weeks from the date of The Star ceremony. Ceremony intended to be performed outside of chapter weekly meeting at the close of the Builder of Men Week.

II. The Gold Extent

The color gold or the color of autumn, meaning to reap what one has sown represents the second Extent of Membership. Gold is used in the Coat of Arms because it has long been esteemed as the most precious of metals. The symbolism is such that now, after study of and dedication to the fraternity, more meaning and significance can be found in the Fraternity and its symbols and ideals. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a gold cloth.

Rituals prescribed in The Gold Extent are intended to be public, however, it is encouraged that young men who potentially seek membership into the Fraternity abstain from viewing the ceremony in order to first experience in the mind of personal connection and appreciation.

Fourth Point of Membership: The Pearls Ceremony

Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood

To be performed no greater than 2 weeks from the first day of class the second semester of affiliation. Ceremony intended to be performed outside of chapter weekly meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow. The Pearls Ceremony shall also constitute as the ceremony to confer associate and honorary membership.

III. The White Extent

The color white or the color of winter, meaning wisdom, represents the third Extent of Membership. Our Blazon uses white as it stands for purity, innocence and worthiness of ambitions of Fraternity members and "The Best in Manhood." For that reason, it is only appropriate that our elder chapter brothers are recognized by the color white. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a white cloth.

Rituals prescribed in The White Extent are intended to be public and may be published and shared, however it is encouraged that these Rituals be performed only in the presence of men associated with the Fraternity. These ceremonies are a reflection of the dedication of a Brother and meaning may only be appreciated by associated men.

Fifth Point of Membership: The Rubies Ceremony

Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership

To be performed following the final chapter meeting of the graduation semester.

RITES OF MEMBERSHIP

Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The First Point of Membership: The Shield Ceremony

Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership

INTRODUCTION

The Shield Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the candidate for initiation into membership is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership if conducting at a formal meeting of the chapter. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as presiding officers should be those men elected to lead the Ritual. Candidates should be seated in appropriate location. This ceremony may also take place outside of a formal meeting room, in which case no particular spatial setup is prescribed.

RITUAL

- MEMBER A: Our Fraternity exists as the Builder of Men. Our organization was formed at the University of Missouri-Columbia by seven insightful young men in April of 1905. Since that time continued growth and success has been found by our organization. FarmHouse is now an international organization with *(number of chapters)* across the United States and Canada. The *(Chapter name)* Chapter of FarmHouse was founded in *(local founding year)* as the *(number of chapter)* of FarmHouse International Fraternity.
- MEMBER B: Our Fraternity only continues to exist thanks to dedicated Brothers. We seek only the top men on our campus to join our organization knowing that if FarmHouse is to continue it will only be by the will of the men we elect into membership. When a man is offered an invitation to join our Fraternity we must be certain he possesses the qualities and attributes glorifying the ideals of Founders outlined over a hundred years ago.
- MEMBER C: Once a man is issued and accepts an invitation to join our Fraternity we know our role is to immediately begin helping to fulfill our motto, building him into a man. In 2nd Peter 1:5, we are reminded to 'make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge.' As a fraternity, we help our members to develop these virtues through new member and total member education. The objectives of FarmHouse International Fraternity's New Member Education Program are (1) To build members to be outstanding men - not just fraternity men; (2) To develop members intellectually, spiritually, socially/morally, and physically; (3) To familiarize new members with FarmHouse - the *organization* and the *people*; and (4) To prepare new members to uphold the standards and ideals of our Fraternity and strive to continually improve it.
- MEMBER A: It is with great pleasure we extend to you, *(candidate's name)*, an invitation to become associated with our Fraternity as a Prospective Member. Our Brotherhood has put much thought into your invitation and we are confident that, by offering you association, we are making a decision that will only benefit our Fraternity.
- MEMBER B: When issuing an invitation to join our organization, we acknowledge the first Rite of Membership a Brother of our Fraternity will observe. This Rite of Membership is marked and defined by the shape of our Badge, the Shield. The shape of our Badge reminds us of the conduct becoming of a man associated with our Fraternity. In no way should any act be performed, or any word spoken, that would bring disgrace upon the Fraternity.

MEMBER C: Should you accept our invitation, you will be immediately associated with our Fraternity. High expectations are put on such men. No longer will your thought, words and actions be a reflection of you solely, but also a reflection of our Fraternity and Brotherhood. You should appreciate the symbolism of the shape of our Badge and cherish the Fraternity as we do.

MEMBER A: Mr. *(candidate's name)* please think about the commitment you have been asked to make. Our Brotherhood desires your association greatly and hopes that you will accept your invitation.

At this time a formal invitation or bid card should be offered to the candidate and any questions he may have should be addressed. It is also suggested that the chapter offer to the candidate a previously prepared document outlining what will be expected of him as a Prospective Member of the Fraternity and what he may expect of the Fraternity.

rites of membership

Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The Second Point of Membership: The Star Ceremony

Conferring of Prospective Membership and Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership

INTRODUCTION

The Star Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the candidate is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as presiding officers should be (from left to right) Director of New Member Education, an open seat for the Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of Finance, President, Chaplain, Historian, and Director of Administration.

Preparatory to the ceremony, candidates are assembled outside the room by the Vice President of Recruitment. All members and guests are to be seated in the room. The door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. Lights are dim and concentrated at the front of the room. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one pledge is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

The sentinel opens the door; the Vice President (VP) of Recruitment enters.

VP OF RECRUTMENT: *From the back of the room. "Mr. President, I bring to you a stranger who has responded to our invitation to cast his lot with us and desires, as a Prospective Member, to become a candidate for full membership in FarmHouse Fraternity."*

PRESIDENT: *"Please bring this stranger (these strangers) forward, before the brotherhood of our Fraternity. In order for our brotherhood to welcome this stranger (these strangers), may we observe our Fraternity Ritual, The Star Ceremony." (***) Members stand and turn as to be facing away from candidates entering the room.*

The VP of Recruitment walks outside the meeting room and returns leading the candidate (or candidates). VP of Recruitment is seated at the front of the room with the presiding officers.

PRESIDENT: *Addressing the candidates. "This Ritual, The Star Ceremony, is the second Rite of Membership honoring your affiliation with our Fraternity. When you were offered an invitation to associate with our Fraternity, The Shield Ceremony was observed. The shape of our Badge reminds us of the conduct becoming of a man associated with our Fraternity. In no way should any act be performed, or any word spoken, that would bring disgrace upon the Fraternity.*

"The Star Ceremony is so called as the star adorning our badge stands for excelsior – a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing. The star, for men associated with our Fraternity should be a star of hope and guidance. Should you accept your pledge as a Prospective Member, we ask that you seek things that are highest and noblest. We, as brothers before us have done, will help to guide you and build you into a brother of our Fraternity. We will expect hard work and a

continued hope and desire for membership. Three ceremonies will follow as your commitment to our Fraternity grows totaling five ceremonies affirming our Fraternity the Builder of Men as our motto suggests. May The Star Ceremony now officially begin. (**)

“(candidate's names), you now stand before the undergraduate chapter of FarmHouse fraternity in formal recognition of your pledge to this Fraternity.

“You have been brought to the meeting a stranger not for the purpose of concealing anything from you; rather to symbolize your trust and confidence in this group.

Addressing the members. "Brothers, let us no longer recognize this man (these men) among us as a stranger." *Members turn to face candidates.*

“Please join me in reciting our object.”

MEMBERS: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, you may be seated."

Addressing the candidates. "Candidates, will you please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

"I promise to uphold and observe / the constitution and by-laws of FarmHouse Fraternity; / to maintain its ideals, / both scholastic and moral, / and to conduct myself in such a manner / as to bring credit to the organization; / to fulfill to the best of my ability / my responsibilities to FarmHouse Fraternity; / to abide by the majority decision / on controversial matters / and to peacefully withdraw if the need arises."

"The pledge pin will now be placed on your lapel." *Though the pin is normally placed by the VP of Recruitment, a big brother may come forward to offer the pin.*

"In tendering this pin, the members of FarmHouse Fraternity have demonstrated their faith in you and their willingness to extend to you the opportunity to enjoy this fellowship, participate in the activities, and display identification with the Fraternity. By your acceptance of the pledge pin, you have signified your earnest desire to become affiliated with FarmHouse Fraternity and to live up to its high ideals and standards."

"Wear this pin with pride and humility - pride for your identification with our honored and beloved Fraternity - humility for the additional responsibility which the right to wear it places upon you."

"As a reminder to the active men let me offer wisdom taken from 1st Thessalonians, chapter 5. Verse 11 states, 'Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up.' As active men, this is our duty today, tomorrow, and forever. It shall be our duty to see these men through their fraternal journey, modeling every step of the way FarmHouse ideals.

"And now, at this time members (and guests) of FarmHouse Fraternity, may I present our new potential members." (***)

At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new pledge or pledges.

Suggested Brotherhood song: "Consider Yourself One of Us"

Following this ceremony, it is appropriate that at some point the candidates are gathered to study the Ritual. The Chaplain and Sentinel or the Brother charged with directing the Ritual should lead a conversation on why and how the Ritual was performed and the meaning behind such. Candidates are encouraged to reflect on the ceremony and ask questions.

RITES OF MEMBERSHIP

Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The Third Point of Membership: The Crescent Ceremony

Conferring of Imminent Membership and Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership

INTRODUCTION

The Crescent Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the candidate is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as presiding officers should be (from left to right) the Historian, Director of New Member Education, President, Chaplain, Director of Administration.

Preparatory to the ceremony, candidates are to be seated with the membership leaving the seats noted for candidates open. The door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. Lights are dim and concentrated at the front of the room. This Ritual is intended to be conducted for a new member class of multiple members. In reading the Ritual, words may need to be substituted when only one new member is involved.

Please note the two circumstances of which this Ritual will be observed. For chapters wishing to wait to confer Chapter/Brotherhood Membership on Prospective Members until academic marks have been released and scholastic standards met, this ceremony will be performed at the end of the 12-Week New Member Education Program. It should be seen that all qualifications listed as requirements of Prospective Members in order to obtain Chapter/Brotherhood Membership are all met, and a final vote taken pending academic review. Only falling short of meeting chapter academic standards may keep a Prospective Member observing this ceremony from obtaining Chapter/Brotherhood Membership. For Chapters conferring Chapter/Brotherhood membership directly following the 12-Week New Member Education Program, this ceremony should be conducted at the end of the 12-Week New Member Education Program and shortly followed by The Pearls Ceremony.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PRESIDENT: "FarmHouse Fraternity's motto is Builder of Men. We take pride in being Builders of Men, knowing that doing such has been the goal and desire of the brothers before us and will always be the desire of brothers to come. Our Ritual is a dedication to our motto. The Builder of Men Affirmation offers five Rites of Membership. Candidates of today's ceremony have observed The Shield and The Star Ceremonies leading them to act in a manner bringing dignity and honor to the Fraternity and continually seeking things that are highest and noblest. Today, we observe The Crescent Ceremony which challenges candidates to offer fidelity to our Fraternity. The Crescent is an emblem of continued and ever-increasing growth and development - brothers honored today have completed their required education and development and thus we are conferring upon them Imminent Membership Status."

To the sentinel. "Brother (name of sentinel), are we prepared to begin the Crescent Ceremony?"

SENTINEL: "Mr. President, we are. Seated amongst our membership are men who wish to permanently fill the seats they use in our meeting room temporarily."

PRESIDENT: "Brother (name of Director of New Member Education), as our Director of New Member Education, can you

confirm there are men in our presence deserving of Imminent Membership?"

DIRECTOR OF NEW MEMBER EDUCATION: "The objectives of the FarmHouse International Fraternity's New Member Education Program are to build members to be outstanding men – not just fraternity men, to develop members intellectually, spiritually, socially/morally, and physically, to familiarize new members with FarmHouse – the organization and the people, and finally to prepare new members to uphold the standards and ideals of our Fraternity and strive to continually improve it.

"The men I was elected and charged to lead as a Director of New Member Education, first formally met on *(date of first New Member class meeting)* and on this day *(today's date)*. (NOTE: *The date of the first new member meeting and the date of this ceremony is not be separated by a length of time exceeding 12 weeks.*) I can confirm that the objectives of our Fraternity's New Member Education Program have been met.

"Mr. President, men in our presence are eligible and have been approved by the chapter, by vote, for Imminent Membership. Would the following men please stand: *(New Member Educator reads list of men whom have previously been approved for Imminent Membership)*.

PRESIDENT: "Candidates, please come and be seated in the center of the room and make your intentions known." *Candidates stand, move to the center of the room, and are seated in the location noted for candidates.*

NEW MEMBER CLASS PRESIDENT/LEADER: *(The man reading this section should have been offered this section of the script prior to the ceremony and informed when to read the selection. The following is intended to be read by the New Member Class President/Leader, standing in front of his chair in the location noted for candidates.)* "Mr. President, and members of the *(chapter name)*, I and the men who sit with me, as candidates in this ceremony, seek membership into FarmHouse Fraternity. We have been made aware of the requirements, and fully understand that men elected into membership of FarmHouse Fraternity are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. We humbly, but wholeheartedly, seek Chapter Membership into FarmHouse Fraternity."

PRESIDENT: "New Members, do the words of your class leader represent the desires of each of you? If so, you will make your intention to become a Chapter Member of FarmHouse Fraternity known by stating 'Yes, I do desire Chapter Membership.'"

CANDIDATES: "Yes, I do desire Chapter Membership."

PRESIDENT: "This is excellent news in the life of our Fraternity. In order for our chapter to properly celebrate, may I ask that Brother *(Name of Chaplain)*, as our Chaplain, please come forward to offer words appropriate for this celebration."

CHAPLAIN: "Brothers, Ruth chapter 1 gives an excellent example of loyalty and love to family. In verse 16 Ruth says to her sister, 'where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.' May your fraternal membership be as strong as this, you going where your brothers go and staying where your brothers stay?"

At this time, the Chaplain may offer a prepared devotional/prayer.

PREISIDENT: "Candidates, this ceremony is the last in Rite of Membership in The Green Extent. The color green or the color of spring meaning new birth and fresh growth is selected to portray your time as a new member. The color green should inspire every man associated with our Fraternity to pride himself in the history of our organization. Should you continue your interest in and honor of our Fraternity and obtain desirable academic marks, you will be named a Chapter Member. However, we, as current chapter brothers, ask that you remember even though your formal new member education and orientation period may end, your dedication and diligence to our Fraternity should not, nor should you or any member ever stop learning more about our organization. Daily we prove of worth as members as every decision we make personally affects our chapter wholly.

"Brother *(Name of Director of New Member Education)*, thank you for your service to our Fraternity by facilitating the education of these men.

"Candidates, I now confer upon you the title of Imminent Member. Congratulations and welcome into our Fraternity. All rights of an active member now are held by you. Please claim your seats within our membership (*candidates move to open seats within the membership*) - should you prove worthy to observe the next Rite of Membership you shall be listed among our membership record as a brother and full-member." (***)

At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new pledge or pledges.

Suggested Brotherhood song: "Brothers in FarmHouse," "Band of Brothers"

Following this ceremony, it is appropriate that at some point the candidates are gathered to study the Ritual. The Chaplain and Sentinel or the Brother charged with directing the Ritual should lead a conversation on why and how the Ritual was performed and the meaning behind such. Candidates are encouraged to reflect on the ceremony and ask questions.

rites of membership

Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Gold Extent

The Fourth Point of Membership: The Pearls Ceremony

Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood
Conferring of Associate and Honorary Membership

Ritual for Formal Initiation

INTRODUCTION

The formal initiation for FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the candidate for initiation into membership is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership. A gold cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as presiding officers should be (from left to right) an open seat for the Director of New Member Education, the Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of Finance, President, Chaplain, Historian, Director of Administration and the Total Member Educator.

Preparatory to the ceremony, candidates are assembled outside the room by the Director of New Member Education. All members and guests are to be seated in the room. The door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. Lights are dim and concentrated at the front of the room. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one pledge is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

The President will read the following forward to those members and guests gathered in the meeting room, while the Director of New Member Education reads the same excerpt to the candidates waiting for entry.

"FarmHouse Fraternity's motto is Builder of Men. We take pride in being Builders of Men, knowing that doing such has been the goal and desire of the brothers before us and will always be the desire of brothers to come. Our Ritual is a dedication to our motto. The Builder of Men Affirmation offers five Rites of Membership. Candidates of today's ceremony have observed The Shield, Star and Crescent Ceremonies leading them to act in a manner bringing dignity and honor to the Fraternity, continually seeking things that are highest and noblest, and offering fidelity to our Fraternity. Today, we observe The Pearls Ceremony. As you will hear repeatedly in the ceremony, The Pearls stand for purity in thought, word and action. As this ceremony is perhaps the greatest ceremony of our Fraternity, all that the pearls symbolize reflect perfectly of the mood and attitude required."

PRESIDENT: *To the sentinel. "Have the candidates been assembled?" Sentinel leaves the room and returns when the Director of New Member Education informs him the candidates have been prepared.*

SENTINEL: *From the back of the room. "Mr. President, The Director of New Member Education informs me the candidates have been assembled."*

PRESIDENT: "Will those seeking membership (or associate membership) please come forward?"

Director of New Member Education enters with candidates and conducts them to the President. Candidates stand in front of their chair. The Director of New Member Education is then seated.

PRESIDENT: *To the candidates.* "Worthy candidate(s), you have been led here by the Director of New Member Education whom by doing such has exhibited confidence in you. You are aware of the objectives, goals and ideals of FarmHouse Fraternity. You are aware of its endeavor to train leaders and to enable them to serve better their God, country and fellow men through the advantages gained from living and working together in social unit of brotherhood.

"We trust, that without reservation, you subscribe to the Fraternity's high ideals and ambitions; and that you, of your own free will desire membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. If this be true, you will make your wishes known to the brotherhood here assembled by saying, "I do desire membership in FarmHouse Fraternity."

CANDIDATES: "I do desire membership in FarmHouse Fraternity."

