

# **BUILDER OF MEN AFFIRMATION**

*The Direction and Study of Ritual*

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**FARMHOUSE**

*Builder of Men Affirmation presented by the 2006  
Conclave Ritual Review Committee in Nashville,  
Tennessee and fully adopted in 2008. 2016 edition.*



**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/morally, and physically. For this reason, FarmHouse Fraternity offers the following *Builder of Men Affirmation*. The *Builder of Men Affirmation* 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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## SECTION 1

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# RITUAL

**THE RITUAL OF OUR FRATERNITY** is to be treated 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. Clearly Ritual is important in the life of a fraternal organization and a serious demeanor is essential.

The formal Ritual of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that both candidates and those performing the Ritual are well prepared and of a favorable mental attitude. The ceremonies that make up our Ritual should be rehearsed and performed with an attitude of appreciation and admiration, especially the Rites of Membership as they are significant moments in the journey as a FarmHouse member.

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 member to another. The Ritual, all notes and marks denoting proper performance, have been selected for a reason—passed and approved by our Fraternity through Conclave. 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 Rites of Membership, is one of the greatest actions a chapter will perform.

## **NON-SECRETIVE**

It is a long standing tradition and point of pride among the brothers of our Fraternity that FarmHouse Ritual is open, meaning non-secretive. In fact, many chapters encourage guests to attend the performance of FarmHouse Ritual.

Within the *Rites of Membership*, the Green Extent is intended to be public and encouraged to be performed in the presence of non-members; the Gold Extent is intended to be public, however, men seeking membership into FarmHouse are encouraged to abstain from viewing the ceremony in order to first experience it in the mind of personal connection and appreciation; and the White Extent is encouraged to be performed in the presence of men associated with the Fraternity as these ceremonies are a reflection of the dedication of a member and is best appreciated by fellow brothers.

All *Further Affirmations* are performed at the discretion of the local chapter, association, or International Executive 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 any Further Affirmations, however the performing group should make note of suggestions offered in the introduction section of each Ritual. Regardless of the membership qualifications, or lack thereof, at no time should any Ritual performance 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 member of "Chapter B" to attend.

All Rituals may and will be published openly to the public by the headquarters staff and International Executive Board in congruence with our policy of non-secrecy. Though Ritual may not be performed or attended by all, Ritual 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 a successful Ritual experience and does it really matter who sits where? When performing and studying FarmHouse Ritual, there is no question the answer is yes. Conducting Ritual must be intentional, specific and meaningful to have an impact on the chapter, candidates, guests and operations of the chapter. Our Ritual, dictated by tradition and habit, should become a part of our daily lives. Enjoying meals with family, observing a church or religious service, even attending a course in a campus classroom you experience a form of ritual. You know where to sit, how to act, and of what mood you should appropriately acquire. Celebrating the ideals of our Fraternity should be a similar experience. Though spatial setup is a small part of our prescribed Ritual, the impact it carries and the emphasis it offers is vast. 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.

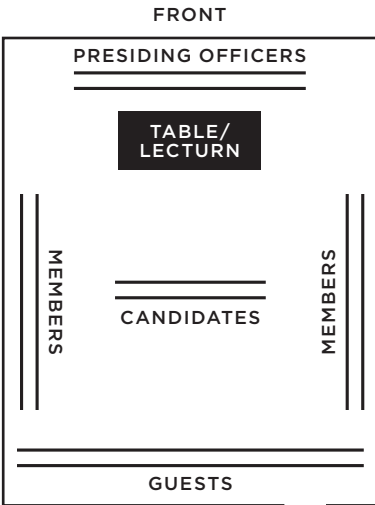


Figure 1A. Spatial Setup for Rites of Membership

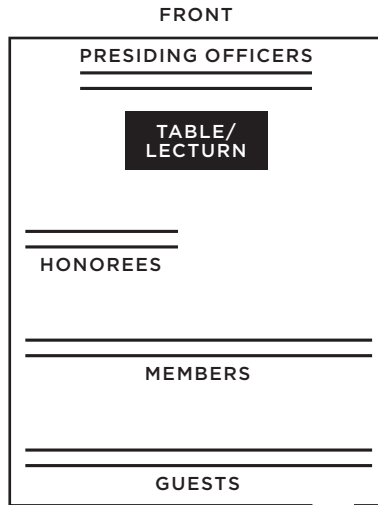


Figure 1B. Spatial Setup for Further Affirmations

Two spatial setup plans are offered within our prescribed Ritual. Figure 1A illustrates the setup for the Rites of Membership. Presiding officers should be seated at the front of the room with only the necessary seats. 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 to sit at the door, inside the room and manage the entry of members and guests as well as perform Ritual. 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. Presiding officers, the 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 officers. Members should be seated directly behind Honorees and Officers, with guests to follow behind.

## **MATERIALS**

- An appropriate, plain table cloth (green, gold or white) drapes the table in front of the room as noted in each ceremony.
- 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 along with a properly displayed United States and/or Canadian flag.
- A depiction of our Badge or Coat of Arms should be visible in the meeting room.