PRESIDENT: "In so answering you have shown trust and confidence in FarmHouse Fraternity.

"So that your trust and confidence may be justified, we now re-dedicate ourselves, as we ask you to dedicate yourselves, to the high principles of our Fraternity.

"In the letters of FarmHouse are symbols of principles we hold to be paramount in furthering our program of building men. We will now present these symbols and their significance."

*(**) Candidates may be seated.*

Each man delegated to explain the symbols should read his part well from behind the table, not the lectern, when the President calls the letter assigned to him.

PRESIDENT: "F," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER "FAITH"

"In Hebrews 11:1, we learn that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'.

"It means faith in your God: in your fraternity and its members; faith in your school, your state and your nation.

"In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, 'If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.'"

"Never lose faith in yourself, if you would hold the faith of others. Be faithful to the ideals of FarmHouse and its programs."

PRESIDENT: "A," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: "AMBITION"

"Ambition is the unseen force which drives men to success, to rise above their environment and to achieve the impossible. Have ambition which is content not only with making a satisfactory record in college, but also seeks to render service to humanity through science and its application. Strive to foster that ambition which leads a man ever onward in the belief that he may somehow contribute to the betterment of mankind. 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, press on toward the goal to win the prize.' (Philippians 3:13-14)."

PRESIDENT: "R," Brother *(name of reader)*.

- MEMBER: **"REVERENCE"**
 "Reverence must be cultivated if we are to be true brothers. 'Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe...' (Hebrews 12:28). Let us revere our God, our parents, and our brothers with whom we associate. Unless we cultivate such a reverence, we cannot learn the true joys of brotherhood, the foundation of a successful fraternity."
- PRESIDENT: "M," Brother *(name of reader)*.
- MEMBER: **"MORALITY"**
 " 'But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.' (Luke 8:15) We must constantly work to learn better how our every act may affect ourselves and others. Genuine moral living involves intelligent love and esteem for our associates. Unless we possess strong affection for others, we cannot come to know that which is most worthwhile in making for the highest character in man. Every narrowing of love, every encroachment of egoism, every act of selfishness, means just so much blindness to that which is good and fine. Let good moral conduct cease to be a virtue and become an involuntary duty."
- PRESIDENT: "H," Brother *(name of reader)*.
- MEMBER: **"HONESTY"**
 "Honesty is fundamental to character; it is the basis for all worthwhile endeavor; for how can we believe in one who is not strictly honest? In college we expect honesty in the classroom, on the athletic field, as well as in every relationship between men.
 " 'Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.' (Ephesians 4:25).
 "Throughout life, one of the greatest tributes that can be paid to a man is to have it said that he is honest."
- PRESIDENT: "O," Brother *(name of reader)*.
- MEMBER: **"OBEDIENCE"**
 "Obedience to God's principles is one of the bulwarks which gives stability to our Fraternity. Obey the mandates of the chapter, the regulations of your school and country. In doing so, always obey the teachings of the MASTER.. for it is written in Ecclesiastes 12:13: 'Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.' "
- PRESIDENT: "U," Brother *(name of reader)*.
- MEMBER: **"UNITY"**
 "Unity is fundamental to a successful fraternity. With unity a fraternity stands through times of stress as though bound together with bands of steel. Without unity, failure results. 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity' (Psalms 133:1).
 "See to it than that you, by hard work and unfailing sacrifice, help weave those individual threads of noble character that bind us together in an effective and worthwhile organization."
- PRESIDENT: "S," Brother *(name of reader)*.
- MEMBER: **"SERVICE"**
 "A loyal brother in FarmHouse must render service to his Fraternity and to his brothers if his Fraternity is to grow and prosper.
 "'For you were called to freedom, brethren: only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, be servants of one another.' (Galatians 5:13)

"See to it that you render service to God; to your profession; to your fellowmen; to your country; and to your school all the days of your life. The very essence of successful living is based on the Christian ideal of service."

PRESIDENT: "E," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: "EXCELLENCE"

"...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8).

"A primary goal of our Fraternity is to excel in our profession. Maintain the high standards of excellence as set forth by our Founders and the many members of our organization who have preceded us. The basis for success is education. Education is the knowledge of how to use the whole of one's self. Strive, therefore, for the fullest development of knowledge in your profession; in the building of character; in furthering high moral standards; the development of essential skills; and the furtherance of good health; so that no impediment may hinder your progress to the highest pinnacle of success in life."

PRESIDENT: "You have heard the principles of our Fraternity. If you accept them as your principles and still desire membership in FarmHouse Fraternity, you will make it known by standing and saying 'I do' when your name is called." *The president individually calls the name of each candidate. Upon having his name called, each candidate should rise, say "I do" and remain standing.*

CANDIDATE: "I do."

PRESIDENT: "In answering thus you have shown decision, and decision should characterize your every act. We shall recite together the object of our Fraternity." (**) *Brothers stand.*

ALL MEMBERS: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step; the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times; and every member shall be honest with himself as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "Understanding these principles in their fullest meaning and implications, are you willing to join our fellowship and to uphold the ideals and goals of FarmHouse Fraternity? If so, you will answer, "I am."

CANDIDATES: "I am."

PRESIDENT: "You will raise your right hand and repeat after me:

'I, (your full name), / in the presence of Almighty God and the members of FarmHouse here assembled / upon my word of honor / do reverently pledge myself / to respect and cherish / the objectives and activities / of FarmHouse Fraternity, to support and abide by / its Constitution and By-Laws, / both local and international, / to obey the rules, regulations and decisions of the Fraternity, / to respect the wishes of my Brothers, / to do all in my power / to further the best interests / of the Fraternity and its membership / and to endeavor always / to live according to / and maintain at all times / the principles and standards / of the Fraternity. With God's help / this pledge shall I keep.'

"I now ask that Brother *(name of chaplain)*, as Chaplain, please lead us in prayer."

CHAPLAIN: "Shall we bow our heads in prayer." *The Chaplain offers the prayer.*

PRESIDENT: "Will you all please be seated.

"In affirming our Fraternity's role as the Builder of Men, you have partaken in our Ritual. Our Rites of Membership are named after and dedicated to the five parts of our badge. As part of your formal initiation into our Fraternity, the badge and its markings will now be explained to you."

Each section may be delegated to a member who is to read or it may be read in entirety by the Director of New Member Education.

"The Badge has the shape of a shield, and the member should cherish it as the knights of old did their shields. In no way should any act be performed, or any word spoken, that should bring disgrace upon the wearer, or upon the members of the brotherhood.

"The Star stands for excelsior - a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing. It should be a star of hope - a guiding star to the wearer."

"The Crescent is an emblem of continued and ever-increasing growth and development. Its color, black, signifies fidelity to the principles of this Fraternity."

"The Pearls stand for purity in thought, word, and action. A clean mind and high sense of morality are important traits of a FarmHouse member."

"The Rubies signify the lifeblood of the organization, and they should prompt you to a proper attitude toward your brothers, to give assistance wherever possible, to praise for commendable deeds, and offer constructive criticism for improper and ungentlemanly conduct."

PRESIDENT: "Let these truths burn deeply into your breast, and brand on your heart all these things held noble and precious by this brotherhood."

"Each of you will now place your signature in the chapter membership register, on that page hereby and henceforth dedicated to a record of your conduct and accomplishments."

(Optional: The President will announce the new member's name as the signature is being written. Many chapters also will add a reading of each candidate's assigned written response to the prompt: 'What FarmHouse Means to Me' as new members sign the Heard Book.)

(Optional: If associate members are being inducted, this passage may be read by the president or another designated member before or as they place their signature in the chapter membership register.)

"Many men graduate from school without ever becoming affiliated with a fraternity. Reasons for which they do not belong to fraternities vary from financial to being outright opposed to college fraternities, based on the performance of some.

Many of these men serve the university as members of the faculty, or they serve within the community or the state in a multitude of posts. Among these men are those who set their standards high - whose values can be equated with those which FarmHouse professes. They can be easily recognized. They are outstanding in ability and performance - they have concern for their fellow man - and, they have an interest in the welfare of young men who aspire to the same high standards.

It is from this select group of men that FarmHouse Chapters seek Associate members. From experience, it is eminently evident that Associate members add another dimension to the fiber of FarmHouse. They bring maturity, high examples and more often than not, a dedication unequalled.

(Name of candidate for associate membership) as an associate member you are now entitled to the same rights and privileges accorded to other alumni members of the fraternity."

The President will direct the new members to stand.

PRESIDENT: "The letters FH are combined in the recognition pin, which is now being placed on your lapel."

The President will pause while previously delegated members affix the recognition pins to the initiates' lapels.

PRESIDENT: "Wear your FarmHouse pin with mingled pride and humility - pride for your identification with our honored and beloved Fraternity - humility for the additional responsibility which the right to wear it places upon you.

"Please be seated."

The President will now introduce the association member who has been selected to give The Charge.

THE CHARGE

"FarmHouse Fraternity was founded on April 15, 1905. Seven students at the University of Missouri dreamed of a brotherhood among agricultural students; a special brotherhood which emphasized the highest values in life, and an association which honored agricultural and rural life through the professional conduct and contributions of its members. The seven founders were D. Howard Doane, Robert F. Howard, Claude B. Hutchison, H. H. Krusekopf, Earl W. Rusk, Henry P. Rusk, and Melvin E. Sherwin. D. Howard Doane conceived the basic ideas which led to FarmHouse, and is considered the father of our Fraternity. These men are held in high esteem because their vision laid the strong foundation which supports our Fraternity.

"Our founders were aware that some persons demean the role of farmers in society. Thus, the name FARMHOUSE was chosen to signify the membership of the organization, and to indicate pride in and the importance of our agricultural heritage. Since the farm home is a symbol of gracious living and hard work, this group of thinking young men aspired to enhance both the profession of agriculture and their own cooperative social life by adopting and seeking to live up to the name FARMHOUSE. Our name, FARMHOUSE, is one of the few non-Greek names among fraternities, and is proudly retained for the reasons that led to its selection.

"Today, FarmHouse can be proud of its reputation among professional, scholastic and social fraternities. FarmHouse leadership has been alert to meet its challenges. We strive to develop a pattern of living and working together which merits the distinctive motto, BUILDER OF MEN. The Fraternity recognizes that true character is the result of the self-discipline which is so necessary in building men of whom all can be proud. Exemplary behavior results, not from rigid rules, but from an appreciation and understanding of the value of character. The sincere and honest desire to work together in moral living has been basic to the success of our Fraternity.

"Scholarship is an accepted measure of student progress. FarmHouse has stressed the need for high scholarship, because knowledge and the ability to think creatively and reason clearly are essential for success in life. Today, we are proud of our performance because in scholarship most FarmHouse chapters rank first or near the top on their respective campuses. It is our hope that you, as new members of our brotherhood, will do everything in your power to help FarmHouse continue as a scholastic leader among fraternities.

"A person who becomes a member of our Fraternity is expected to work for his own betterment, and for the improvement of his profession, school, state and nation. True fraternalism means giving of one's self for the betterment of others through personal sacrifice. No greater satisfaction can come to a man than the observation of success on the part of those he has helped. A student cannot experience the fullest benefits of a college education unless he can enter into a brotherhood which is founded upon service to others. As members of our Fraternity, I urge you to enhance the spirit of brotherhood by contributing generously of your talents in the furtherance of our objectives and goals.

"In a world filled with challenge and opportunity for service, it is important that we be aware of the need for a brotherhood of men. Banded together with brothers in FarmHouse on this campus and other universities, you are challenged to further the principles of our fraternity: FAITH, AMBITION, REVERENCE, MORALITY, HONESTY, OBEDIENCE, UNITY, SERVICE and EXCELLENCE.

"FarmHouse is dedicated to the development of young men to:

- Better serve their professions;
- Better achieve their highest potential as persons;
- Better sustain those who love and depend on them;
- Better support their community, state, and nation; and
- Better realize the purposes for which life is given to them.

"FarmHouse is dedicated to the BUILDING OF MEN!"

PRESIDENT: "New Initiates, your actions, whether good or bad, will reflect not only upon you, but also upon you brothers in FarmHouse. Those preceding you have built a reputation for character and scholarship of which we are proud. I charge each of you, singly and collectively, to be fully aware of the challenge presented to you in FarmHouse and its brotherhood, and that with God's help, you will give freely and unselfishly of yourselves to build upon the present structure of FarmHouse, thus to insure that the whole program, as envisioned by our Founders, shall be enhanced and that you will do your utmost to build an even stronger FarmHouse in the years to come.

"In the name of our Fraternity and on behalf of its entire membership, I now declare you members of FarmHouse Fraternity in full standing and fellowship.

"Brothers, let us greet and welcome our new initiates as Brothers in the (name of chapter) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity." (***)

At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new pledge or pledges.

Suggested Brotherhood song: "A Brotherly Band," "FarmHouse Hymn"

Following this ceremony, it is appropriate that at some point the candidates are gathered to study the Ritual. The Chaplain and Sentinel or the Brother charged with directing the Ritual should lead a conversation on why and how the Ritual was performed and the meaning behind such. Candidates are encouraged to reflect on the ceremony and ask questions.

RITES OF MEMBERSHIP

Written and Prescribed Ritual

The White Extent

The Fifth Point of Membership: The Rubies Ceremony

Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership

INTRODUCTION

The Rubies Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the candidate for initiation into membership is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

This ceremony employs the efforts of at least one Alumnus. Should more Alumni be present and wish to help conduct the ceremony, the part of the Alumnus may be divided and read by multiple Alumni.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership. A white cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as presiding officers should be (from left to right) the Director of Alumni Relations, Vice President of Finance, Presiding Alumni, President, Chaplain, Historian, Director of Administration and the Total Member Educator.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

Should the President be a graduating senior, the next in-line officer according to chapter bylaws may be substituted.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, your attention please. Brother *(name of director of alumni relations)*, whom serves as our Director of Alumni Relations has asked that I gather you here this evening (afternoon). He shares with me we have much reason to celebrate and have men within our brotherhood who deserve recognition and honor. Brother *(name of director of alumni relations)* would you please come forward and share the news with the rest of the chapter and association here tonight."

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: "It is true; Brothers in our presence tonight deserve great attention. Ephesians 5:15-16 reminds us, 'Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.' Tonight we celebrate the work and dedication of our graduating seniors who will soon leave us to go live wisely in the world and to make the most of their opportunities." These Brothers have expressed interest in obtaining Alumni Membership, and I have asked Alumnus Brother(s) *(name of alumnus)* to help me confer such membership."

Alumnus comes forward.

"Our Fraternity celebrates five Rites of Membership affirming our motto, Builders of Men. Our first Ritual, The Shield Ceremony, recognizes men worthy of association into our organization. Not all men within our University carry the qualities of a FarmHouse man and therefore only few men are offered the challenge of association, and therefore only select few accept the challenge. "

ALUMNUS: "The Shield calls men associated with our organization to cherish our Fraternity and its symbols. All

men observing The Shield Ceremony are asked to act in no manner or speak no word that would bring disgrace upon himself or our Fraternity.

Brothers (*list graduating brother using their full names, alphabetically by last name*) have observed The Shield Ceremony and have held themselves to the standard of which it calls us to."

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: "Our second Rite of Membership, The Star Ceremony, confers prospective membership upon men who pledge themselves to the Fraternity and its ideals."

ALUMNUS: "The Star symbolizes excelsior within our Brotherhood – a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing. Brothers are told the Star should be a star of hope, guiding to the wearer.

"Brothers (*list graduating brothers alphabetically, last names only*) (*repeat as needed to include date and name of all graduating seniors*) observed The Star Ceremony and we have witnessed these Brothers seek continued growth."

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: "Our third Rite of Membership is The Crescent Ceremony which confers Imminent Membership."

ALUMNUS: "The Crescent is an emblem of continued and ever-increasing growth and development. Most importantly, The Crescent signifies fidelity to the principles of the Fraternity.

"Brothers (*list graduating brothers alphabetically, last names only*) have observed The Crescent Ceremony and have remained loyal to our Fraternity."

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: "The fourth Rite of Membership brings men into our Brotherhood officially. The initiation ceremony carries the title of The Pearls Ceremony."

ALUMNUS: "The Pearls stand for purity in thought, word and action. We are reminded that a clean mind and high sense of morality are important traits of a FarmHouse member.

"Brothers (*list graduating brothers alphabetically, last names only*) (*repeat as needed to include date and name of all graduating seniors*) observed The Pearl Ceremony. Their thoughts, words and actions continue to reflect positively on our Fraternity to this day."

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: "Undergraduate Brothers, look around the room in which we meet. Do you see signs that membership into our Fraternity is life long? FarmHouse membership and the obligations we are called to as members are not to be left behind when we graduate, but rather carried daily. Our Ritual is to be studied and practiced in everyday life, affirming our Fraternity is the Builder of Men."

ALUMNUS: "The names of several men in this room have been listed four times tonight. These Brothers are ready to begin the next part of their fraternal journey. Would those men please come forth and be seated in the middle of our meeting room."

Graduating seniors should move to open candidate seats.

ALUMNUS: "Tonight we honor these Brothers by observing the Rubies Ceremony. Read to you upon joining our Brotherhood as a Chapter member, The Rubies signify the lifeblood of the organization, and they should prompt you to a proper attitude toward your brothers, to give assistance wherever possible, to praise for commendable deeds, and to offer constructive criticism for improper and ungentlemanly conduct. Mr. President, may we please begin The Rubies Ceremony to honor these men and call them into service as an engaged alumni Brother."

PRESIDENT: "We shall. (***) Brothers, please stand and recite our object with me."

ALL MEMBERS: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step; the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times; and every member shall be honest with himself as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "Chapters are made strong or are left to wither in proportion to the amount of alumni support and involvement they receive. Though the pearls surround the majority of our badge, the corners are adorned with rubies. The cornerstone of successful chapters lies in the amount of support alumni members may offer. It is for this reason we see it necessary to express to you the expectation of alumni within our Fraternity."