## **FORMATION OF AFFIRMATIONS**

In early Conclaves, a ceremony of initiation was discussed and approved for chapter use.

The first formal Ritual of the Fraternity was presented by the Ritual Committee of the 1958 Conclave. This, 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. At the 2006 Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee blindfolds were stricken from the Ritual. The Suggested Pledge Ceremony was authorized for inclusion in the Ritual for Initiation at the 1978 Conclave in Brookings, South Dakota.

This handbook, referred to not as the Ritual Handbook as previous, but rather the *Builder of Men Affirmation*, was presented to the Ritual Review Committee of the 2006 Conclave and fully adopted in 2008. 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 among all chapters.

*\*All Bible quotations have come from the Revised Standard Version. Prior 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 Conclave added Bible quotations from the New Testament to the Ritual.*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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

The brothers charged with directing Ritual should lead a conversation on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a week's time. Candidates/honorees are encouraged to reflect on the ceremony, engage in conversation and ask questions.

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 a group of brothers 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.

RITUAL

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**THE RITES OF MEMBERSHIP  
OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY**

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FarmHouse Fraternity recognizes five stages or types of membership within the Ritual; Prospective Membership, New Membership, Chapter Membership, Alumnus or Associate Membership, and Honorary Membership. Three extents celebrate these membership types/stages: The Green Extent, The Gold Extent and The White Extent.

The Star has much meaning within our Fraternity. The Five-Pointed Star is placed on our badge symbolizing “a striving for those things that are highest and noblest, in an effort to be ever advancing.” The star should be “guiding to the wearer.” There are three stars on our crest symbolizing the three great attributes of fraternity love and esteem: loyalty, helpfulness (and generosity) and pride in efforts or accomplishments. For these reasons, the star has been chosen to guide us through our pathway in becoming and being life-long brothers of the organization. Each of the five points of the star reminds us of a different stage of membership.

FarmHouse Fraternity affirms its dedication to being Builders of Men through the following formal Rituals. The categories of membership and coinciding ceremonies are included in this outline of our Rites of Membership:

## **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. A green cloth is used to cover the table from which these Rituals are recited in this extent.

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

### **FIRST POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE SHIELD CEREMONY**

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*Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership*

To be performed when an invitation is given to a candidate (or candidates) or at the first organized meeting of new membership, prior to the Star Ceremony.

## **SECOND POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE STAR CEREMONY**

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*Conferring of New Membership, Declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership*

To be performed at the start of new member education. The Ceremony is intended to be performed outside of a weekly chapter meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow.

## **THIRD POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE CRESCENT CEREMONY**

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*Conferring of Imminent Membership*

To be performed in a timely manner following the Star ceremony and at the close of the Builder of Men Week. The Ceremony is intended to be performed outside of a weekly chapter meeting.

## **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 ideals. A gold cloth is used to cover the table from which the Ritual is recited in this extent.

Ritual prescribed in the Gold Extent is intended to be public. However, men seeking membership into FarmHouse are encouraged to abstain from viewing the ceremony in order to first experience it in the mind of personal connection and appreciation.

## **FOURTH POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE PEARLS CEREMONY**

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*Conferring of Chapter, Associate or Honorary Membership*

In the context of chapter members, this ceremony is to be performed no more than two weeks into the second semester of affiliation. The Ceremony is intended to be performed outside of a weekly chapter meeting, preferably on a Saturday or Sunday, with a celebratory meal to follow. Associate Membership may be conferred alongside chapter members or in a separate ceremony as seen fit.

*Note: Honorary Membership is only conferred by the International Executive Board.*



### **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. A white cloth is used to cover the table from which the Ritual is recited in this extent.

Ritual prescribed in the White Extent are intended to be public and shared. However, it is encouraged that this Ritual be performed only in the presence of men associated with the Fraternity. These ceremonies are a reflection of the dedication of a member and is best appreciated by fellow brothers.

#### **FIFTH POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE RUBIES CEREMONY**

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*Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership*

To be performed following the final chapter meeting of the graduation semester or after proper procedures are taken for a member to become an alumnus of the Fraternity.

## THE GREEN EXTENT FIRST POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE SHIELD CEREMONY

*Conferring of an Invitation to Prospective Membership*

The Shield Ceremony shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Rites of Membership. A green cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. Members are chosen in advance to lead this Ritual. Candidates should be seated in the appropriate location. This ceremony may also take place outside of a formal meeting room, in which case the spatial setup is followed as closely as possible. If Prospective Membership is offered in an informal context, no spatial setup is necessary.

### RITUAL

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- 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 *(name of university)* 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 our 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, Builder of Men.

In 2 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 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.

(*cont.*)

BUILDER OF MEN AFFIRMATION: RITUAL

**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 our invitation.

*A formal invitation or bid card should be offered to the candidate at this time and any questions addressed. It is suggested to offer the candidate a document outlining what is expected of a Prospective Member and what he may expect of the Fraternity.*

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*The brothers charged with directing this Ritual should lead a conversation guided by the following on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a week's time.*

## STUDY

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### **What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?**

Though the following, in many different forms, has been a part of FarmHouse chapter ritual, before the 2006 Conclave, no Ritual for offering an invitation to prospective membership was prescribed by the 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, many times Fraternity chapters struggle to best outline to prospective members the meaning of the Fraternity, the expectations the Fraternity will have of prospective and chapter 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 expectations of FarmHouse men to prospective members.

Part of this Ritual references sections of the New Member Education Handbook and thus acts as an introduction to new member education.

*"The objectives of FarmHouse 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 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 best outlines such a relationship.

It is suggested that following the Shield Ceremony 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 Shield Ceremony offers a snapshot of the history and current size of the organization and attributes success to the work of past and current brothers. Should our Fraternity continue such a path, we must lead appropriately and make fruitful decisions.

Within this Ritual promises are made to the individual(s) being invited that we, as brothers, will do our best to build him as a successful man. It continues by outlining objectives of 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**

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*Is the chapter's new member education reflecting the objectives outlined in the Shield Ceremony?*

*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?*

## **SECOND POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE STAR CEREMONY**

*Conferring of New Membership, Declaration of Intent  
for Fraternal Membership*

The Star Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. This Ceremony is to be held at the beginning of new member education. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Rites of Membership. A green cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. These presiding officers are to be seated: (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.

Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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.

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

### **RITUAL**

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

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

**VP OF RECRUITMENT:** *From the back of the room.* "Mr.

President, I bring to you strangers who have responded to our invitation to cast his lot with us and desires, as a Prospective Member, to become a candidates for full membership in FarmHouse Fraternity."

**PRESIDENT:** "Please bring these strangers forward, before the brotherhood of our Fraternity. In order for our brotherhood to welcome these strangers, may we observe our Fraternity Ritual, The Star Ceremony."

*(\*\*\*) Members stand and turn as to be facing away from the candidates entering the room.*

*(cont.)*

*The VP of Recruitment walks outside the meeting room and returns leading the candidate (or candidates). VP of Recruitment takes his place at the front of the room. All remain standing.*

**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 New 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 as 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 strangers 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(s).”

*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. Candidates, please remain standing, raise your right hand and repeat after me:

“I promise to uphold and observe / the 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 new member 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  
(cont.)

display identification with the Fraternity. By your acceptance of the new member 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 chapter brothers, let me offer wisdom taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:11, ‘Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up.’ As 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 members.” (\*\*\*)

*At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new member(s).*

*All applaud.*

*Suggested brotherhood song: “Consider Yourself One of Us”*

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*The brothers charged with directing this Ritual should lead a conversation guided by the following study on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a weeks’ time.*

## STUDY

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### **What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?**

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

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

To begin the Star 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 Ceremony 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. This should serve as a time of reflection for members whom have previously partaken in this 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 much progress has been made. For men whom are first hearing the words and the Object, there is a sense of anticipation, and those conducting the Ritual should exemplify an eagerness in continued commitment to the Fraternity.

In this Ceremony, 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.” These exact words are repeated again in the Pearls Ceremony showing the importance of these lines. 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?**

Treating our affiliation with pride and humility is a powerful attitude to carry in building each other within a fraternity. What would it be like if you and your brothers worked to always carry this attitude? 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**

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*Why do you think it is important for initiated members to take part in this ceremony?*

*How does your chapter embrace the idea of ‘strangers’ becoming brothers through this ceremony?*

*What could you do to further welcome New Members after they have taken the oath within this Ritual?*

*What are you expecting in the New Member process after experiencing this ceremony?*

## **THIRD POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE CRESCENT CEREMONY**

*Conferring of Imminent Membership*

The Crescent Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. This ceremony is to be held at the conclusion of new member education and prior to the Pearls Ceremony. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Rites of Membership. A green cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. These presiding officers are to be seated: (from left to right) the Historian, Director of New Member Education, President, Chaplain and Director of Administration. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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.

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

### **RITUAL**

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*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 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.”

*(cont.)*

*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 FarmHouse 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*), I can confirm that the objectives of our Fraternity’s new member education have been met. Mr. President, men in our presence are eligible and have been approved by the chapter for Imminent Membership. Would the following men please stand: (*New Member Educator reads list of men 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 OR LEADER:**

*(This role should be offered in advance.)*

“Mr. President, and members of the (name of university) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity, 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 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.*

*(cont.)*

**PRESIDENT:** “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 our 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 a chapter 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 member(s). All applaud.*

*Suggested brotherhood song: “Brothers in FarmHouse,” “Band of Brothers”*

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*The brothers charged with directing this Ritual should lead a conversation guided by the following study on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a week’s time.*



## STUDY

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### **What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?**

This Ritual was first introduced as part of a review of the Fraternity's Ritual at the 2006 Conclave as a means to conclude new member education. At the 2004 Conclave in Des Moines, Iowa, delegates supported a move towards honoring the NIC's 12-week maximum education period. Some chapters at that time 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 new member education and thus, the Crescent Ceremony was offered. New member education continues to be a shorter period for many chapters and this Ceremony serves a great purpose in providing closure to the new member experience before initiation within the Pearls Ceremony.