ALUMNI: Simply because you may no longer be identified as a Chapter member, you are still identified as a FarmHouse Man. The symbols of our Fraternity carry the same meaning no matter the membership title. Our Fraternity requires your aid as an alumnus. Serve on a Chapter Advisory Team, Association Board or Ad-Hoc Committee, attend Alumni events, and donate time, skills and financial aid on a chapter level. At an International level, serve as an International Board Member, on the International Staff, aid in expansion, serve our Foundation, recruit for our Fraternity, and attend area meetings and Conclaves to stay engaged in the business and brotherhood. This list is non-exhaustive - find ways to excel as an alumnus. Many an undergraduate complains about the alumni of our Fraternity: 'Where are our alumni? Why don't our alumni visit? Why don't our alumni take an interest in us?' Your goal now should be to prove membership into our Fraternity is life-long and we expect such of you. You are and will always be a member of the (name of state chapter exists in) Association and should you move to a different state in which a FarmHouse exists, chapters you automatically join that Association, holding dual affiliation. Be an active Association Member, be an active Alumnus."

PRESIDENT: "Honored Brothers, I ask that you start tonight advising our chapter. It is important that the memories you have made and the knowledge you have gained of FarmHouse do not fade, but rather remain within our chapter walls. I invite each of you to share with us knowledge gleaned from your time as a Chapter member of our Fraternity. It is our hope that your wisdom inspires us and builds us."

Each graduating senior may speak briefly about the knowledge they gained from the Fraternity and wisdom they would like to leave with the brothers.

PRESIDENT: "You each have truly had an impact on our Fraternity and we know you will continue to have such impact. I would now like to request the Chaplain to come forward to offer a dedication."

CHAPLAIN: "Please assume an attitude of prayer."

(Chaplain offers prayer.)

PRESIDENT: "To close us, will you all please join me in reciting the Builder of Men Creed."

ALL MEMBERS: "He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the jobs all done, the Judge will say, a Master Builder passed this way."

PRESIDENT: (***) "Chapter Members and Present Alumni, Please help me congratulate and show our appreciation to our newest Alumni Brothers, Brothers (list graduating brothers alphabetically)."

At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new pledge or pledges.

Suggested Brotherhood song: "The Bells of Old FarmHouse"

Following this ceremony, it is appropriate that at some point the candidates are gathered to study the Ritual. The Chaplain and Sentinel or the Brother charged with directing the Ritual should lead a conversation on why and how the Ritual was performed and the meaning behind such. Candidates are encouraged to reflect on the ceremony and ask questions.

rites of membership

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

FarmHouse Fraternity has long designated itself, as the motto suggests, the Builder of Men. It is the belief of the Fraternity that a man is built holistically through intentional development in four concentrations: intellectually, spiritually, socially and morally, and physically. For this reason, FarmHouse Fraternity offers the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative is directed by Ritual. It is believed that daily men who bear a connection to our organization work to uphold the ideals and objectives of our Fraternity, earning the title of member. The following prescribed Ritual outlines an intentional pathway for membership encouraging affiliated brothers to celebrate, discuss, actively practice, and become more knowledgeable of our Fraternity Ritual as it relates to daily life.

Studies have been added to the Ritual Handbook to further promote the belief that the FarmHouse Fraternity and the Rituals we, as members, practice promote the ideals of building men. By honoring, becoming knowledgeable of, and properly engaging in discussion about the Rituals of our Fraternity, we may better serve the intentions outlined by our founding.

The studies are outlined in the form of discussion questions. Each is designed so that an individual may read the study to gain insight on the meaning of the Ritual, but also so that (and perhaps more appropriately) a group of brother's may engage in healthy discussion about the Ritual they will or have recently performed. It is commonly known that a chapter whose membership frequently and actively performs and studies their Ritual is a healthier and more successful chapter.

Each study will include the following three questions followed by key points for discussion:

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

Following these questions, others for reflection will be included.

In general, the following should be noted in reference to the Ritual in its entirety:

- The first formal Ritual of the National Fraternity was suggested at by the Ritual Committee of the 1958 Conclave. This Ritual Review Committee, the first Ritual Committee ever formed at a FarmHouse Conclave, comprised of undergraduate and alumni brothers, offered the "Ritual for Formal Initiation." Their work was revised by the Ritual Review Committee of the 1964 Conclave and was adopted for use in the chapters by action of the delegates to the 1964 Conclave held in East Lansing, Michigan. Blindfolds (as originally required for performance of the Ritual) were declared optional at the 1972 Conclave in Ames, Iowa. The Suggested Pledge Ceremony was authorized for inclusion in the Ritual for Initiation at the 1978 Conclave in Brookings, South Dakota.
- All Bible quotations have come from the Revised Standard Version. Pervious to the 1998 Conclave in Washington D.C., all verses were taken from the Old Testament. In 1998 proposed changes brought by the Kansas State Chapter to the Intentional Conclave added Bible quotations from the New Testament to the Ritual.
- This handbook, referred to not as the Ritual Handbook as previous, but rather the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative, was presented to the Ritual Review Committee of the 2006 Conclave held in Nashville, Tennessee. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative greatly revamped the Ritual of FarmHouse Fraternity and terms used by Fraternity, better aligned the Ritual to the membership categories previously approved, placed emphasis on need for greater study of and conversation on the Fraternity Ritual, and offered a cohesive program between chapters.

RITES OF MEMBERSHIP

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The First Point of Membership: The Shield Ceremony

Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

- Though the following, in many different forms, has been a part of FarmHouse undergraduate chapter ritual, before the 2006 Conclave, no Ritual for offering an invitation to prospective membership was prescribed by the International Fraternity. At that time the Ritual Review Committee saw a need to create a cohesive membership outline, starting from day one of prospective membership.

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

- Unfortunately, today's Fraternity many times struggles to best outline to prospective members the meaning of the Fraternity, the expectations the Fraternity will have of prospective and member and members alike, as well as the expectations the prospective member should have of the chapter and Fraternity. This Ritual helps to ensure members are accurately revealing the meaning and expectations to prospective members.
- Part of this Ritual references sections of the New Member Education Handbook and thus acts as an introduction to the New Member Education program. "The objectives of FarmHouse International Fraternity's New Member Education Program are (1) To build members to be outstanding men – not just fraternity men; (2) To develop members intellectually, spiritually, socially/morally, and physically; (3) To familiarize new members with FarmHouse – the *organization* and the *people*; and (4) To prepare new members to uphold the standards and ideals of our Fraternity and strive to continually improve it."
- The International Fraternity and Staff set expectations that, within today's chapter, new member or prospective members are treated with respect and dignity and afforded many of the same rights within the chapter as brothers. This also means that men invited to be associated with the Fraternity, reflect upon the Fraternity from the moment they accept their invitation. This Ritual helps to best outline such relationship.
- It is suggested that following the Ritual, the chapter offer to the candidate a previously prepared document outlining what will be expected of him as a Prospective Member of the Fraternity and what he may expect of the Fraternity. This too helps ensure a positive and productive relationship.

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

- This Ritual is a basic introduction to what FarmHouse stands for and believes in. The Ritual offers a snapshot of the history and current size of the International organization and attributes past success to the work of past and current brothers. Should our Fraternity continue such path we must lead appropriately and make fruitful decisions. Brothers of today and tomorrow.
- Within this Ritual promises are made to the invitee that we, as brothers, will do our best to build him as a successful man. It continues by outlining an education and membership program to best achieve such promises. What are you as a member doing to hold true to those promises? What is the chapter as a whole doing to uphold those promises?

Reflection

Is the chapter's New Member Education program reflecting the objectives of FarmHouse International Fraternity's New Member Education Program? What could be done to better achieve these objectives?

Think back to when you were offered an invitation to prospective membership. What attitude did the brothers offering your invitation carry? What was positive/negative about your experience?

rites of Membership

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The Second Point of Membership: The Star Ceremony

Conferring of Prospective Membership and Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

- Though the Ritual was originally introduced at the 1958 Conclave, this Ritual, originally offered as the Suggested Pledge Ceremony was authorized for inclusion in the Ritual for Initiation at the 1978 Conclave in Brookings, South Dakota. At the 2006 Conclave, the Suggested Pledge Ceremony was updated as the following. Though little changed other than the first few readings of the ceremony which brought the format of the Ritual in congruence with the others in the Rites of Membership, the title of the Ritual was changed to The Star Ceremony. The Star, as the Ritual acknowledges, holds much meaning within FarmHouse Fraternity as a symbol. The Star appropriately fits the ideals of such ceremony.
- It was at the 2006 Conclave the use of blindfolds was removed from this Ritual.

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

- To start the ceremony, prospective members are brought into the room as strangers, but by the end of the ceremony, we acknowledge these men as a valuable and important part of our brotherhood. This is perhaps a change in attitude and action from the early days of the general fraternity community. The New Member Program is no longer a time to keep secrets from our prospective members and treat them as "lesser members" but rather a time to prepare new members to lead the Fraternity and care for it in a fashion that we may ensure growth and continued success. To do this, prospective members must be engaged in better understanding the history, meaning and operation of our Fraternity and brotherhood. This Ritual helps to create an atmosphere in which "strangers" to the fraternity become "future caretakers."
- The oath offered within the ceremony as well as the remarks on pinning, are perhaps the most important part of the Ritual. The time should be a time of reflection for members whom have previously partaken in the Ritual. By annually or semesterly hearing the oath we took first affiliating with the Fraternity we should be charged to revere the Fraternity as a building environment knowing how far we have come in becoming a man. For men whom are first hearing the words and the object, anticipation and an eagerness to be built should be offered.
- In this Ritual, the President states, "Wear this pin with pride and humility - pride for your identification with our honored and beloved Fraternity - humility for the additional responsibility which the right to wear it places upon you." We are not just called to wear our identification of affiliation with the Fraternity with pride and humility as a prospective member, but always.

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

- As mentioned above, in this Ritual, the President states, "Wear this pin with pride and humility - pride for your identification with our honored and beloved Fraternity - humility for the additional responsibility which the right to wear it places upon you." We are not just called to wear our identification of affiliation with the Fraternity with pride and humility as a prospective member, but always. How does treating our affiliation with pride and humility help in building men?
- The oath is a charge in itself, plain and simple. What feelings do you experience when hearing/reciting the oath? How do they charge you in an attempt to being built as a man?

Reflection

Why do you think it is important for an Initiated Brother to take part in this ceremony?

rites of membership

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Green Extent

The Third Point of Membership: The Crescent Ceremony

Conferring of Imminent Membership and Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

- This Ritual was first introduced as part of a massive remodel of the Fraternity's Ritual at the 2006 Conclave as a means to conclude the New Member Education program. At the 2004 Conclave in Des Moines, Iowa, delegates supported a move towards honoring the NIC's 12-week maximum New Member Education period. As chapters moved to a 12-week new member education period, many were left with a void as they waited until grades were released by their university before initiating members. The Fraternity recognized a need for a ceremony to close the new member education program and thus, this ceremony was offered.

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

- It is important that we as members of the Fraternity look at New Member Education as only part of the journey in building men. This first phase of affiliation with the chapter should be followed by more education, accountability by brothers, and a continued drive and interest in supporting and developing one's self and the International Fraternity. The Ritual sets the stage for "continued and ever-increasing growth and development."
- The Star Ceremony, the Ritual observed prior to The Crescent Ceremony, reflected that even as a prospective member each affiliated man is a crucial part of the Fraternity. The Ritual reflects such visually by starting with those honored being seated among the brotherhood having already become a voice in the chapter. The goal of New Member Education is to create such successful and positive voices – leaders and servers – and illustrate for them how they best fit into the chapter as a member. By being a part of, or taking a seat within, the membership, a prospective member becomes best prepared for full membership. Should the chapter be concerned that a prospective member is not prepared to take a seat within the membership, perhaps then the education has proved unsuccessful and/or the member is perhaps not qualified to observe this ceremony. What do you think are mandatory qualities to "take a seat" amongst the brotherhood?

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

- One of the themes that can be noticed is the action required by the candidates being honored. At this point in building men, a member should understand the need for action as described by our Object and Ritual. What action do you feel you are offering to the Fraternity? Why is action such an important part of building men? What action is your chapter missing?
- Yet another theme is the ideal of ongoing education and growth. The color green, as we understand from this ceremony and the symbols of the Fraternity resembles growth and should inspire members. Why is growth such an important part of building men? The Ritual continues, "Daily we prove of worth as members as every decision we make personally affects our chapter wholly." What does this statement say about growth as it relates to building men?

Reflection

Why do you think the addition of this Ritual is important in the journey to full membership in FarmHouse Fraternity? Why is it important to draw attention to the end of the formal New Member Education program even if members may not be initiated until a later date?

What rights of membership should be allowed to Imminent Members that are not allowed to Prospective Members?

What rights of membership should not be allowed to Imminent Members that are allowed to initiated Brothers?

rites of membership

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

The Gold Extent

The Fourth Point of Membership: The Pearls Ceremony

Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood

Conferring of Associate and Honorary Membership

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

- This was the first formal Ritual of the National Fraternity, suggested by the Ritual Committee of the 1958 Conclave. This Ritual Review Committee, the first Ritual Committee ever formed at a FarmHouse Conclave, comprised of undergraduate and alumni brothers, offered the "Ritual for Formal Initiation." Their work was revised by the Ritual Review Committee of the 1964 Conclave and was adopted for use in the chapters by action of the delegates to the 1964 Conclave held in East Lansing, Michigan. Blindfolds (as originally required for performance of the Ritual) were declared optional at the 1972 Conclave in Ames, Iowa. And at the 2006 Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee blindfolds were stricken from the Ritual. The Ritual was renamed for inclusion in the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative at the 2006 Conclave.

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

- Since the fall semester of 1958, all FarmHouse men have observed this Ritual and thus mere words on a page bind men across the country, even the world, with a common experience. This Ritual is a celebration of not only New Membership, but perhaps most excitedly, a celebration of the continuation of our Fraternity. As long as such Ritual is performed, FarmHouse is growing.
- It is in this Ritual the meaning of FarmHouse is revealed, letter by letter. By observing this ceremony brothers re-dedicate themselves to the Fraternity and its objectives. Though many chapters will discuss the meaning of FarmHouse and each letter, in most situations, this Ritual is the first time in which all letters and meanings are formally recited calling brothers to fraternal dedication, service and obedience.
- The oath of membership is administered in this Ritual and each brother dedicates himself formally to membership. A list of standards and expectations follows the simple words "I do reverently pledge myself to respect and cherish" and set the stage for a life-long membership and accountability. With God's help, this pledge we all shall keep, today, tomorrow, forever.
- This Ritual also reveals the symbols of the Fraternity. From this time on, those images should cause much thought and have much meaning within the minds of our members.
- Within the Ritual you will see a place for the insertion of readings, "What FarmHouse Means to Me." Though many of the personal meanings of FarmHouse may be consistent with our Founders, some will be timely and change from generation to generation or new member class to new member class. Why are these reads so important to the Ritual?

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

- The Charge is perhaps the most poignant direction to us as members of FarmHouse Fraternity. The past, present and future of the Fraternity are explicitly outlined. Action seems to be a common theme of The Charge, what about The Charge calls you to action? Why do you think alumni are commonly asked to read The Charge?
- A common and perhaps expected theme of this Ritual is dedication. Why do you think dedication is so important in the life of our Fraternity? In what ways do you show your dedication to the Fraternity? Have your thoughts on being dedicated to the Fraternity changed since you were an honored candidate in this Ritual?

Reflection

Why do you think this Ritual was originally written and prescribed?

Do you think the Ritual carries the same meaning today as the Ritual did in 1958?

Have you talked to an alumni member about their Initiation? What did you find particularly interesting about your conversation?

rites of Membership

Study on Written and Prescribed Ritual

The White Extent

The Fifth Point of Membership: The Rubies Ceremony

Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership

What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?

- This Ritual was first introduced as part of a massive remodel of the Fraternity's Ritual at the 2006 Conclave as a means to conclude the New Member Education program. This Ritual was designed as a means to illustrate a complete and total membership path from a collegiate member of FarmHouse – from invitation to graduation/alumni membership.
- Many chapters have recognized men obtaining “alumni status” or graduating, but each chapter did so individually.

What is the relevance of the Ritual in today's Fraternity and the lives of its members?

- There is a great need for the Fraternity and its members to no longer see the New Member Education period as the only time of education and “man building” but rather, as Ritual suggests, education and building is a charge life-long. Honoring our collegiate graduates and charging them to stay connected and involved in the local and international Fraternity helps to set the stage for a great life-long commitment. Each Ritual marks the start of a new journey for members; this Ritual marks the longest journey, but perhaps the journey producing the greatest yield of success.
- Today's strongest chapters are the chapters with the greatest alumni support, dedication and involvement. If your chapter wishes to be successful, engage your alumni! Encourage members today to begin thinking about the role of alumni and how they will successfully fill their role as an alumnus.

How can the themes revealed in the Ritual charge us to be further built as men?

- Honor seems to be a prevalent theme in many Rituals presented, however honor takes a unique meaning in this Ritual. The idea presented in this Ritual is that by honoring our members, especially our older members and alumni, we honor the Fraternity. We honor the Fraternity those before us have built in hopes we might build upon it. We honor the impact old brothers have had on building us into men and appreciate their examples. We honor the task old brothers have left us – to continue to build men, our chapter, our Fraternity, ourselves. What do you think is meant by honor and why is honor so important in the life of our Fraternity and its members?

Reflection - *For this reflection, it may be appropriate to ask alumni brothers to be included in the conversation.*

What should the Fraternity expect of alumni brothers?

What legacy do you hope to leave on your chapter?...on your Fraternity?...on your brothers?

If you were being honored by this Ritual today, what advice would you pass along to your Brothers?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Outline of Further Affirmations

FarmHouse Fraternity affirms its dedication to being the Builders of Men through the following weekly commitments:

Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation

To be performed by all men who have participated in at least The Star Ceremony to open regular weekly meetings of the chapter.