### **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 for members. 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 Fraternity. The Ritual sets the stage for "continued and ever-increasing growth and development."

The Star Ceremony reflected that each affiliated man is a crucial part of the Fraternity, even a Prospective Member. The Crescent Ceremony further reflects such visually by starting with those honored being seated among the brotherhood having already become a voice in the chapter. As the President States, "The objectives of the FarmHouse 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." By being a part of, or taking a seat within the membership, a new member should now be fully prepared for chapter membership.

**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, 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 vital part of being built as a man? 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. 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 our Fraternity? Why is growth so important?*

**REFLECTION**

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*Should the chapter be concerned that a prospective member is not prepared to take a seat within the membership as they do in this Ceremony?*

*What do you think are mandatory qualities to "take a seat" amongst the brotherhood?*

*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 new member education even if members may not be initiated until later?*

## THE GOLD EXTENT

### FOURTH POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE PEARLS CEREMONY

*Conferring of Chapter, Associate or Honorary Membership*

The Pearls Ceremony shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. This ceremony initiates members, which confers Chapter Membership. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Rite of Membership. A gold cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. These presiding officers are to be seated: (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.

Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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.

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

#### RITUAL

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*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 before entry.*

**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, 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.

*(cont.)*

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 (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 candidates, 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 read should do so from behind the table, not the lectern.*

**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)*.”

*(cont.)*

**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).

(*cont.*)

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 FarmHouse Fraternity and its members / do reverently pledge myself / to respect and cherish / the objectives and activities of the Fraternity, / to support and abide by its 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 our Fraternity / and to endeavor always to live according to / the principles and standards of FarmHouse Fraternity. / With God’s help this pledge shall I keep.’”

**PRESIDENT:** “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 initiation into our Fraternity, the badge and its markings will now be explained to you.”

**DIRECTOR OF NEW MEMBER EDUCATION OR A DELEGATED MEMBER** *may read in entirety or by section:*

“The Badge has the shape of a shield and the member should cherish it as the knights of old did their shields.

(cont.)

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 Herd Book, our chapter membership register, on that page hereby and henceforth dedicated to a record of your conduct and accomplishments. After your name is entered in the membership register, the Standard Badge of FarmHouse Fraternity will be placed on you.”

*(Optional: The President will announce the new member's name as the signature is being written. Chapters may also add a reading of each candidate's written response to the prompt, 'What FarmHouse Means to Me' during each signature.)*

*(Optional: If associate members are being inducted, the passage below may be read by the president or a designated member.)*

“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 and 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.”

*Pause while new members sign the roster and have the Badge affixed to their shirt and all have returned to their seats.*

**PRESIDENT:** “Wear your FarmHouse badge 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.”

*The President introduces the Alumnus member who has been selected to give The Charge.*

*(cont.)*

## 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 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 scholastic performance. Most FarmHouse chapters are expected to rank first or near the top on their respective campuses. It is our hope that you, as a member 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 man 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 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!"

*(cont.)*

**PRESIDENT:** “Candidates, your actions, whether good or bad, will reflect not only upon you, but also upon your 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 Chapter Members in the (name of university) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity.” (\*\*\*)

*At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new member(s). All applaud.*

*Suggested brotherhood song: “A Brotherly Band,”  
“FarmHouse Hymn”*

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*The brothers charged with directing this Ritual should lead a conversation guided by the following on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a week’s time.*

## STUDY

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### **What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?**

In early Conclaves, a ceremony of initiation was discussed and approved for chapter use. This was the first formal Ritual of the 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 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. At the 2006 Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee blindfolds were stricken from the Ritual. This Ritual was renamed the Pearls Ceremony for inclusion following 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 of membership, but perhaps most excitedly, a celebration of the continuation of our Fraternity. Each time this Ritual is performed, FarmHouse is adding to its roster of membership.

In this Ceremony 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, this Ritual is often 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. This shared pledge of all FarmHouse brothers is a primary foundation in our brotherhood and must be carried forward through the standards for each chapter and individual member of our Fraternity.

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 personal perspectives 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. 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 asked to read The Charge?

A common and perhaps expected theme of this Ritual is dedication. Why is dedication so important in the life of our Fraternity? In what ways do you show dedication to the Fraternity? Have your thoughts on being dedicated to the Fraternity changed since you were an honored candidate in this Ceremony?

**REFLECTION**

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*Why do you think the Pearls Ceremony was originally written and prescribed?*

*Do you think the Ritual carries the same meaning today as it did in 1958 when it was first used?*

*Since 1958, members have experienced this initiation, how do the words in this Ritual connect our brotherhood?*

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

*In what ways has your perspective of FarmHouse changed since you accepted your invitation to join? Does it mean something different today?*



## **THE WHITE EXTENT FIFTH POINT OF MEMBERSHIP: THE RUBIES CEREMONY**

*Conferring of Alumni Membership and Declaration  
of Intent for Alumni Membership*

The Rubies Ceremony of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. This ceremony is to be held following the final chapter of the graduation semester or after proper procedures are taken for a member to become an alumnus of the Fraternity. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Rites of Membership. A white cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. These presiding officers are to be seated: (from left to right) the Director of Alumni Relations, Vice President of Finance, presiding Alumnus (or Alumni), President, Chaplain, Historian, Director of Administration and the Total Member Educator.

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

Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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.

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

### **RITUAL**

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*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 today. He shares with me we have much reason to celebrate and have men within our brotherhood who deserve recognition and honor.

*(cont.)*

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 (*name of alumnus*) to help us 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. The brothers assembled as candidates for alumnus membership 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 New 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. The brothers assembled have observed the Star Ceremony and we have witnessed this brother (*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. The brothers assembled 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*) have been initiated through the Pearls Ceremony. Their thoughts, words and actions continue to reflect positively on our Fraternity to this day.”

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS:** “Undergraduate members, 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.”

(cont.)

**ALUMNUS:** “The brothers assembled as candidates for alumnus membership have observed the Green and Gold Extents. 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. Upon joining our brotherhood as a Chapter Member these words were read to you, ‘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 each into service as an engaged alumnus.”

**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:** “While 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 committee, attend Alumni events, and donate time, skills and financial aid on a chapter level. At an International level, serve as an International Executive Board Member, on the International Staff, aid in expansion efforts, serve our Foundation, recruit for our Fraternity, and attend alumni gatherings and Conclave 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 an alumnus member of the (name of university) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity and wherever you live we ask that you take the opportunity to be actively involved with FarmHouse Fraternity. In whatever form, 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.”

(cont.)

BUILDER OF MEN AFFIRMATION: RITUAL

*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 have 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 job’s 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.” (\*\*\*)

*At this point the lights go on and those present congratulate the new member(s). All applaud.*

*Suggested brotherhood song: “The Bells of Old FarmHouse”*

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*The brothers charged with directing this Ritual should lead a conversation guided by the following on why and how the ceremony was performed and the meaning behind such within a week’s time.*

## STUDY

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### **What is the historical significance of the prescribed Ritual?**

This Ritual was first introduced as part of a review of the Fraternity's Ritual at the 2006 Conclave. 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 had 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 not view the new member education period as the only time of education and "man building" but rather, as FarmHouse Rituals suggest, education and building is a life-long charge. 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 Rite of Membership marks the start of a new journey for members; the Rubies Ceremony marks the start of commonly the longest journey and perhaps the journey producing the greatest yield of success.

The strongest chapters have commonly been and will likely always be the chapters with the greatest alumni support, dedication and involvement. If your chapter wishes to be successful, engage your alumni. Encourage members to begin thinking today about the role of alumni and take notes on how they will successfully fill their own 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 through all of the Rites of Membership, however honor takes a unique meaning in the Rubies Ceremony. 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 brothers, both alumni and chapter, have had on building us as men and appreciate their examples. We honor the task older members have left us—to continue to build men, our chapter, our Fraternity and 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**

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*(For this reflection, ask alumni brothers to be included in the conversation)*

*What should the Fraternity expect of alumni members?*

*What expectations do our members have of alumni that are unrealistic? How to we realign those expectations?*

*What legacy do you hope to leave on your chapter, your Fraternity, your brothers and yourself?*

*If you were being honored in the Rubies Ceremony today, what advice would you pass along to your brothers?*



THE RITES OF MEMBERSHIP: THE WHITE EXTENT

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# **FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY**

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## FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS

**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 were prescribed by the Fraternity, except the House Mother/Resident Advisor Dedication was included as a result of the 1964 Ritual Review. These Further Affirmations have been 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.

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

**Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation**

*To be performed at opening and closing of regular weekly meetings of the chapter.*

**Builder of Men Week**

*To be performed during last week of new member education. A week-long observation of Fraternity ideals celebrating the end of education for new members and ending with the Crescent and/or Pearls Ceremony.*

**Fraternal Leadership Dedication**

*To be performed during a regularly scheduled meeting for induction of new chapter executive leadership.*

**House Director/Resident Advisor Dedication**

*To be performed during a gathering of all men for induction and dedication of new House Director/Resident Advisor.*

**Alumni and Advisor Leadership Dedication**

*To be performed during a regularly scheduled meeting for induction of a new chapter advisor, new association leadership or other notable dedication of alumni to the Fraternity, local or international.*

**Celebration of Life/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**

## WEEKLY CHAPTER BUILDER OF MEN AFFIRMATION

The Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation is to be performed at the opening and closing of regular weekly meetings of the chapter. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*Opening of The Meeting*

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

**PRESIDENT:** "I call the *(today's date)* meeting of the (name of university) Chapter 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. . .*

## **RITUAL**

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*. . . Closing of The Meeting*

*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 Builder of Men Creed.”