Weekly Individual Builder of Men Affirmation

To be performed by those who have participated in at least The Pearls Ceremony to close regular weekly meetings of the chapter.

FarmHouse Fraternity affirms its dedication to being the Builder of Men through the following occasionally performed Rituals:

Builder of Men Week

To be performed during last week of Prospective Membership, not to be greater than 12 weeks from The Star Ceremony (Pledging). Week-long observation of Fraternity ideals.

Fraternal Leadership Dedication

To be performed during a regularly scheduled meeting of all men who have participated in at least The Star Ceremony (Pledging) for induction of new chapter executive leadership.

Housemother/Resident Advisor Dedication

To be performed during a gathering of all men who have participated in at least The Star Ceremony (Pledging) for induction and dedication of new Housemother/Resident Advisor.

Alumni and Advisor Leadership Dedication

To be performed during a regularly scheduled meeting of all men who have participated in at least The Star Ceremony (Pledging) for induction of new chapter alumni advisor, new association leadership, or other notable dedication of alumni to local or international fraternity.

Eternal Membership Celebration/Memorial Celebration

To be performed at the request of the member or family upon the death of a member.

FarmHouse Fraternity affirms its dedication to being the Builder of Men through performing the following Rituals for Fraternal Celebration:

Campus/Community Leadership

Lavaliering

Engagement/Marriage

Honor Society Induction

External Honor

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation

INTRODUCTION

The Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation is to be performed by all men who have participated in at least The Star Ceremony to open regular weekly meetings of the chapter.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PRESIDENT: "I call the (today's date) meeting of the (chapter name) of FarmHouse Fraternity to order.

"Brothers, I would like to remind you that our chapter has been meeting since (local founding date) and our Fraternity since April 15, 1905 with the intention of Building Men. Our Fraternity believes in four-fold development, growing men intellectually, spiritually, socially-morally, and physically. In order that we might be reminded to direct our chapter in the manner in which our founders would find honorable and our brothers across the world would respect, I ask that you please rise and recite the Object of our Fraternity with me. Our Chaplain will follow with a prayer."

(***)

ALL: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

CHAPLAIN: (Offers a prayer.)

Business meeting begins....

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Weekly Individual Builder of Men Affirmation

INTRODUCTION

The Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation is to be performed by all men who have participated in at least The Pearls Ceremony to close regular weekly meetings of the chapter.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

Business meeting concludes... a motion to adjourn is made and approved...

PRESIDENT: "A motion to adjourn this business meeting has been made and approved by the chapter. Prior to officially adjourning this meeting may I suggest that the Chaplain offers a prayer?"

CHAPLAIN: *(Offers a prayer.)*

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, tonight discussion has been had and decisions have been made that will help to direct our Fraternity in a path which we hope proves successful to our motto, Builder of Men. May I ask that we all remind ourselves of the oaths we have taken, those of personal commitment to our Fraternity. Cherish our Fraternity and act in such a way that you should not bring disgrace upon our Fraternity or our brotherhood. Strive for things that are highest and noblest. Be loyal to the principles of the Fraternity. Carry pure thought, word and action. Give assistance wherever possible, praise of commendable deeds and offer constructive criticism for improper or ungentlemanly conduct.

"Please join me in reciting the Build of Men Creed."

ALL MEMBERS: "He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the jobs all done, the Judge will say, a Master Builder passed this way."

PRESIDENT: "Meeting adjourned." (*)

BROTHERS: *It is customary to end with a song or hymn. Though the suggested song to close the meeting is "A Brotherly Band," you will see a section in this Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative listing several other options. No matter the song sung, the song should be of good taste inline with the ideals of the Fraternity.*

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Builder of Men Week

INTRODUCTION

The following Rituals intended for use during the Builder of Men Week, shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have a favorable mental attitude.

One Ritual is to be conducted at each meal planned for the Builder of Men Week.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PREISDENT: "Brothers, the purpose of this week is to allow us time to reflect on the oaths we as initiated men of FarmHouse Fraternity have taken. New Members, equally, the purpose of this week is to mentally prepare you to best understand the oath you are about to make and to allow you to take time in reflection of the last (number of weeks in New Member Education Program) weeks.

The first four days of this week are in dedication to our Fraternity's four-fold development model with each day specifically attributed to a key component in the Building of Men. Tonight's devotion will be offered by (name of brother speaking) as a reflection on our Fraternity's commitment to (area of the fourfold to be addressed).

At this point, the appropriate chapter leader will offer a short but meaningful devotion to the area of the fourfold the day has been centered around. The devotion is best in the form of a challenge, charging new members and brothers to action and encouraging them to reflect upon their development to ensure they are continually being built as men. The following list suggests the appropriate dedication for each evening meal, changes, additions, or substitutions may be made:

Monday: Physical Development

"To open our week of devotionals, I like to offer some thoughts on Physical Development from the Founding Father of FarmHouse Fraternity D. Howard Doane.

"Our Fraternity exists as the Builder of Men. 'The adoption of a slogan means little if it does not go beyond the coining of words. When a student decides to attend a university, he undertakes a program of self-improvement. A FarmHouse man goes farther for he knows that he who gives most, gains most. Man-building does not imply rebirth or conversion. It is simply a helpful word here, a constructive suggestion there, and a bit of encouragement to the one who finds the going a bit tough. Two thousand years ago a humble carpenter set the pattern for building men. Man=s greatest gift to man is his willingness to give and, if necessary, sacrifice his life for his brothers.'

Tuesday: Spiritual Development

"For tonight's devotional, please listen as I read the meaning of the first four letters our Fraternity's name: F, Faith; A, Ambition; R, Reverence; M, Morality. Please reflect on how these meanings push us to greater spiritual development.

"In Hebrews 11:1, we learn that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'. Have faith in your God, in your fraternity and its members; faith in your school, your state and your nation.

"In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, 'If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. Never lose faith in yourself, if you would hold the faith of others. Be faithful to the ideals of FarmHouse and its programs.

"Ambition is the unseen force which drives men to success, to rise above their environment and to achieve the impossible. Have ambition which is content not only with making a satisfactory record in college, but also seeks to render service to humanity through science and its application. Strive to foster that ambition which leads a man ever onward in the belief that he may somehow contribute to the betterment of mankind. 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, press on toward the goal to win the prize.' (Philippians 3:13-14)."

"Reverence must be cultivated if we are to be true brothers. 'Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe...' (Hebrews 12:28). Let us revere our God, our parents, and our brothers with whom we associate. Unless we cultivate such a reverence, we cannot learn the true joys of brotherhood, the foundation of a successful fraternity."

"'But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.' (Luke 8:15) We must constantly work to learn better how our every act may affect ourselves and others. Genuine moral living involves intelligent love and esteem for our associates. Unless we possess strong affection for others, we cannot come to know that which is most worthwhile in making for the highest character in man. Every narrowing of love, every encroachment of egoism, every act of selfishness, means just so much blindness to that which is good and fine. Let good moral conduct cease to be a virtue and become an involuntary duty."

Wednesday: Intellectual Development

"For our devotion tonight, I would like to read to you a selection from The Charge. The Charge is read as part of The Pearls Ceremony, in which we initiate brothers into our Fraternity.

"Scholarship is an accepted measure of student progress. FarmHouse has stressed the need for high scholarship, because knowledge and the ability to think creatively and reason clearly are essential for success in life. Today, we are proud of our performance because in scholarship most FarmHouse chapters rank first or near the top on their respective campuses. It is our hope that you, as new members of our brotherhood, will do everything in your power to help FarmHouse continue as a scholastic leader among fraternities."

Thursday: Social-Moral Development

"As last night, for our devotion tonight, I would like to read to you a selection from The Charge. The Charge is read as part of The Pearls Ceremony, in which we initiate brothers into our Fraternity.

"Today, FarmHouse can be proud of its reputation among professional, scholastic and social fraternities. FarmHouse leadership has been alert to meet its challenges. We strive to develop a pattern of living and working together which merits the distinctive motto, BUILDER OF MEN. The Fraternity recognizes that true character is the result of the self-discipline which is so necessary in building men of whom all can be proud. Exemplary behavior results, not from rigid rules, but from an appreciation and understanding of the value of character. The sincere and honest desire to work together in moral living has been basic to the success of our Fraternity."

As suggested by our New Member Education handbook and syllabus, a speaker from outside the chapter may visit to also offer a program. Following the short devotion of the appropriate chapter leader, an introduction of the speaker should be offered and member's attention should be turned to the speaker.

To close the meal or evening gathering, the following is offered:

PRESIDENT: "Tonight we leave here more prepared to live as Builders of Men, to live as FarmHouse Men, then when we came. Is it not amazing what happens when we all gather in dedication to our principles and spend time studying what our founders have outlined as the meaning of our organization? I hope tonight you will continue to reflection privately a reflection on the principle of (area of the fourfold addressed). Consider where you need to grow and where you can help another member of this Fraternity grow.

"Before we leave tonight, will you all please stand and recite with me the Object of our Fraternity."

ALL: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: (***)

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Leadership Dedication

INTRODUCTION

The Fraternal Leadership Dedication shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A gold cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as candidates should be all new officers.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, may I gather your attention as today we have special business to attend to. We, as Chapter Members of the *(name of chapter)* Chapter of FarmHouse International Fraternity, have elected new officers and it is today, with this meeting, they should be installed and charged.

"In order that we understand the charge of our officers, those we equip with the trust, honor and respect to lead our chapter, I shall read to you The Object of our Fraternity to allow us to reflect on the Central Attributes of our Fraternity: Leadership, Scholarship, and Fellowship. Nothing does a greater job defining the meaning of those central attributes than our object, so I ask that instead of reciting the object with men, you listen and hear for yourself the meaning we reveal each time we recite this guiding statement. Please prepare to hear these words.

"The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts.

"It is my hope that you, new leaders, gained insight from this reading. For we know, that should a chapter officer not possess all three Central Attributes our chapter will not excel under his leadership. It is by the example of brothers and leaders before us that our organization has found success and it will be by the adherence to our ideals and beliefs that our Fraternity will continue.

"New officers, let the words of your brothers drive you in your new positions as you seek to serve our chapter and our International Fraternity in action and thought, in public and private, glorifying the attributes of leadership, scholarship and fellowship."

"We now shall install new officers serving the *(term of office)* term. Each outgoing and new officer will come forward when I call their name. The outgoing officer will read the description of the office taken from the bylaws of our chapter following which I will administer the oath of membership."

The following will be repeated until all newly elected officers have been installed.

PRESIDENT: "Brother (name of outgoing officer) you have served during the (term) as the (office title) of our chapter. Please share with us your roles and responsibilities."

OUTGOING OFFICER: *Reads the description of his office as written in the Chapter bylaws.*

PRESIDENT: "Brother (name of incoming officer) you have been elected by brothers of our chapter to serve as (office title). Our chapter's will and desire has placed upon you much responsibility. Do you make promise to serve to the best of your ability our Fraternity here on our campus and across the world? And, do understand the potential sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts you may assume under your role? And, do understand the impact your actions, positive or negative, have on our chapter and International Fraternity? And, do you promise to lead our chapter with integrity, appreciation for our founding, humility and admiration? If so, please say I do."

INCOMING OFFICER: "I do."

PRESIDENT: "Then it is with great honor I bestow upon you the office of (office title).

After all officers have been installed, the following is offered to close the ceremony.

PRESIDENT: "Will all brothers charged with an office today please stand, raise your right hand and repeat after me the dedication of leadership."

Incoming Officers stand and raise right hand.

"It is with great respect and dedication / for our name, FarmHouse Fraternity, / faith, ambition, reverence, / morality, honesty, obedience, / unity, service and excellence / I take on the role / I have been bestowed today / and such principles / I shall seek in my role. / I look for change / knowing that all action creates change / and hope that all of my actions / result in the growth and development / of our fraternity. / May I be held accountable / to the highest of stands within my role, / knowing that / with the aid of my brothers, / the aid our Fraternity teachings, / and the aid of my God, / I will be successful. / I dedicate myself / to the leadership / of FarmHouse Fraternity."

Incoming Officers remain standing, but may lower right hand. President addresses brothers in the audience. .

PRESIDENT: "Brothers not being installed, I challenge you as well today. Do you feel certain you have elected appropriate and capable men to lead our chapter? And, do you accept the responsibility of responding to their leadership, aiding in their service, and offering praise and constructive criticism as justly appropriate? If so, please say we do."

MEMBERS: "We do."

PRESIDENT: (**)

Incoming President comes forward and accepts the gavel from the outgoing President and assumes the role of the President for the remainder of the ceremony.

(**)

PRESIDENT: "In closing, I ask that you all stand and recite with me the Builder of Men Creed. My it direct us to proper fraternal service and leadership, honoring the central attributes of our Fraternity."

MEMBERS: "He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the jobs all done, the Judge will say, a Master Builder passed this way."

PRESIDENT: "This concludes the installation of our new officers. Please help me thank out outgoing leadership and congratulate our new leaders." (***)

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Housemother / Resident Advisor Dedication

INTRODUCTION

The Housemother/Resident Advisor Dedication shall be planned so that the candidate is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

Guide enters with candidate for housemother/resident advisor.

PRESIDENT: "You have shown faith in us and in our organization by working closely with us. In the letters of our Fraternity, we find the symbols of the principles we hold to be most worthwhile and which we, as FarmHouse men, strive to attain in our college work and in our dealing throughout life. As our housemother/resident advisor in this fraternity, you will now be given the meanings of these symbols."

Each man delegated to explain the symbols should read his part well from behind the table, not the lectern, when the President calls the letter assigned to him.

PRESIDENT: "F," Brother (name of reader).

MEMBER "FAITH"

"In Hebrews 11:1, we learn that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'.

"It means faith in your God: in your fraternity and its members; faith in your school, your state and your nation.

"In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, 'If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.'"

"Never lose faith in yourself, if you would hold the faith of others. Be faithful to the ideals of FarmHouse and its programs."

PRESIDENT: "A," Brother (name of reader).

MEMBER: "AMBITION"

"Ambition is the unseen force which drives men to success, to rise above their environment and to achieve the impossible. Have ambition which is content not only with making a satisfactory record in college, but also seeks to render service to humanity through science and its application. Strive to foster that ambition which leads a man ever onward in the belief that he may somehow contribute to the

betterment of mankind. 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, press on toward the goal to win the prize.' (Philippians 3:13-14)."

PRESIDENT: "R," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"REVERENCE"**

"Reverence must be cultivated if we are to be true brothers. 'Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe...' (Hebrews 12:28). Let us revere our God, our parents, and our brothers with whom we associate. Unless we cultivate such a reverence, we cannot learn the true joys of brotherhood, the foundation of a successful fraternity."

PRESIDENT: "M," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"MORALITY"**

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.' (Luke 8:15) We must constantly work to learn better how our every act may affect ourselves and others. Genuine moral living involves intelligent love and esteem for our associates. Unless we possess strong affection for others, we cannot come to know that which is most worthwhile in making for the highest character in man. Every narrowing of love, every encroachment of egoism, every act of selfishness, means just so much blindness to that which is good and fine. Let good moral conduct cease to be a virtue and become an involuntary duty."

PRESIDENT: "H," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"HONESTY"**

"Honesty is fundamental to character; it is the basis for all worthwhile endeavors; for how can we believe in one who is not strictly honest? In college we expect honesty in the classroom, on the athletic field, as well as in every relationship between men.

" 'Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.' (Ephesians 4:25).

"Throughout life, one of the greatest tributes that can be paid to a man is to have it said that he is honest."

PRESIDENT: "O," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"OBEDIENCE"**

"Obedience to God's principles is one of the bulwarks which gives stability to our Fraternity. Obey the mandates of the chapter, the regulations of your school and country. In doing so, always obey the teachings of the master... for it is written in Ecclesiastes 12:13: 'Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.' "

PRESIDENT: "U," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"UNITY"**

"Unity is fundamental to a successful fraternity. With unity a fraternity stands through times of stress as though bound together with bands of steel. Without unity, failure results. 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity' (Psalms 133:1).

"See to it that you, by hard work and unfailing sacrifice, help weave those individual threads of noble character that bind us together in an effective and worthwhile organization."

PRESIDENT: "S," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"SERVICE"**

"A loyal brother in FarmHouse must render service to his Fraternity and to his brothers if his Fraternity is to grow and prosper.

"For you were called to freedom, brethren: only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, be servants of one another.' (Galatians 5:13)

"See to it that you render service to God; to your profession; to your fellowmen; to your country; and to your school all the days of your life. The very essence of successful living is based on the Christian ideal of service."

PRESIDENT: "E," Brother (*name of reader*).

MEMBER: **"EXCELLENCE"**

" '...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8).

"A primary goal of our Fraternity is to excel in our profession. Maintain the high standards of excellence as set forth by our Founders and the many members of our organization who have preceded us. The basis for success is education. Education is the knowledge of how to use the whole of one's self. Strive, therefore, for the fullest development of knowledge in your profession; in the building of character; in furthering high moral standards; the development of essential skills; and the furtherance of good health; so that no impediment may hinder your progress to the highest pinnacle of success in life."

PRESIDENT: "You have heard the principles of our Fraternity. If you approve of them, and still desire to be our official Fraternity Housemother/resident advisor, make it known by saying, "I do.""

HOUSEMOTHER/RESIDENT ADVISOR: "I do."

PRESIDENT: "In answering thus you have shown decision, as decision characterizes our every act. It is our desire that you, our honored and respected Fraternity House-mother/Resident Advisor, become familiar with the object of our Fraternity, which is the object and goal of each FarmHouse man."

ALL: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its men in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, and to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "That it may increase your knowledge of our standards and understanding of our goals, the badge and its markings will now be explained to you."

"The Badge has the shape of a shield, and the member should cherish it as the knights of old did their shields. In no way should any act be performed, or any word spoken, that should bring disgrace upon the wearer, or upon the members of the brotherhood.

"The Star stands for excelsior - a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing. It should be a star of hope - a guiding star to the wearer."

"The Crescent is an emblem of continued and ever-increasing growth and development. Its color, black, signifies fidelity to the principles of this Fraternity."

"The Pearls stand for purity in thought, word, and action. A clean mind and high sense of morality are

important traits of a FarmHouse member."

"The Rubies signify the lifeblood of the organization, and they should prompt you to a proper attitude toward your brothers, to give assistance wherever possible, to praise for commendable deeds, and offer constructive criticism for improper and ungentlemanly conduct."

PRESIDENT: "Let these truths burn deeply within you, and brand on your heart, all these things held noble and precious by this brotherhood.

"A gold FH recognition button is worn on the lapel of each of our brothers. In the same manner it is our desire that you have or wear a symbol of the Fraternity for as our Housemother/Resident Advisor you are a guiding hand, binding us in fellowship. Without you we realize that our organization would not possess the degree of love which exists. At this time may we present to you a symbol of our principles, and as a token of our appreciation of loving kindness? (*See note below.*)

"Wear it with mingled pride and respect, pride for your identification with our honored and beloved Fraternity, respect for the principles for which it stands.

"I now declare you Official Housemother/Resident Advisor of the _____ Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity.

"Brothers, let us greet and welcome _____."

Note: FarmHouse Mom pins are available online. Chapters may opt to use the FH Mom pin, the lapel recognition pin, or purchase a lavalier to be hung from a gold chain.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Alumni and Advisor Leadership Dedication

INTRODUCTION

The Alumni and Advisor Leadership Dedication shall be planned so that the candidate is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

Guide enters with candidate for alumni leadership.

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, so that the following words may be observed as an affirmation of our motto, Builders of Men, please stand and recite the Object of our Fraternity with me."

ALL: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "You may be seated.

"Today we join in a special meeting. This meeting captures the essence of the letter 'S' in our name, FarmHouse. 'S' stands for service. In The Pearls Ceremony, we are told 'a loyal brother in FarmHouse must render service to his Fraternity and to his brothers if his Fraternity is to grow and prosper' and are reminded of a verse from Galatians 5:13, 'For you were called to freedom, brethren: only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, be servants of one another.'

"In the Rubies Ceremony, candidates for Alumni membership are reminded that "chapters are made strong or are left to wither in proportion to the amount of alumni support and involvement they receive. Though the pearls surround the majority of our badge, the corners are adorned with rubies. The cornerstone of successful chapters lies in the amount of support alumni members may offer.

"Brother *(name of Director of Alumni Relations)*, Chapter Director of Alumni Relations, please come forward and lead us as we formally dedicate this candidate to a leadership role."

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: "Today we are here to celebrate fraternal service and dedication and confer upon Brother *(name of alumni or advisor)* the title of *(leadership role)*. Would *(name of alumni or advisor)* please come forward."

Alumnus leader rises and stands at the front of the room.

Alumni Director gives an introduction of the alumnus to include chapter affiliation and year of initiation.

“(Name of alumni or advisor) has agreed to serve as (leadership role).”

Alumni Director gives description of the role.

“(name of alumni or advisor) do you fully accept your charge as (leadership role) for the (name of chapter) of FarmHouse Fraternity?”

ADVISOR: “I do.”

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: “Do you agree to continually model the ideals of FarmHouse to our brotherhood, fulfilling the oaths you have taken as a member of our Fraternity, knowing that now, perhaps more than before, your actions, positive or negative, are that of a role model to me and my peers sitting before you?”

ADVISOR: “I do.”

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: “Do you agree to challenge this brotherhood to grow; to cherish our Fraternity and act in such a way that you should not bring disgrace upon our Fraternity or our brotherhood; to strive for things that are highest and noblest; to be loyal to the principles of the Fraternity; to carry pure thought, word and action and to give assistance wherever possible, praise of commendable deeds and offer constructive criticism for improper or ungentlemanly conduct; all the meanwhile doing such yourself?”

ADVISOR: “I do.”

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: “Brothers, do you have questions for this Alumni Brother of ours who stands before dedicating himself/herself to the leadership of our chapter?”

Questions are taken from the members gathered and answered by the alumnus.

“Seeing no further questions, Mr. President and brothers assembled, I confer upon Brother (name of alumnus) the role of (leadership role).”

“Please help me thank and congratulate (name of alumnus or advisor).”

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Celebration of Life for a Deceased Brother/Memorial Celebration

INTRODUCTION

A Memorial of all passed Brothers is traditionally observed at the Biennial Conclave. This memorial includes a reading of all passed brothers and a time of silent reflection. The Ritual presented below is designed to meet the needs of a chapter or family to celebrate the life of an individual undergraduate, alumni, associate, or honorary brother.

The Ceremony of Life Celebration for a Deceased Brother is designed to be used in a variety different settings, such as a funeral home, home of the deceased, church or Chapter. In all cases the desires of the family as well as any special circumstances must be respected. Never, should an undergraduate Chapter perform this Ritual at the gravesite service as this time is normally the most difficult for the family of the deceased. At the gravesite service, the Chapter should support the morning solely with presence.

In an effort to keep this Ritual in line with family wishes, portions of this Ritual may be omitted.

In the instance that the President is unable to lead this Ritual, or in the instance that another brother is deemed more appropriate to lead the Ritual, the part of the President may be read by another brother or by multiple brothers.

A eulogy may be added, where noted, if appropriate. Chapters may also consider the addition of other appropriate songs, prayers, reflections or readings. It is recommended that the International Headquarters Staff be consulted when making arrangements for this ceremony.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

PRESIDENT: "Today we gather in the ideals of our Fraternity and brotherhood to honor, commemorate and celebrate the life of (name of deceased brother) who leaves our fraternal membership by death.

"Members of (name of deceased brother)'s family and friends, as a representative of FarmHouse Fraternity, may I extend to you our most sincere prayers, greatest compassion, and noble honor on this occasion. (Name of deceased brother) joined into our fraternal bond in the year of (year of deceased's initiation) after our brotherhood found him to be meeting our high standards and ideals and recently he has left our earthly bond. However, it is our belief that our God welcomes us into eternal life when life on earth is over and with this belief we look forward to a brotherhood in the next life far greater than any brotherhood we may be able to imagine here on earth.

"Our Fraternity exists as the Builder of Men. In the words of our Founding Father, 'the adoption of a slogan means little if it does not go beyond the coining of words. When a student decides to attend a university, he undertakes a program of self-improvement. A FarmHouse man goes farther for he knows that he who gives most, gains most. Man-building does not imply rebirth or conversion. It is simply a helpful word here, a constructive suggestion there, and a bit of encouragement to the one who finds the going a bit tough. Two thousand years ago a humble carpenter set the pattern for building men. Man's greatest gift to man is his willingness to give and, if necessary, sacrifice his life for his brothers.' May we all find strength in knowing (name of deceased brother) was built as a man during his time here as it is without a doubt that men in this room have been built by the thought, action and deed of (name of deceased brother)."

If a eulogy is to be entered into this ceremony, it is suggested that such is read at this point in the ceremony.

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, friends, and family of (name of deceased brother) please hear the following words meant to comfort you."

BROTHER: "Psalm 133 reads, 'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were fallen on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.'"

(It is recommended that other reading may be inserted here. Suggestions are Psalm 23, Psalm 43, Psalm 27: 1-6, Psalm 42, Psalm 103, Psalm 130, selections from John.)

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, there is never a Ritual or meeting observed by our Fraternity in which we are not reminded of the object of our Fraternity. This object binds us to (name of deceased brother). Will you please stand as we remember our bond and our Object? Brothers, please recite with me the object of our Fraternity."

ALL: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, I invite you each to now pass on your respects and then be seated."

(Each brother should now walk past the casket, urn, altar or family member to pay silent respect. Some groups may offer alternating red and white roses at the foot of the casket, in front of the urn, on the altar or into the hands of the family member. It is suggested that during this time brothers join in song - 'The Bells of Old FarmHouse' is suggested.)

PRESIDENT: "The gifts of life and brotherhood, the gifts of intellectual, physical, social-moral, and spiritual soundness are great. Let today be a reminder of those gifts and of a brother who lived a life celebrating those gifts.

"Lastly, let us be reminded of our humble goal as we recite the Builder of Men creed."

ALL: "He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the jobs all done, the Judge will say, a Master Builder passed this way."

PRESIDENT: "Family of (name of deceased brother) the memory of our brother, your loved-one, will live on as he and the impact he has had building men, will live on within the walls of our Fraternity. Please again accept of dearest condolences."

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Celebration: Campus/Community Leadership

INTRODUCTION

The following Ritual is intended for use in honoring a brother who has obtained a major leadership role within the campus or city community. The Ritual shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have a favorable mental attitude.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the Chaplain's prayer, which closes the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

The Chaplain offers prayer ending the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "Mr. President, before we continue with the regular business of our weekly chapter meeting, may we please recognize a brother for his outstanding achievements."

PRESIDENT: "Mr. Director of Administration, for whom deserves our recognition?"

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "It is my pleasure to announce that Brother (*name of brother being recognized*) has been charged with the responsibility of leading our campus/community as (*title of leadership role obtained*). We are reminded many times through Ritual of our Fraternity that every action, thought, word and deed speaks to our Fraternity and Brother (*name of brother being recognized*) offers a positive illustration of the ideals which our Fraternity promotes. In his new role, Brother (*name of brother being recognized*) will be responsible for (*insert a prepared description of new position*).

"Brother (*name of brother being recognized*), let us all first and foremost congratulate you. We are proud to have you amongst our Brotherhood and we know that you will not only be built as you serve within this new role, we will be built by observing your leadership. Thank you for taking the name of our Fraternity and promoting it in a positive way.

"We remind you of the meaning each letter in our name carries: F - Faith, A - Ambition, R - Reverence, M - Morality, H - Honesty, O - Obedience, U - Unity, S - Service, E - Excellence; and we ask that you let these principles guide you in your new role. Please seek your brothers' support and help in your new role and expect his accountability.

"We remind you a great leader exhibits humility and leads only first through service. We hope that you will serve with your heart and mind and offer to us the lesson you we learn about service and leadership."

PRESIDENT: "Brother (*name of Chaplain*), as Chaplain of our Chapter, I ask that you ensure Brother (*name of brother being recognized*) is spiritually supported as he carries out the duties of his new office. Will you please help us offer such support immediately by leading the brotherhood in prayer?"

CHAPLAIN: "Brothers, please assume an attitude of prayer."

(Chaplain offers prayer as directed.)

PRESIDENT: "Men of FarmHouse, please help me recognize Brother *(name of brother being recognized)*, the new *(title of leadership role obtained)*."

All applaud.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Celebration: Lavaliering

INTRODUCTION

The following Ritual is intended for use in honoring a brother who has made a public announcement by a brother professing his serious courtship with his significant other. Traditionally a “lavalier” (a piece of jewelry comprised of tiny gold letters ‘F’ and ‘H’ hanging from a gold chain) is offered by the brother to his significant other during a lavaliering. The Ritual shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have a favorable mental attitude.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the Chaplain’s prayer which closes the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President’s gavel.

RITUAL

The Chaplain offers prayer ending the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: “Mr. President, before we continue with the regular business of our weekly chapter meeting, may we please recognize a brother’s recent lavaliering.”

PRESIDENT: “Mr. Director of Administration, for whom deserves our recognition?”

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: “It is my pleasure to announce that Brother (name of brother being recognized) has been lavaliered to (name of lady), publicly announcing their serious courtship. Brother (name of brother being recognized) and (name of lady) have been involved in a relationship since (date relationship started) and with compassion and appreciation for each other, they seek our acknowledgment and support in further developing their relationship.

“Brother (name of brother being recognized), let us all first and foremost congratulate you. We are proud of you and your commitment. We remind you of the meaning each letter in our name carries: F – Faith, A – Ambition, R – Reverence, M – Morality, H – Honesty, O – Obedience, U – Unity, S – Service, E – Excellence; and we ask that you let these principles guide you in your relationship. Please seek your brothers’ support in your relationship and expect his accountability.

“We hope that you will serve your relationship and Fraternity in much the same way – continually growing yourself and your commitments.”

PRESIDENT: “Brother (name of Chaplain), as Chaplain of our Chapter, I ask that you ensure Brother (name of brother being recognized) is spiritually supported by this brotherhood. Will you please help us offer such support immediately by leading the brotherhood in prayer?”

CHAPLAIN: “Brothers, please assume an attitude of prayer.”

(Chaplain offers prayer as directed.)

PRESIDENT: “Men of FarmHouse, please help me recognize Brother (name of brother being recognized), and his commitment.”

All applaud.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Celebration: Engagement/Marriage

INTRODUCTION

The engagement celebration for FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that the member being honored is rested and has a favorable mental attitude.

Spatial setup should follow the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth should cover the table at the front of the room. Candidate seats should be for those engaged that have not yet been honored. Please note, however, that the candidate will first be seated with the members until the sentinel brings him forward per the president's request. The first common chapter knowledge of the member engaged should be when the candidate is brought to candidate seating by the sentinel.

Preparatory to the ceremony, the door into the room where the Ritual will be performed is to be closed. In reading the Ritual, plural words need to be substituted when more than one candidate is involved.

Should the President be the honoree, he shall preside the Ritual until the sentinel brings the president from his station to the candidate seats. At this time the next in-line officer according to chapter bylaws may be substituted as President for the remainder of the Ritual.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

*The President acquires the attention of those present. (***)*

PRESIDENT: "Brothers, may I gather your attention as today we have special business to attend to. It has been brought to my attention as President of the (name of chapter) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity that one or more members desire to celebrate their engagement to marry."

To the sentinel. "Sentinel, please bring forth the candidate."

Sentinel brings forward candidate to candidate seating.

SENTINEL: "Mr. President, I bring to you Brother (name of brother) whose seeks celebration for engagement."

The candidate may be seated. The sentinel goes back to his seat.

PRESIDENT: "It is today with fraternal celebration that we shall celebrate this engagement and charge Brother *(name of brother)*. To prepare our minds and attitudes for such concentration, will you please stand and recite The Object of our Fraternity with me."

MEMBERS: "The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step, the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times, and every member shall be honest with himself, as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures, and comforts."

PRESIDENT: "Brother *(name of brother)*, we have equipped you with the trust, honor and respect to live the values and

Ritual of FarmHouse Fraternity in your union. When you were initiated as a member of FarmHouse Fraternity, we presented to you the letters of FarmHouse as symbols of principles we hold to be paramount in furthering our program of building men. As you continue to do so with your fellow men and the world, may you also find these principles applicable to your upcoming commitment in marriage, everyday life, and arrangements furthermore.

"We will now revisit these symbols, illustrating their meaning for your future relationship."

Each man delegated to explain the symbols should read his part well from behind the table, not the lectern, when the President calls the letter assigned to him.

PRESIDENT: "F," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"FAITH"**

"Always be faithful to your spouse, allowing a trusting relationship to occur. As we are commanded in Ephesians 6:16, 'take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.' There is no doubt the 'evil one' will try to set your relationship off course. Just as you exhibit faith in your brothers and FarmHouse; exhibit faith to your spouse, your marriage, and your God."

PRESIDENT: "A," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"AMBITION"**

"Pursue your marriage ambitiously. Communicate your desire for your spouse's happiness in a way that will be appreciated. Do not be content with being ordinary; strive to continually strengthen your relationship. Your relationship is only good compared to what it can be tomorrow."

PRESIDENT: "R," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"REVERENCE"**

"Reverence is defined as 'a feeling of profound awe and respect.' Continually revere your spouse. There will come days of frustration, but always keep in mind all the great things that you appreciate your spouse for and you will find many more days of happiness."

PRESIDENT: "M," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"MORALITY"**

"Your every act must be aligned with your morals. Keep a close relationship with your God and call upon him for help when you sense yourself struggling to uphold your moral code. Never compromise your relationship, just as you would never compromise your membership in FarmHouse."

PRESIDENT: "H," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"HONESTY"**

"The cornerstone to successful relationships is honesty. Being able to trust one another to the fullest extent will relieve stress and allow more freedom. Be honest with yourself as we have trained you, and be honest with your spouse just as you have been honest with your brothers."

PRESIDENT: "O," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"OBEDIENCE"**

"Just as obedience gives stability to our fraternity, so will it give stability to your relationship. Be obedient to your spouse's wishes, to your moral code of conduct, and to your God at all times."

PRESIDENT: "U," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"UNITY"**

"Perhaps one of the greatest results of marriage is Unity. We have been unified as brothers and we will always be brothers, but unity with your spouse will be at a greater level. We are reminded in Genesis 2:24 that 'a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.' This is one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon man."

PRESIDENT: "S," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"SERVICE"**

"You have already given a promise of service to your fellow men and to your world. Now you are promising service to your spouse as well. Also consider how you and your spouse can serve your community, your fellow brothers and sisters, and your world. A fruitful and fulfilling life is a life of service."

PRESIDENT: "E," Brother *(name of reader)*.

MEMBER: **"EXCELLENCE"**

" '...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8).

"We are reminded of these words in our initiation. Make your marriage a union of excellence. Be a role model in your community for a happy, loving relationship as a FarmHouse Man."

PRESIDENT: "We have now reviewed for you the principles of our fraternity and how to apply these principles in your marriage. We entrust upon you that you will strive to uphold our high standards in every aspect of your life, remembering that you forever carry our letters upon your chest.

"I now ask that Brother *(name of chaplain)*, as Chaplain, please lead us in prayer."

CHAPLAIN: "Please assume an attitude of prayer." *The Chaplain offers the prayer.*

PRESIDENT: "Brother *(name of brother)*, your marriage, through good times and bad, will reflect not only upon you, but also upon your brothers in FarmHouse. Those preceding you have built a reputation for character and maturity of which we are proud. I charge you to be fully aware of the challenge presented to you in FarmHouse and its brotherhood. May you forever be a guiding light to all members of FarmHouse, current and future, and to your community of how to be a respectful husband, father, and community member. Thus, giving freely and generously of yourself you will ensure that the whole FarmHouse program, as envisioned by our Founders, shall be enhanced.