**ALL MEMBERS:** “He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the job’s all done, the Judge will say, a Master Builder passed this way.”

**PRESIDENT:** “Meeting adjourned.” (\*)

*(cont.)*

*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 listing several other options. No matter the song sung, the song should be of good taste in line with the ideals of the Fraternity.*

## **STUDY AND REFLECTION**

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The Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation helps to encourage members to think beyond themselves as they begin each chapter meeting and better focus on 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 Chapter 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 do 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?*

## BUILDER OF MEN WEEK

The following Rituals intended for use during the Builder of Men Week, shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. One Ritual is to be conducted at each meal planned for the Builder of Men Week, however, the day on which each part is read may be adjusted. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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

**PRESIDENT:** “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 education)* 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)* as a reflection on our Fraternity’s commitment to *(area of the fourfold)*.”

*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 following list suggests an appropriate dedication for each evening meal, changes may be made among days based on schedule:*

#### MONDAY: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

“To open our week of devotionals, I like to offer some thoughts on Physical Development from the Founding Father of FarmHouse

*(cont.)*

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 their impact in 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 scholastic performance. Most

*(cont.)*

FarmHouse chapters are expected to 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

“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 could be invited for a program. Following the short devotion of the appropriate chapter leader, an introduction of the speaker should be offered. 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, than 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 four-fold 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:** (\*)

## **STUDY AND REFLECTION**

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The Builder of Men Week was originally presented as part of new member education resources by the Fraternity. The structure is offered to allow for concentration, celebration and further understanding of the meaning of FarmHouse. The week is designed to culminate in the Crescent Ceremony and/or the Pearls Ceremony.

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

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

*How does the chapter exemplify and emphasize Unity during the week?*

*What would make this week even more meaningful to the chapter and its members?*

## FRATERNAL LEADERSHIP DEDICATION

The Fraternal Leadership Dedication shall be planned so that candidates are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A gold cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. Seated as candidates should be all new officers. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*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 university) Chapter of FarmHouse 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, 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 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

(*cont.*)

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 you understand the potential sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts you may assume under your role? And, do you understand the impact your actions, positive or negative, have on our chapter and the Fraternity as a whole? 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

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: FRATERNAL LEADERSHIP DEDICATION

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. May 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 job’s 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.”  
(\*)

*All applaud.*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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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 followers important?*

*Why is this ceremony significant to the whole chapter, not just the newly installed officers?*

*How does this Ritual demonstrate the ideals of FarmHouse Fraternity?*



## HOUSE DIRECTOR / RESIDENT ADVISOR DEDICATION

The House Director/Resident Advisor Dedication shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*The President acquires the attention of those present. (\*)(\*\*)  
Guide enters with candidate for house director/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 house director (*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 from behind the table when the President calls 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.” (cont.)

**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 that you, by hard work and unflinching 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*).”

(cont.)

**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 House director/resident advisor, make it known by saying, “I do.””

**HOUSE DIRECTOR/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 director (*resident advisor*), become familiar with the Object of our Fraternity, which is the intent and goal of

each FarmHouse man. Brothers, please rise and recite the Object of our Fraternity.”

**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.

*(cont.)*

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 brothers. In the same manner, it is our desire that you have or wear a symbol of the Fraternity. As our house director (*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 the house director (*resident advisor*) of the (*name of university*) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity. Brothers, let us greet and welcome (*name of candidate*).”

*All applaud.*

*Note: Chapters may opt to use the lapel recognition pin or purchase a lavalier to be hung from a gold chain. Both available for purchase through FarmHouse Headquarters*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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House directors/resident advisors have long been a valuable part of FarmHouse Fraternity. Many chapters have such roles assigned within their local group, though some do not. These individuals act in a multitude of roles from mentor and advisor, to college mother/father, to friend, to chapter educator and historian, to personal seamstress, and ultimately to contribute positively to the morale of the chapter. The stories of House directors/Resident Advisors contribute much to the history of many of our chapters. As such, the relationship between such advisor and the Fraternity should be taken seriously and this Ritual provides a great avenue to do so.

*You will notice many similarities between this Ritual and the Rites of Membership. Why do you think you notice such similarities?*

*How could your chapter better benefit from a House director/Resident Advisor?*

*How does your chapter work to include and fully utilize the resourcefulness of a House director/Resident Advisor?*

*In what ways could your members recognize and show appreciation for the House director/Resident Advisor?*

## ALUMNI AND ADVISOR LEADERSHIP DEDICATION

The Alumni and Advisor Leadership Dedication shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth is used to cover the table at the front of the room. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*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.”



FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: ALUMNI LEADERSHIP DEDICATION

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.”

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS:** “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.  
Director of Alumni Relations introduces the alumnus to include chapter affiliation and year of initiation.*

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

*Director of Alumni Relations gives description of the role.*

*(name of alumni or advisor), do you fully accept your charge as (leadership role) for the (name of university) Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity?*

*(cont.)*

**ADVISOR:** "I do."

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS:** "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."