"Men of FarmHouse, please join me in congratulating Brother *(name of brother)* on his engagement!

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Celebration: Honor Society Induction

INTRODUCTION

The following Rituals intended for use in honoring a brother who has been inducted into a major Honor Society within the campus or city community. The Ritual shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have a favorable mental attitude.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the Chaplain's prayer which closes the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

The Chaplain offers prayer ending the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "Mr. President, before we continue with the regular business of our weekly chapter meeting, may we please recognize a brother for his outstanding achievements."

PRESIDENT: "Mr. Director of Administration, for whom deserves our recognition?"

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "It is my pleasure to announce that Brother (name of brother being recognized) has been inducted into (title of honor society). We are reminded many times through Ritual of our Fraternity that every action, thought, word and deed speaks to our Fraternity and Brother (name of brother being recognized) offers a positive illustration of the ideals which our Fraternity promotes.

"Brother (name of brother being recognized) was selected into the society because is fulfills the set requirements and is worthy of induction. The (title of honor society) is known for/as (insert a prepared description of the honor society).

"Brother (name of brother being recognized), let us all first and foremost congratulate you. We are proud to have you amongst our Brotherhood. Thank you for taking the name of our Fraternity and promoting it in a positive way.

"We hope that you will continue to exude the qualities of which your membership into (title of honor society) is based upon and offer to us the lessons you will learn as a member of (title of honor society).

PRESIDENT: "Brother (name of Chaplain), as Chaplain of our Chapter, will you please help celebrate the membership into (title of honor society) of our Brother?"

CHAPLAIN: "Brothers, please assume an attitude of prayer."

(Chaplain offers prayer as directed.)

PRESIDENT: "Men of FarmHouse, please help me recognize Brother (name of brother being recognized), the new (title of leadership role obtained)."

All applaud.

Should more than one brother be inducted into the same honor society, it is suggested that all Brothers be honored simultaneously.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Written and Prescribed Ritual Fraternal Celebration: External Honor

INTRODUCTION

The following Ritual is intended for use in honoring a brother who received a notable honor external to the chapter – or – to recognize the chapter as a whole for their outstanding accomplishments. The Ritual shall be planned so that the candidates are rested and have a favorable mental attitude.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the Chaplain's prayer which closes the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

This Ritual is written to honor an individual or chapter as a whole, please note such as you prepare prior to the ceremony and make notes as required.

An asterisk (*) marks the sound of the President's gavel.

RITUAL

The Chaplain offers prayer ending the Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "Mr. President, before we continue with the regular business of our weekly chapter meeting, may we please recognize a brother/our chapter for his/our recent accomplishments and honors."

PRESIDENT: "Mr. Director of Administration, for whom deserves our recognition/for what does the chapter deserve recognition?"

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: "It is my pleasure to announce that Brother (*name of brother being recognized*)/ our chapter has received the honor of (*name of honor*). We are reminded many times through Ritual of our Fraternity that every action, thought, word and deed speaks to our Fraternity and such honor offers a positive illustration of the ideals which our Fraternity promotes. You have worked hard to receive this recognition.

He will go on to explain the honor being placed, and what the chapter has done to achieve such honor.

"Brother (*name of brother being recognized*), let us all first and foremost congratulate you. We are proud to have you amongst our Brotherhood. Thank you for taking the name of our Fraternity and promoting it in a positive way.

"Brother/Brothers, I hope you will accept this honor with humility. Even as you/we accomplish this, just imagine what you/we can continue to achieve. This organization has had an impact on thousands of people. May our contributions have no limit to who we reach. Enjoy this time of celebration and seek the next step. Appreciate the honor, then continue to move forward! In our Initiation Ceremony, we are charged with making our organization better. It states, "No greater satisfaction can come to a man than the observation of success on the part of those he has helped.

"1 Corinthians 3:10 says "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it."

PRESIDENT: Members, please join me in celebrating Brother (*name of brother being honored*)/our accomplishment!
All applaud.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

FarmHouse Fraternity has long designated itself, as the motto suggests, the Builder of Men. It is the belief of the Fraternity that a man is built holistically through intentional development in four concentrations: intellectually, spiritually, socially and morally, and physically. For this reason, FarmHouse Fraternity offers the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative is directed by Ritual. It is believed that men who bear a connection to our organization work daily to uphold the ideals and objectives of our Fraternity, earning the title of member. The following prescribed Ritual outlines an intentional pathway for membership encouraging affiliated brothers to celebrate, discuss, actively practice, and become more knowledgeable of our Fraternity Ritual as it relates to daily life.

Studies have been added to the Ritual Handbook to further promote the belief that the FarmHouse Fraternity and the Rituals we, as members, practice promote the ideals of building men. By honoring, becoming knowledgeable of, and properly engaging in discussion about the Rituals of our Fraternity, we may better serve the intentions outlined by our founding.

The studies on Further Affirmations are outlined in the form of discussion questions. Each is designed so that an individual may read the study to gain insight on the meaning of the Ritual, but also so that (and perhaps more appropriately) a group of brother's may engage in healthy discussion about the Ritual they will or have recently performed. It is commonly known that a chapter whose membership frequently and actively performs and studies their Ritual is a healthier and more successful chapter.

In general, the following should be noted in reference to the Ritual in its entirety:

- The first formal Ritual of the National Fraternity was suggested at by the Ritual Committee of the 1958 Conclave. This Ritual Review Committee, the first Ritual Committee ever formed at a FarmHouse Conclave, comprised of undergraduate and alumni brothers, offered the "Ritual for Formal Initiation." Their work was revised by the Ritual Review Committee of the 1964 Conclave and was adopted for use in the chapters by action of the delegates to the 1964 Conclave held in East Lansing, Michigan. All Further Affirmations were drafted and presented by the 2006 Conclave Ritual Review Committee as part of the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. Although individual chapters may have offered ritualistic pieces for those topics covered by Further Affirmations, until 2006 nothing like the Further Affirmations (except the House Mother/Resident Advisor Dedication with was included as a result of the 1964 Ritual Review) were prescribed by the International Fraternity. These Further Affirmations are added so that members may experience how the Fraternity's motto, "Builder of Men," is daily a part of the lives of FarmHouse Men and the Fraternity.
- All Bible quotations have come from the Revised Standard Version. Previous to the 1998 Conclave in Washington D.C., all verses were taken from the Old Testament.

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation/Weekly Individual Builder of Men Affirmation

The Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation helps to encourage members to think beyond themselves as they enter the chapter meeting and better understand the importance of the decisions they will make within the chapter meeting, thus the Object is recited in unison in hopes brothers will reflect on why and how the Fraternity exists. To close the meeting the reflection is turned by each member on himself as a charge to action. The Fraternity, a compilation of individuals, is only as strong as its current membership and the Weekly Individual Builder of Men Affirmation closes with a perfect summary of the desires of the perfect FarmHouse mind, "The Builder of Men Creed."

What attitude should be observed by members during chapter meeting?

How often to you truly listen to and think about the words of the Object as you recite them?

If every member was just like you, what kind of FarmHouse would this be?

What are you going to do this week to make FarmHouse stronger and more in line with its objectives?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Builder of Men Week

The Builder of Men Week was originally presented as part of New Member Education resources by the International Fraternity. The structure is offered to allow for concentration, celebration, education, and greater understanding.

Why is it important that we take a week to observe the standards and objectives of the Fraternity prior to Imminent Membership?

What is the role of a Chapter Member in the Builder of Men Week?

What would make this week even more meaningful to the chapter and its members?...What is keeping us from making that a reality?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Leadership Dedication

FarmHouse has been blessed by successful leaders on the undergraduate level many times – brothers who honor and respect their role and act accordingly. This ceremony is offered in hopes that all leaders fully understand their role and the scope of their responsibility to ensure continued successful leadership.

What makes a good FarmHouse leader?

What makes a good FarmHouse member?

Why are both leaders and members important?

How does this Ritual demonstrate the ideals of FarmHouse Fraternity?...Did you learn anything new about the Fraternity by observing this ceremony?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Housemother/Resident Advisor Dedication

Housemothers/Resident Advisors have long been a valuable part of FarmHouse Fraternity. Though not every chapter has such roles assigned within their local group, many do. These people act in a multitude of roles from mentor and advisor, to college mother/father, to friend, to chapter educator and historian, to chapter security guard, to cook, to personal seamstress. The stories of Housemothers/Resident Advisors add much color to the history of many of our chapters and the relationship between such advisor and the Fraternity should be taken very seriously.

You will notice many similarities between this Ritual and the Rites of Membership. Why do you think you notice such similarities? How could you chapter benefit/better benefit from a Housemother/Resident Advisor?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Alumni Leadership Dedication

Membership within the Fraternity is life-long and thus a commitment to life-long fraternal service is expected of each man initiated as a FarmHouse brother. Throughout their lives, men will serve in different ways. Some may donate expertise by volunteering their professional services. Some may provide financial resources to help fund FarmHouse programming. Still others offer themselves as service-leaders advising our chapters and directing or associations. This Ritual was designed to properly call these men to service.

Why do you think alumni often find it hard to serve in a chapter/association leadership role?

How can we as undergraduates better utilize our alumni leaders?

What do you feel is the most important aspect of alumni leadership and service?...How do you benefit from alumni leadership and service?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Eternal Membership Celebration/Memorial Celebration

There is no greater a celebration than the celebration of life. This Ritual was designed to honor a bond – a bond made possible by our Fraternity and thus transcends generations, backgrounds, professions and areas of study. As the Ritual reads, the objectives of our Fraternity tie each of us to one another. It is important to remember that this Ritual is not solely a celebration of the deceased brother's membership in FarmHouse nor is it recognition of the roles the brother filled, nor acknowledgement of the gifts the brother gave to the Fraternity. Rather, celebration is a celebration of the brother's life – all aspects of his life. Over and over again within the Ritual, we are told that every action, word, thought and deed reflect upon the Fraternity and with this we must recognize that the brother honored daily served and gave to the Fraternity as his bond, and membership was ever present.

How can we find comfort, as the Ritual suggests, in knowing the deceased brother has been built as a man?

The ceremony may be the first ceremony the deceased brother has been honored by in many years. Why do you feel brothers or their families still request the Fraternity celebrates with this Ritual?

Does this Ritual cause you to hear the reading of the Object in a different light?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Celebration: Campus/Community Leadership

Leadership external to the chapter is crucial to building a healthy chapter. This form of leadership promotes the chapter and Fraternity, provides insight into campus and community events and organizations, and offers to the chapter an additional example of leadership in a unique form. Each brother should seek an arena in which to serve and lead. As our Founders illustrated, leadership builds men.

Why do you think it is important that we recognize brothers for their leadership even when that leadership is not FarmHouse related?

Why is the idea of service so important in defining leadership?

What leadership role on campus or within in the community is of interest to you?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Celebration: Lavaliering

We, as brothers, know that each major life event of a member of our organization is also a major event in the life of the Fraternity. In order for a brother to properly support the Fraternity and his commitments to the Fraternity, he must feel supported by the Fraternity. Our Ritual calls us to hold brothers accountable, support them and challenge them. This Ritual is an example of how we can publicly offer ourselves to our brothers in such ways.

Why do you think it is important that we recognize the lavaliering of?

How can this Ritual be seen as a call to each brother to hold the recognized brother accountable?

What can you do to support the relationship honored today?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Celebration: Engagement/Marriage

This Ritual was crafted to allow the Fraternity and its members a proper way to celebrate one of the biggest milestones in a brother's life. Engagement and Marriage marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of a brother, much like his initiation into the Fraternity and for this reason, the Ritual mimics part of The Pearls Ceremony.

Why is it important that we celebrate the engagement/marriage of our brothers?

Did this Ritual offer insight into you current relationships or cause you to reflect on past relationships?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Celebration: Honor Society Induction

Honor Societies exist for many of the same reasons fraternities do and carry many of the qualities of fraternal organizations. A brother's membership into an Honor Society promotes the quality of men whom are affiliated with our FarmHouse and allows the Fraternity yet another connection to a campus or community organization and their events.

Why is it important that we celebrate, as a brotherhood, the induction of a brother into an Honor Society?

What similarities and differences to you see between a fraternity or Greek-lettered organization and an Honor Society?

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

Study on Further Affirmations

Fraternal Celebration: External Honor

External Honor obviously reflects positively on the Fraternity and for this reason we take time to celebrate them. However, our celebration is also due to the knowledge that external honors are a reflection that the chapter is building men successfully. Daily we should seek things noble and higher we are told – honors recognize men who do this best.

Why is it important that we celebrate honors and recognition?

What is a recognition you would like to receive on campus or in our community?

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYMBOLS, COAT OF ARMS, THE BADGE, AND THE STRUCTURE

The Symbols of FarmHouse Fraternity

The Fraternity Symbols”

<u>Symbols</u>	Colors:	Green - Spring Gold - Autumn White - Winter
	Flower:	Red & White Roses in equal number

Jewelry



Pledge Badge



Standard Badge



Standard Badge
(Jeweled)



Recognition Pin

The badge (standard or jeweled) is customarily worn "over the heart" on the left side of the chest, at an angle (left to right) approximately one inch up from the pocket corner. Traditionally it is worn only on collared shirts, sweaters, or vests. Though not preferred, it is acceptable to be worn on jacket lapels. The Badge should be worn for on formal occasions or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event.

The recognition pin is customarily worn on jacket lapels. It may also be worn "over the heart" on the left side of the chest on collar shirts, sweaters or vests similarly as the standard badge. The recognition pin may be worn for formal occasion or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event as the standard badge. The recognition pin may also be worn when the wearer wishes to show visible affiliation to the Fraternity, for example at times such as a job interview, a wedding, a funeral, or university/community event.

Both the standard badge and the recognition pin may be worn at the same time, but never on the same garment. For example, a recognition pin may be worn on the suit lapel while the badge is worn under the suit jacket on the collar shirt. However, it is unacceptable to wear both the recognition pin and the standard badge on the same garment. For example, the recognition pin and the standard badge may not be worn on together on a collar shirt.

A letter guard and officer dangles may be worn with either the badge or the recognition pin, following the same rules as the pin the guard hangs from. The letter guard always hangs to the wearer's left of the badge/pin and slightly lower. Only offices held by the wearer should be represented with officer dangles.

The pledge badge is to be worn only at times of which it would be appropriate to wear the recognition pin or standard badge. Customarily the pledge badge is worn on jacket lapels. It may also be worn "over the heart" on the left side of the chest on collar shirts, sweaters or vests similarly as the badge. The pledge badge may be worn for formal occasion or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event like the badge. The pledge pin may also be worn when the wearer wishes to show visible affiliation to the Fraternity, for example at times such as a job interview, a wedding, a funeral, or university/community event. Wearers of the pledge badge should take cues as to when to wear the pledge badge from those wearing the standard badge or recognition badge – If a brother wearing the standard badge

or recognition pin is wearing his pin, the pledge pin should be worn. However, if a brother carrying the standard badge or recognition pin is not wearing his pin, it is not appropriate for the pledge pin to be worn.

The Fraternity pin or badge should always be the highest pin or marking displayed on the left breast of the wearer. A university, community, or honorary pin may be worn, but all of these should be worn lower than any Fraternity pin or badge.

Flag

The Fraternity adopted an official flag in 1950. The flag is divided diagonally from upper left to lower right. The lower left field is a medium green and the upper right field is white. The letters "FH" are in a medium gold pigment on the green field of the flag. The Fraternity coat of arms (black detail on a white background) is on the white field of the flag.



It is appropriate to display the Fraternity flag only at any times and only under any conditions it is appropriate to display the national flag. For example, the flag should only be displayed at night if illuminated, should not be displayed in the rain, should never hang low enough to become tattered or torn and should never be flown when in less than flawless condition. The Fraternity flag should hang under the country flag when the pole from which it is hanging is tall and sturdy enough or should be hung to the right of the country flag, slightly lower.

The Herd Book

During the Ritual of Initiation each new FarmHouse initiate enters his name and signature into the Chapter Herd Book which remains part of the chapter permanent files. In it are recorded the campus activities, achievements, scholastic honors, awards, professional/career accomplishments, family information and other data as members progress through college and later life. Although the chapter's Director of Administration is responsible for the overall management of the Herd Book, it is the responsibility of the individual member to keep his record current.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYMBOLS, COAT OF ARMS, THE BADGE, AND THE STRUCTURE

The Coat of Arms of FarmHouse Fraternity

Simplified Study



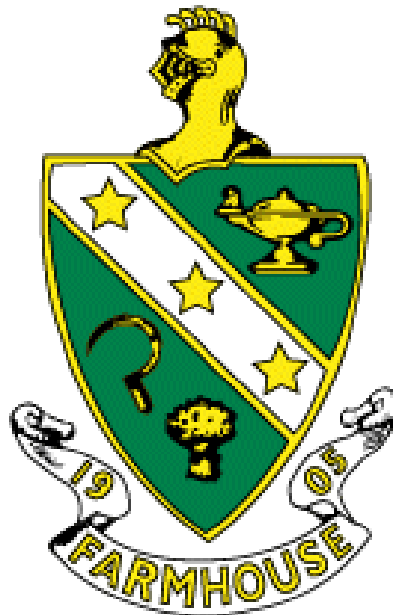
Knights Shield	Protection
The <i>White</i> of the diagonal band	Worthiness, Innocence, Purity of ambitions -and- the best in Manhood
Diagonal Band	Noble Goals of worthy Manhood
Three Gold Stars	Three Great Attributes of Fraternity - Loyalty, Helpfulness, Pride
Lamp of Learning, Flamed Sickle	Everlasting Ambitions in Scholarship Hard Labor necessary to achieve success "As ye sow, so shall ye reap."
Sheaf of Wheat	Husband the fruits of one's accomplishments with prudence & intelligence
Crest/Esquire's Helmet	Reminder for members to conduct themselves as gentlemen

Formal Study

There are two parts to every properly designed and created coat of arms, or armorial bearings:

1. The physical or graphic representation is known as the emblazonment.
2. The technical heraldic description is known as the blazon.

Emblazonment of the FarmHouse Armorial Bearings



The Coat of Arms, or Armorial Bearings

Blazon of the FarmHouse Armorial Bearings

<i>Arms</i>	Vert, three mullets or on a bend argent between in chief a lamp of learning, flamed, and in base a sickle above a sheaf of wheat bendwise, all of the second.
<i>Crest</i>	An esquire's helmet, proper.
<i>Motto</i>	On a scroll beneath the escutcheon, the name FARMHOUSE in majuscules flanked by a divided year date, 1905.

Explanation of words and phrases of the Blazon with suggested symbols

<i>Arms</i>	designated the escutcheon or shield. As the knight's shield was used to defend his body, so the shield in this coat of arms stands for the protection which the Fraternity affords all within its bonds through its strength, reputation and activities.
<i>Vert</i>	is the heraldic word for green. It is one of the three colors of FarmHouse and stands for growing vegetation. Its deeper meaning is the cycle of plant life so necessary to the sustenance and existence of mankind. The green shield should inspire every initiate to the pride in his interest of the high calling of agriculture.
<i>Three Mullets, or</i>	is a phrase designating the five-pointed stars of gold which appear on the bend (or diagonal, white band). These three golden stars symbolize the three great attributes of fraternity love and esteem; namely loyalty, helpfulness (and generosity) and pride in efforts and accomplishments. OR is the heraldic term for gold, the second color of the Fraternity and the second mentioned in the blazon. It designates that the three mullets are gold. Gold, long esteemed as the most precious of metals, symbolizes that the meaning of the stars has great significance to the members.
<i>On a bend argent</i>	is a phrase describing the diagonal white or silver bend or band occupying approximately one-third area of the shield, upon which the three mullets are placed as principal charges. Argent is white or silver, the third color of FarmHouse. It stands for purity, innocence and worthiness of ambitions of members and "The Best in Manhood" as the aspirations and objectives of the Fraternity. The bend itself symbolizes the noble goals of FarmHouse in pointing the way to worthy manhood for its members.
<i>Between</i>	is a preposition indicating that the bend is flanked by other charges to be described.
<i>In chief</i>	is that area of the escutcheon at the top of the shield. Important charges are placed here because the shield protected the head and other vital parts of the knight.
<i>Lamp of learning</i>	is the traditional symbol for ambitions in scholarship. FarmHouse stands foursquare on cooperation with the college administration for excellence in teaching and does its best to inspire and encourage members to excel in learning.
<i>Flamed</i>	Flame symbolizes an everlasting effort to increase one's knowledge and efficiency in the field of endeavors.
<i>In base</i>	designates the lower third of the escutcheon. Here are shown basic tools and symbols of one's main interests.
<i>Sickle above a sheaf of wheat</i>	is a term describing the old tool of harvest and the tradition of shocking grain as protection from the elements until it could be transported, thrashed, separated and stored. These two symbols teach "As ye sow, so shall ye reap", and the sickle stands for hard labor necessary to achieve

success. The shock of wheat symbolizes the need to husband the fruits of one's accomplishments with prudence and intelligence.

Bendwise merely designates their position as diagonal, one above the other, as labor and disciplines necessary to achieve success.

All of the second is a phrase instituted by heralds to designate a color and avoid repetition. The second color mentioned is "or" (gold) and so the lamp, sickle and sheaf are of gold. Gold color is used to emphasize their importance as symbols of the Fraternity.

Crest is that part of the coat of arms which lies above the escutcheon.

An esquire's
Helmet is displayed to constantly remind members to ever conduct themselves as gentlemen according to the code of good manners and social customs.

Proper means in natural coloration.

Motto the name, FarmHouse, between a divided year date, 1905, appears on the scroll ribbon below the escutcheon. Lettering is in majuscules (capitals).

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYMBOLS, COAT OF ARMS, THE BADGE, AND THE STRUCTURE

The Badge of FarmHouse Fraternity



Standard Badge



**Standard Badge
(Jeweled)**

The Badge has the shape of a Shield, and the member should cherish it as the knights of old did their shields. In no way should any act be performed, or any word spoken, that would bring disgrace upon the wearer, or upon the members of the brotherhood.

The Star stands for excelsior - a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing. It should be a star of hope - a guiding star to the wearer.

The Crescent is an emblem of continued and ever-increasing growth and development. Its color, black, signifies fidelity to the principles of this Fraternity.

The Pearls stand for purity in thought, word, and action. A clean mind and high sense of morality are important traits of a FarmHouse member.

The Rubies signify the lifeblood of the organization, and they should prompt you to a proper attitude toward your brothers, to give assistance wherever possible, to praise for commendable deeds, and to offer constructive criticism for improper and ungentlemanly conduct.

The badge (standard or jeweled) is customarily worn "over the heart" on the left side of the chest, at an angle (left to right) approximately one inch up from the pocket corner. Traditionally it is worn only on collared shirts, sweaters, or vests. Though not preferred, it is acceptable to be worn on jacket lapels. Please see the previous section on Jewelry (Description of The Symbols, Coat of Arms, The Badge, and The Structure: The Symbols of FarmHouse Fraternity) for information on proper bearing of the other Fraternity pins.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYMBOLS, COAT OF ARMS, THE BADGE, AND THE STRUCTURE

The Structure of FarmHouse Fraternity

The <u>Motto</u> of FarmHouse Fraternity:	Builder of Men
The <u>Objective</u> :	Building the Whole Man Intellectually Spiritually Socially & Morally Physically
The <u>Central Attributes</u> of FarmHouse:	Leadership Scholarship Fellowship
<u>Categories</u> of Members:	Prospective (New Member) Chapter (Active) Alumnus Associate Honorary
The <u>Organization</u> of FarmHouse:	...As a Brotherhood ...As a Self-Governing Body ...As a Business
The FarmHouse <u>Associations</u> :	Main Purpose - Advising & Chapter Housing Members - Chapter, Alumni, Associate, and Honorary
<u>Chapter Advisory Committee</u> :	Chapter selects at least 3 individuals, preferably who are alumni, associate, honorary members and/or faculty members, to advise the chapter.
<u>FarmHouse Foundation</u> :	Agency to administer funds entrusted to it for purposes of scholarships, student aid, and loans and grants for better housing. Governed by the Board of Trustees.

FRATERNAL HONORS

Awards and Honors of FarmHouse Fraternity: The Doane Award

Established in 1947 by founder, D. Howard Doane, The Doane Award is given to the outstanding senior of each chapter who is considered by his peers to have contributed the most to his chapter and his brothers. This is the only international award given to individual chapter members.

The Purpose

The purpose of the Doane Award is to recognize appropriately those FarmHouse men who by their deeds put living reality in the Fraternity's major objective -- FarmHouse, Builder of Men.

The adoption of a slogan means little if it does not go beyond the coining of words. When a student decides to attend a university, he undertakes a program of self-improvement. A FarmHouse man goes farther for he knows that he who gives most, gains most.

Man-building does not imply rebirth or conversion. It is simply a helpful word here, a constructive suggestion there, and a bit of encouragement to the one who finds the going a bit tough. Two thousand years ago a humble carpenter set the pattern for building men. Man's greatest gift to man is his willingness to give and, if necessary, sacrifice his life for his brothers.

Monuments are built throughout our land to honor those who have, under the stress of war and the heat of battle, offered their lives to help and save others. In contrast, this plaque will find a modest place in the corner of a room in a fraternity house. On it the names of those men, who have offered something of themselves to help others along with the quiet paths of everyday living, will be engraved. It will never become a monument to public heroes, but it will record the same spirit and motives that make heroes.

D. Howard Doane

The Plan

At the beginning of every school year, the president of the FarmHouse association will appoint from the membership three alumni members to serve on the Doane Award Committee. These men will be responsible for reviewing all recommendations and for selecting the winner of the award.

Early in February a member of this committee will visit the chapter house, asking each man to retire to his room to prepare a formal statement concerning the senior he believes has done the most in building, serving and influencing to the good, his brothers in FarmHouse and his associates on the campus.

Each senior is considered on the following qualifications:

1. Influence for good
2. Moral and religious conduct
3. Sacrifices
4. Honesty
5. Conduct of business affairs
6. Scholarship
7. Activities

All statements are collected before the committee member leaves the chapter house. The committee cannot accept any statement not delivered at that time.

The committee makes its selection of a winner and prepares a written record of facts and deeds, which is placed together with his picture in the Doane Award Book of Record. His name and year of graduation are engraved on the permanent plaque.

This selection is kept secret by the committee and presentation of the award is made on Founders= Day. If there is no senior considered worthy in the opinion of the committee, it may decline to make the award. In very exceptional cases a second award may be made or honorable mention given.

FRATERNAL HONORS

Awards and Honors of FarmHouse Fraternity: The Snyder Award

The Darl E. Snyder Award was established at the 1970 Conclave from a proposal by the Kentucky Chapter which felt that a means of recognizing the significant contributions made by alumni members of the Fraternity was needed: AWhile serving the Fraternity as national executive secretary for some ten years, Darl E. Snyder lived a life which was always exemplary of FarmHouse ideals. Indeed FarmHouse owes much of its strength and progress to the efforts of this man.@"

The Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize those associate and alumni members who, by their deeds, have contributed to the growth and development of the Fraternity. It is intended to honor those men who have given of themselves so that the ideals of FarmHouse would become stronger and attain a meaning beyond that of mere words.

FarmHouse is first and foremost dedicated to the building of men. Some men never forget this principle and try to remain as close to the Fraternity as they can after graduation. These are the men who are concerned about the welfare of FarmHouse and its members. Their work, experience, counsel and unselfishness is invaluable in helping FarmHouse towards the achievement of its highest goals. It is to these men, who strive for excellence both in FarmHouse and in their own lives, that this award is dedicated.

The Plan

The Chapter Executive Committee shall be responsible for appointing a selection committee of three chapter members. This committee shall have the responsibility of obtaining nominations and selecting the recipient of the award. Nominations shall be submitted in the form of written letters which set forth the qualifications of the nominee. Any member of the local association shall be eligible to make a nomination for this award. Nominations from the chapter members shall be accepted at the same time that the nominations for the Doane Award are made. The time of acceptance of nominations from the alumni members shall be decided by the selection committee.

Having collected the nominating statements, the committee shall consider each man with regard to the following criteria:

1. Sacrifices
2. Moral and religious conduct
3. Community activities
4. Contributions of his profession
5. Interest in the chapter
6. Contributions to FarmHouse

All members of the local association, excluding chapter members, shall be eligible for this award. However, any person who is a recipient of this award shall not become eligible again for a period of at least five years.

The Committee shall keep its decision secret until Founder=s Day when the recipient is presented the award.

After the decision is made, all records used to evaluate the nominees shall be destroyed.

If the committee feels that no individual is worthy of the award, they may decline to make the award that year. In extremely exceptional cases, they may make the award to two people.

FRATERNAL HONORS

Awards and Honors of FarmHouse Fraternity: The Skinner Award

The Joan AChad@ Skinner Memorial Award was established by the International Executive Board in 1983 from a proposal by Robert L. Skinner. The award is to be a means of recognizing and honoring those women who unselfishly give of their time, talents, and love to further enhance the objectives and ideals of FarmHouse. Mr. Skinner=s proposal was based on his recognition and appreciation for the encouragement and support by his wife during his leadership service to FarmHouse.

The Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize those women who, by their acts, have contributed to the growth and development of the Fraternity. It is intended to honor those women who have given of themselves so that the ideals of FarmHouse would become stronger and attain a meaning beyond that of mere words.

The Plan

The Chapter Executive Committee shall be responsible for appointing a selection committee of three chapter members. This committee shall have the responsibility of obtaining nominations and selecting the recipient of the award.

Nominations shall be submitted in the form of written letters which set forth the qualifications of the nominee. Any member of the local chapter/association shall be eligible to make a nomination for this award. Nominations from the chapter members shall be accepted at the same time that nominations for the Doane Award are made. The time of acceptance of nomination from the alumni members shall be decided by the selection committee.

Having collected the nominating statements, the committee shall consider each woman with regard to the following criteria:

1. Exemplified gracious living
2. Sacrifices
3. Moral and ethical character
4. Interest in the chapter
5. Contributions toward the well-being of the International Fraternity.

The recipient may be a housemother, cook, wife, sister, sweetheart and other deserving women. No initiated member shall be an eligible recipient. Any person who is a recipient of this Award shall not become eligible again for a period of five years. There shall be no obligation to grant an award in the event no applicant is deemed deserving by the selection committee.

The Committee shall keep its decision secret until the recipient is presented the Award. After the decision is made, all records used to evaluate the nominee shall be destroyed.

The International Board may also select worthy individuals for the award, in particular women who have helped further the mission and objectives of the Fraternity by contributing to the growth and development of the Fraternity, yet are not closely involved with a local chapter. The recipients will be recognized at the biennial Conclave.

FRATERNAL HONORS

Awards and Honors of FarmHouse Fraternity: Friend of FarmHouse Award

The Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor individuals, families, firms, corporations, organizations or others who have demonstrated a special friendship to any member, chapter, association, foundation or the FarmHouse International Fraternity.

The Plan

Any FarmHouse chapter, association, foundation or FarmHouse International Fraternity may grant this award at the time and place of its choosing based on the following criteria:

1. The recipient of this award must have made a significant contribution to a chapter, association, foundation or FarmHouse International Fraternity.
2. This presentation must bring honor to both the recipient and the Fraternity.
3. The recipient must understand and respect THE OBJECT of FarmHouse International Fraternity.
4. Any person, chapter, association, foundation or FarmHouse International may make a nomination for this award. The organization receiving the nomination (chapter, association, foundation or FarmHouse International) shall make the decision regarding the nominee.
5. There are no limits to the number of Friend of FarmHouse Awards that may be presented by a chapter, association, foundation or FarmHouse International annually.
6. The nominating organization is responsible for ordering and covering the certificate/plaguing fees and any other costs associated with presenting the Friend of FarmHouse Award.
7. While most awards will be presented at the local level, the International Board, Foundation Board of Trustees and (if applicable) host Conclave chapter/association/foundation will be eligible to present the award at Conclave to a limited number of recipients.

The Object

The Object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness, and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step; the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times and every member shall be honest with himself as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts.

COLLECTION OF TABLE GRACES, HYMNS AND RITUAL SONGS

Singing has been a long time tradition of many fraternities, but especially FarmHouse Fraternity. As one of the ultimate symbols of brotherhood, there is rarely a time when you will see FarmHouse men not enjoying joining their brothers in song. These songs have special and sentimental meaning to hundreds of FarmHouse brother across the country and for that reason a selection of FarmHouse songs are included in this Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. Here you will find selected table graces and hymns as well as Ritual songs, most of which have been reference or suggested for use within the Ritual or Ritual study. A complete FarmHouse Fraternity Songbook is produce by the International Office and is available on the FarmHouse International website. Sing on, Brothers!

FarmHouse Fraternity Table Graces and Hymns

Be Present - The FarmHouse Blessing (The Doxology)

(Tune: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, submitted by the Nebraska chapter)

Be present at our table Lord
Be here and everywhere adored
Thy mercies bless and grant that we
May feast and fellowship with thee.

Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Lord, We Thank Thee for Our Brothers (Dinner blessing)

Lord, we thank thee for our brothers
Keeping faith with us and thee
Joining heart to heart with others
Making strong our company
With the Cross our only standard
Let us sing with one great voice.
Glory, glory, Thine the Kingdom
Churches in thy Church rejoice.

The Johnny Appleseed Blessing (Dinner Blessing)

Oh, the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun, and the rain, and the appleseed ("Fraternity")
The Lord is good to me
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

We Gather Together (Dinner Blessing)

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing
He chastens and hastens his will to make known
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining
Ordaining, maintaining, his kingdom divine
So from the beginning the fight we were winning
Thou Lord were at our side, all glory be thine

We all do extol you, our leader triumphant
And pray that you still our defender will be
Let your congregation escape tribulation
Your name be ever praised, O Lord, keep us free

Come, You Thankful Brothers (Dinner Blessing)

Come, you thankful brothers, come
Raise the song of gratitude
We are safely gathered in
Let the fellowship begin.

God, our maker does provide
For our wants to be supplied
Come partake God's blessings true
Raise song of gratitude

A Brotherly Band

(written by Russell Frost, Wisconsin-Madison Chapter)

FarmHouse, FarmHouse, we will glorify thy name.
Together we'll stand a brotherly band
Firmly united throughout the land.
FarmHouse, FarmHouse, we will glorify thy name.

FarmHouse Hymn

(Written by Ray Dankenbring, Iowa State Chapter)

One day when we're reminiscing, our thoughts will return to thee
To all our brothers, friends and all the others
Of FarmHouse our Fraternity

We may be scattered far and wide
And the ties of friendship may grow thin, you'll see
But we'll strengthen our connection by fondest recollection
Of FarmHouse our Fraternity.

If what we hope to be is commendable
Then the things we're built on are extendible
To all our brothers, friends and all the others
Of FarmHouse our Fraternity

So before we part to face the world
Let's raise our hearts like flags unfurled
And give tongues to our thoughts and meanings to our prayers
For all those who may be

Our future brothers, friends and all the others
Of FarmHouse our Fraternity

FarmHouse Fraternity Ritual Songs

The Bells of Old FarmHouse

(Tune: The Bells of St. Mary's, submitted by the Iowa State Chapter)

The bells of old FarmHouse
Ah! Hear, they are calling
For good men, for true men
With love for our home.