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS:** "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."

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS:** "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*)."

## **STUDY AND REFLECTION**

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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 while others provide financial resources to help fund FarmHouse programming. Still others offer themselves as servant leaders advising our chapters or directing associations. This Ritual is 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 undergraduates better utilize 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?*

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE/MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

A memorial of those brothers who have passed on is traditionally observed at the Biennial Conclave. This memorial includes a reading of all passed brothers and a time of silent reflection. This ceremony 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 Celebration of Life Ceremony 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 and 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 mourning 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 member is deemed more appropriate to lead the Ritual, the part of the President may be read by another member(s).

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 headquarters staff be consulted when making arrangements for this ceremony.

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

### RITUAL

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**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 which falls on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.’”

*(cont.)*

*(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.”

FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**ALL:** “He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within, so that when the job’s 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.”

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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There is no greater a celebration than the celebration of life. This Ritual was designed to honor the 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, this 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 FarmHouse 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?*

*In what ways does this Ritual emphasize a celebration?*

## CAMPUS/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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 ceremony shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the opening Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility.

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

### RITUAL

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*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.



FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: CAMPUS/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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.*

## **STUDY AND REFLECTION**

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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?*

## LAVALIERING

The following Ritual is intended for use in honoring a brother who has made a public announcement 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/silver chain) is offered by the brother to his significant other during a lavaliering. The Ritual shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*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 significant other)*, publicly announcing their serious courtship. Brother *(name of brother being recognized)* and *(name of significant other)* 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.

*(cont.)*

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.*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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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 member to properly support the Fraternity and his commitments to the Fraternity, he must feel supported by fellow members and 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 significant others?*

*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?*

## ENGAGEMENT/MARRIAGE

The engagement celebration for FarmHouse Fraternity shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations. A green cloth is used to 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. 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.

Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility. 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

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*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 university) 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 candidate to 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.*

*(cont.)*

**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.

(cont.)

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!

*All applaud.*

## **STUDY AND REFLECTION**

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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 your current relationships or cause you to reflect on past relationships?*

## HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

The following Ritual is intended for use in honoring a member who has been inducted into a major Honor Society within the campus or city community. The Ritual shall be planned so the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the opening Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation. Should more than one Brother be inducted into the same honor society, it is suggested that all be honored simultaneously. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility.

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

### RITUAL

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*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(s) (*name of brother being recognized*) has (have) 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 the brother(s) being recognized offer(s) a positive illustration of the ideals which our Fraternity promotes.

Brother(s) (*name of brother being recognized*) was (*were*) selected into the society because he 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*).

## FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

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.*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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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 do you see between fraternity and an Honor Society?*

## EXTERNAL HONOR

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 the candidate and attendees are prepared and have a favorable mental attitude. Spatial setup follows the outline prescribed for Further Affirmations.

The Ritual should be performed at the start of the weekly chapter meeting, immediately following the opening Weekly Chapter Builder of Men Affirmation. Prior to the ceremony, read and practice the Ritual in order to most effectively conduct the ceremony with the proper respect and humility.

*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)* of 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.*

## FURTHER AFFIRMATIONS: EXTERNAL 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(s), 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 recognized*) /our accomplishment!

*All applaud.*

## STUDY AND REFLECTION

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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. Through Ritual we are told we should daily seek things noble and higher we are told. This ceremony honors 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?*

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**ELEMENTS OF THE  
FRATERNITY AND ITS  
AFFIRMATIONS**

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**THE MOTTO:** Builder of Men

**THE OBJECTIVE:** Building the Whole Man through four-fold development—Intellectually, Spiritually, Socially/Morally and Physically.

**THE CENTRAL ATTRIBUTES:** Leadership, Scholarship, Fellowship

**THE PRINCIPLES:** Faith, Ambition, Reverence, Morality, Honesty, Obedience, Unity, Service, and Excellence

**CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP:** New Member, Chapter, Alumnus, Associate, Honorary

**FARMHOUSE ASSOCIATIONS:** Purpose—Advising and Chapter Housing Ownership and Management as well as engagement of FarmHouse members locally including chapter, alumni, associate and honorary members.

**CHAPTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Chapter selects at least 3 individuals including at least one alumnus member and one university faculty.

**BIENNIAL CONCLAVE:** The FarmHouse convention, known as Conclave, held every other year to discuss and conduct business of the Fraternity. Significant decisions that direct the Fraternity are made during business meetings including any changes to By-Laws or dues structure. This biennial gathering is also a primary and significant celebration of the Fraternity's accomplishments and its members.

**INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:** A board comprised of eight alumni members of the Fraternity that governs the direction of FarmHouse in between and during Conclave. The board selects and hires the executive director as well as appoints and oversees committees as needed.

**FARMHOUSE STAFF:** The staff is hired and overseen by the executive director. Staff members execute the directives set forth through Conclave and the International Executive Board; provide educational programming in visits to chapters; host and conduct the conferences and programs of the Fraternity; and provide support as needed to chapters, associations and alumni.