And so to your bretheren
For whom they are calling
The FarmHouse bells ring out, ring out
Though far you roam

Brothers in FarmHouse

(Tune: Moonlight and Roses)

Brothers in FarmHouse
In fellowship we meet today
Strong are the friendships
Which bind us along life's way

Mem'ries shall linger
Of happy hours passed here with you
May all our fond dreams,
My brothers, come true

Band of Brothers

As a band of brothers joined, one in heart and one in mind, Peace and safety we shall find.

FarmHouse Sweetheart Song

(Written by Jack Ross, Dorsey Barnes, Herb Johnson; Nebraska Chapter)

Note: Brothers traditionally sing this to the bride of a FarmHouse brother at wedding receptions, at the crowning of a new FarmHouse Sweetheart, and other applicable times.

There's a spot in my heart that I'm keeping
For my FarmHouse memories,
Where fond mem'ries shall ever be lingring
With dreams of my FarmHouse Sweetheart

Sometimes when I am dreaming my FarmHouse sweetheart I see
Tender eyes seem to be beaming out of the skies at me
Her lips, they seem to be smiling, smiling alone for me
She whispers of love, Oh so tender and true
My dream girl, I love just you.
My dream girl, I love just you.

With This Pin

(Submitted by the Idaho chapter)

With this pin I place before you
Goes a heart so true
Oh, my darling, I adore you
Say you love me too

You're the one, the only one
I'd ever hope to win
So show them all you're mine by wearing
My fraternity pin

Since the time that I first met you
At the (Event he met her)
I knew I would never forget you
Knew I'd found romance

You're a jewel, the girl in school
I'd ever hope to win
So Show you're mine by wearing
My fraternity pin

Now He's Pinned

(Sung at pinning announcements, celebrations, etc, submitted by the Purdue chapter)

Now he's pinned, yes he's pinned, never be the same again
Another FarmHouse Man is pinned again
Raise a glass, drink a toast, of our brother we will boast
And of his newfound FarmHouse sweetheart

So here's to (Name of brother)
He's FarmHouse through and through
We'll drink one more just to him
And here's to (name of girl), the girl he chose to pin.
The Pearls and Rubies to you - HOW 'BOUT THAT KISS?!
(Chant: "Kiss, kiss, kiss, kiss..." until she kisses him)

Consider Yourself (One of us)

Submitted by North Dakota State

Consider yourself at home
Consider yourself part of the family
We've taken to you, so strong
It's clear, we're going to get along.
Consider yourself well in
Consider yourself part of the furniture
There isn't a lot, to spare
Who cares, whatever we have we share.

If the chance should be we should see
Some harder days, empty days
Why grouse, WHY GROUSE?
Always the chance they'll be somebody
Who can foot the bill
And the drinks are on the house... More Milk!
Consider yourself our
We don't want to have no fuss
For after some consideration we can say
Consider yourself; consider yourself, one of us!

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Activation: Ritual and programming prior to the implementation of the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative and the Ritual produced in such used the word "activation" synonymous with initiation. However, the proper term today for the Ritual formally conferring membership into the brotherhood, or The Peals Ceremony, is initiation.

Active: An outdated term used to describe a brother of the Fraternity or a fully initiated member.

Alumni Membership: One of the five categories of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Rubies Ceremony confers Alumni Membership.

According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, Alumni members' status is conferred by the International Executive Director. It is routinely conferred upon a chapter member when he is reported by his chapter secretary as having: (1) satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which he was a candidate at the time of his initiation; or (2) satisfactorily completed four academic years of credit and having been enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a professional school that requires more than four years of study. A chapter, by two-thirds vote with unanimous approval of its Advisory Committee, may request the International Executive Director to grant alumni status to a chapter member who: (1) has found it necessary to withdraw from school before completing normal requirements for the baccalaureate degree or its equivalent; or (2) has transferred to another educational institution; or (3) has been enrolled in a professional school; or (4) has found it necessary to enroll for a fifth year in order to complete graduation requirements in his curriculum; or (5) has married; or (6) has proven extenuating circumstances and requested alumni status.

Associate Membership: One of the five categories of membership on FarmHouse Fraternity. The Pearls Ceremony confers Alumni Membership.

According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, Associate Membership is conferred by the local chapter. It may be conferred upon any man who: has attained a baccalaureate or higher degree or in engaged in an occupation other than student; demonstrates the qualities of character, scholarship, and professional excellence to which FarmHouse men aspire; has shown interest in FarmHouse Fraternity; and is approved by a two-thirds vote of the chapter and is approved by its Chapter Advisory Committee and the executive committee of the local FarmHouse Association Board of Directors. An association may grant associate membership with a three-fourths vote of members present at any regular scheduled association meeting, provided the candidate meets the qualifications previously mentioned and is approved by the executive committee of the active chapter. In instances where an active chapter does not exist, an association may grant associate membership as outlined above with the approval of the executive director.

Badge: The badge (standard or jeweled) is a piece of jewelry worn by men affiliated with the Fraternity to show visibly their affiliation. It is customarily worn "over the heart" on the left side of the chest, at an angle (left to right) approximately one inch up from the pocket corner. Traditionally it is worn only on collared shirts, sweaters, or vests. Though not preferred, it is acceptable to be worn on jacket lapels. The Badge should be worn on formal occasions or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event. For more information on the Badge and proper treatment of this symbol, please see page 79 of this handbook.

Bid: An outdated term referring to the invitation a man is extended when he is sought by the chapter for prospective membership.

Big Brother: A mentor selected for or by each new member to offer support during the new member education period and beyond.

Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative: A formal computation of educational and Ritual tools produced by the FarmHouse International Board and Staff, after draft by the Ritual Review Committees of Conclave and approved by voting-eligible Conclave delegates. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative was introduced to the Fraternity at the 2006 Conclave as a means to further support New Member Education, Total Membership Education, positive chapter programming, proper usage and performance of the Ritual and study thereof. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative seeks to ensure every action of the Fraternity and its members reflect the ideals of its motto "Builder of Men. Taken from the cover the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative, "FarmHouse Fraternity has long designated itself, as the motto suggests, the Builder of Men. It is the belief of the Fraternity that a man is built holistically through intentional development in four concentrations: intellectually, spiritually, socially and morally, and physically. For this reason, FarmHouse Fraternity offers the following Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative. The Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative is directed by Ritual. It is believed that men who bear a connection to our organization work daily to uphold the ideals and objectives of our Fraternity, earning the title of member. The following prescribed Ritual outlines an intentional pathway for eternal membership encouraging affiliated brothers to celebrate, discuss, actively practice, and become more knowledgeable of our Fraternity Ritual as it relates to daily life."

Campus/Community Leadership: As determined by each chapter, leadership is celebrated by Ritual for brothers whom have taken on significant roles with their campus or community.

Chapter Meeting: The regularly scheduled meeting of the members of each local chapter. According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, chapter meetings shall be held at least twice a month during the regular term and all proceedings of the chapter meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except where the same may be at variance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity. According the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative, chapter meetings should be opened with the *Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation* and should be closed with the *Weekly Individual Builder of Men Affirmation*.

Chapter Membership: One of the five categories of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Pearls Ceremony confers Alumni Membership (which may also be noted as Membership into the Brotherhood). According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, chapter membership is conferred by the local FarmHouse chapter. It may be conferred upon any male student enrolled in a graduate, professional or undergraduate school of the college or university at which the chapter is located, proved that each of the following conditions is satisfied: (1) his subject of study can be applied toward a degree in agriculture or related fields, or he has a rural background, or he shares an agricultural interest, or he demonstrates qualities of character, scholarship and professional excellence to which FarmHouse men aspire; (2) he has completed the necessary minimum amount of academic work as stipulated by the school and/or by the local Interfraternity Council for pledging and/or initiation of fraternity members; (3) his grades are at least as high as those required by the school and/or the local Interfraternity Council; (4) he is of good moral character; (5) he gives promise of reflecting credit upon the Fraternity; and (6) he has received election by the chapter members in accordance with voting procedures for election as outlines by the By-Laws of each chapter.

Coat of Arms: The Coat of Arms for FarmHouse Fraternity is described in detail on pages 76-78 of the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative.

Conclave: According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, Conclave is the Biennial meeting of the entire Fraternity.

Crescent Ceremony, The: The Crescent Ceremony is the Third Point of Membership which confers Imminent Membership and acts as a declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership. The Ritual is to be performed no greater than 12 weeks from the date of The Star ceremony and is intended to be performed outside of the weekly chapter meeting at the close of the Builder of Men Week. See page 14.

External Honor: An external honor should be defined as any significant credit given to an individual brother, a group of brothers, or an entire chapter which is not administered or offered by the Fraternity.

Formal Initiation: Prior to the 2006 Conclave, the Ritual Handbook referred to what is now The Pearls Ceremony as the "Ritual for Formal Initiation." The word "formal" has been struck from the title of all FarmHouse Ritual as we understand all Fraternity Ritual to require a degree of formality, some more so than others.

Fraternal Celebration: As part of the *Further Affirmations* in the Builder of Men Affirmation Initiative, Fraternal Celebrations are noted as Campus/Community Leadership, Lavaliering, Engagement/Marriage, Honor Society Induction, and External Honor. Rituals are prescribed for each celebration.

Fraternal Honor: Honors formally given by the Fraternity, namely, The Doane Award, The Snyder Award, The Skinner Award and The Friend of FarmHouse Award.

Fraternal Leadership: The act of leading in an official elected or appointed role, as an undergraduate, the local chapter. Each chapter may define which offices should be honored by the Fraternal Leadership Dedication Further Affirmation individually.

Gold Extent, The: The Gold Extent of Membership encompasses the second phase of membership. The color gold or the color of autumn, meaning to reap what one has sown represents the second Extent of Membership. Gold is used in the Coat of Arms because it has long been esteemed as the most precious of metals. The symbolism is such that now, after study of and dedication to the fraternity, more meaning and significance can be found in the Fraternity and its symbols and ideals. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a gold cloth. Rituals prescribed in The Gold Extent are intended to be public, however, it is encouraged that young men who potentially seek membership into the Fraternity abstain from viewing the ceremony in order to first experience in the mind of personal connection and appreciation. The Ritual included in this extent is The Pearls Ceremony.

Green Extent, The: The Green Extent of Membership encompasses the first phase of membership. The color green or the color of spring meaning new birth and fresh growth represents the first Extent of Membership. The color green should inspire every man associated with our Fraternity to pride himself in the history of our organization, that of agricultural interest. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a green cloth. Rituals prescribed in The Green Extent are intended to be public and encouraged to be performed in the presence of non-members. These Rituals include The Shield Ceremony, The Star Ceremony and The Crescent Ceremony.

Honor, Fraternal: see Fraternal Honor.

Honor Society Induction: Ritual should be celebrated for brothers whom achieve membership status within any significant campus or community honor societies. Significant honor societies are named by each individual chapter.

Honorary Membership: One of the five categories of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. According to the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity, Honorary Membership may be conferred only by the International Executive Board and is usually conferred at a Biennial Conclave. Candidates for honorary membership may be nominated by: any chapter upon unanimous vote and with full concurrence of its Faculty Advisory Committee; or any FarmHouse association upon unanimous vote of its governing board; or a special committee on honorary membership appointed by the International President. Candidates, however nominated, must be unanimously elected by the International Executive Board before honorary membership may be conferred.

House Mother: A female advisor, traditionally an elder to undergraduate chapter members who may or may not reside within the chapter home to offer support and guidance to the chapter and its members.

Imminent Membership: An affiliated man whom has completed the New Member Education period and thus observed by The Crescent Ceremony but awaits Chapter Membership conferred in The Star Ceremony. Imminent Members shall have full rights of a Chapter Member as they await Chapter Membership.

Invitation: A formal, tangible request the undergraduate chapter offers to a collegiate peer asking inviting him to prospective membership within the Fraternity. An invitation is offered as part of the Shield Ceremony.

Initiation: The act of conferring upon an affiliated member the title of "Brother" or "Chapter Member."

Lavaliering: A public announcement by a brother professing his serious courtship with his significant other. Traditionally a "lavalier" (a piece of jewelry comprised of tiny gold letters 'F' and 'H' hanging from a gold chain) is offered by the brother to his significant other during a lavaliering.

New Member: Also known as Prospective Member(ship). New Membership is one of the five categories of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. A New Member is defined as any affiliated man whom has been honored in The Star Ceremony but is yet to be honored by The Pearl Ceremony.

Pearls Ceremony, The: The Pearls Ceremony is the Fourth Point of Membership which confers Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood. The Ritual is to be performed no greater than 2 weeks from the first day of class the second semester of affiliation. Ceremony intended to be performed outside of weekly chapter meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow. The Pearls Ceremony shall also constitute as the ceremony to confer associate and honorary membership. See page 17.

Pledge: An action, the act of honoring and dedicating one's self to the Fraternity and the oaths of membership.

Pledging Ceremony: An outdated term for what is now referred to as The Star Ceremony. Prior to the 2006 Conclave, The Pledge Ceremony was the title given to the ceremony formally affiliating a man as a prospective member of the Fraternity in the Ritual Handbook.

Pledge Pin: The Pledge Pin is a piece of jewelry worn by men affiliated with the Fraternity, yet to be initiated to visibly show their affiliation. The pledge badge is to be worn only at times of which it would be appropriate to wear the recognition pin or standard badge. Customarily the pledge badge is

worn on jacket lapels. It may also be worn “over the heart” on the left side of the chest on collared shirts, sweaters or vests similar to as the badge. The pledge badge may be worn for formal occasion or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event like the badge. The pledge pin may also be worn when the wearer wishes to show visible affiliation to the Fraternity, for example at times such as a job interview, a wedding, a funeral, or university/community event. Wearers of the pledge badge should take cues as to when to wear the pledge badge from those wearing the standard badge or recognition badge – If a brother wearing the standard badge or recognition pin is wearing his pin, the pledge pin should be worn. However, if a brother carrying the standard badge or recognition pin is not wearing his pin, it is not appropriate for the pledge pin to be worn. See page 74 for further detail on the jewelry of the Fraternity.

Points of Membership: There are 5 Points of Membership, they include: The First Point of Membership: The Shield Ceremony, Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership; The Second Point of Membership: The Star Ceremony, Conferring of Prospective Membership and Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership; The Third Point of Membership: The Crescent Ceremony, Conferring of Imminent Membership and Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership; The Fourth Point of Membership: The Pearls Ceremony, Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood; and The Fifth Point of Membership: The Rubies Ceremony, Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership. The 5 Points of Membership are derived from the Star which has much meaning within our Fraternity. The 5-Pointed Star is placed on our badge symbolizing “a striving for those things that are noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing.” We are told the star should be “guiding to the wearer.” We also see three stars on our crest symbolizing the three great attributes of fraternity love and esteem: loyalty, helpfulness (and generosity) and pride in efforts and accomplishments. For this reason, the star has been chosen to guide us through our pathway in becoming life-long brothers of the organization. Each of the 5 points of the star reminds us of a different point of membership.

Prospective Member: An affiliated man whom has observed as a candidate the Star Ceremony, but is yet to observe the Crescent Ceremony. Also referred to as a New Member within Fraternity programming.

Recognition Pin: The recognition pin is a piece of jewelry worn by men affiliated with the Fraternity to show visibly their affiliation. The recognition pin is customarily worn on jacket lapels. It may also be worn “over the heart” on the left side of the chest on collared shirts, sweaters or vests similarly as the standard badge. The recognition pin may be worn for formal occasion or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity or attending a Fraternity event. The recognition pin may also be worn when the wearer wishes to show visible affiliation to the Fraternity, for example at times such as a job interview, a wedding, a funeral, or university/community event. For more information on the recognition pin and proper treatment of this symbol, please see page 74 of this handbook.

Resident Advisor: A person greater in age than the traditional undergraduate age who lives within the chapter home to offer support and guidance to the chapter and its members.

Rites of Membership: The Rituals prescribed to honor the 5 Points of Membership, namely The Shield Ceremony, Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership; The Star Ceremony, Conferring of Prospective Membership and Declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership; The Crescent Ceremony, Conferring of Imminent Membership and Declaration of Intent for Fraternal

Membership; The Pearls Ceremony, Conferring of Chapter Membership and Membership into the Brotherhood; and The Rubies Ceremony, Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership.

Rubies Ceremony, The: The Rubies Ceremony is the Fifth Point of Membership which confers Alumni Membership and acts as a declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership The Ritual is to be performed following the final chapter meeting of the graduation semester. See page 24.

Shield Ceremony, The: The Shield Ceremony is the First Point of Membership which confers an invitation to Prospective Membership. The Ritual is to be performed at time invitation is given to a candidate -or- at first organized meeting of new membership, prior to The Star Ceremony. See page 9.

Star Ceremony, The: The Star Ceremony is the Second Point of Membership which confers Prospective Membership and acts as a declaration of Intent for Prospective Membership. The Ritual is to be performed at start of the 12-Week New Member Education Program. Ceremony intended to be performed outside of weekly chapter meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow. See page 11.

White Extent, The: The White Extent of Membership encompasses the third and final phase of membership. The color white or the color of winter, meaning wisdom, represents the third Extent of Membership. Our Blazon uses white as it stands for purity, innocence and worthiness of ambitions of Fraternity members and "The Best in Manhood." For that reason, it is only appropriate that our elder chapter brothers are recognized by the color white. The table from which the Ritual will be recited should be covered with a white cloth. Rituals prescribed in The White Extent are intended to be public and may be published and shared, however it is encouraged that these Rituals be performed only in the presence of men associated with the Fraternity. These ceremonies are a reflection of the dedication of a Brother and meaning may only be appreciated by associated men. The Ritual included in this extent is The Rubies Ceremony.

12-Week New Member Education Program: The International Fraternity Board and Staff offer and publish a prescribed 12-week New Member Education Program which details lessons and activities of the FarmHouse member orientation. The program is in congruence with the standards of the North-American Interfraternity Conference. A shorter program may be substituted for the 12-week program as long as brothers feel new members are properly oriented to the Fraternity, its history and standards. Under no condition should a New Member Education Program exceed 12 weeks (84 days).