## THE SYMBOLS OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

### COLORS

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Green (Spring), Gold (Autumn), White (Winter)

### FLOWER

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Red & White Roses in equal number

### FLAG

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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 under conditions when it is appropriate to display the national flag. For example, the flag should only be displayed at night if it is illuminated, should not be displayed in the rain, should never hang low enough to become tatter or torn and should never be flown when in less that flawless condition. The Fraternity flag should hang under the country flag or should be hung to the right of the country flag and slightly lower.

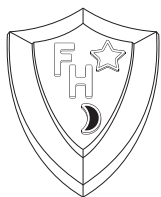
### THE HERD BOOK

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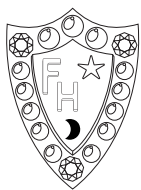
During the Pearls Ceremony each new FarmHouse initiate enters his name and signature into the Chapter Herd Book which remains part of the chapter permanent files. In it are recorded the campus activities, achievements, scholastic honors, awards, professional/career accomplishments, family information 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. Additional are to be purchased from the headquarters.



## ELEMENTS OF THE FRATERNITY AND ITS AFFIRMATIONS



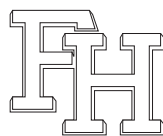
*Standard Badge*



*Standard Badge  
(Jeweled)*



*New Member  
Badge*



*Recognition Pin*

## JEWELRY

**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. It is worn on collared shirts, sweaters, or vests. The Badge should be worn on formal occasions or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity, more specifically, 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.

**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. The recognition pin should be worn on formal occasions, in the same context as the badge. 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 jacket lapel while the badge is worn on the collared shirt. However, it is unacceptable to wear both the recognition pin and the standard badge on the collared shirt together.

**A LETTER GUARD AND OFFICER DANGLES** may be worn with the badge, following the same rules as the badge. The letter guard always hangs to the wearer’s left of the badge slightly lower. Only offices held by the wearer should be represented with officer dangles.

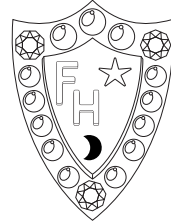
**THE NEW MEMBER BADGE** is to be worn at the times it would be appropriate to wear the recognition pin or standard badge. Customarily the new member badge is worn on jacket lapels, but it may also be worn “over the heart” on the left side of the chest on collared shirts, sweaters or vests.

**THE FRATERNITY PIN OR BADGE** should always be the highest pin or marking displayed on the left breast of the wearer. A university or honorary pin may be worn, but all of these should be worn lower than any Fraternity pin or badge.

## THE BADGE OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

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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 SHIELD OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

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Adopted in 2016, the Shield is a contemporary mark for member use.

**9 WHITE LINES** The 9 fraternity principles, and a nod to the historic heritage and agricultural roots of the fraternity.

### **SHIELD**

Conveys fraternity, contemporary update to the historic shape of the crest.

### **WHITE SASH / 3 STARS**

Key historical element from the crest.

### **GREEN, WHITE, GOLD COLORS**

Represents the breadth of the member experience: Green-New Members, White-Alumni Members, Gold-Chapter Members.



## THE COAT OF ARMS OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY: RITUAL STUDY

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### CREST/ESQUIRE'S HELMET:

Reminder for members to conduct themselves as gentlemen

**KNIGHTS SHIELD:** Protection

**WHITE OF THE DIAGONAL**

**BAND:** Worthiness, Innocence, Purity of ambitions, "The best in Manhood"

**DIAGONAL BAND:** Noble Goals of worthy Manhood

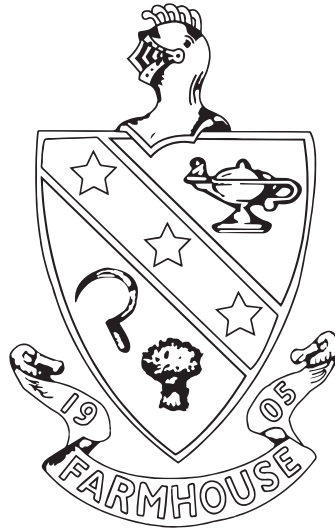
**THREE GOLD STARS:** Great Attributes of Fraternity—Loyalty, Helpfulness, Pride

**LAMP OF LEARNING,**

**FLAMED:** Everlasting Ambitions in scholarship

**SICKLE:** 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 and intelligence



## THE COAT OF ARMS OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY: HERALDRY STUDY

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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 (above).
2. The technical heraldic description is known as the blazon (below).

### Blazon of the FarmHouse Armorial Bearings

**ARMS** 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.

**CREST** An esquire's helmet, proper.

**MOTTO** 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**

**ARMS** 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.

**VERT** 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 pride in the high calling of agriculture.

**THREE MULLET** A phrase designating three five-pointed stars. 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** The heraldic term for gold, the second color of the Fraternity and the second mentioned in the blazon. It designates 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.

**ON A BEND** A phrase describing the diagonal band occupying approximately one-third area of the shield, upon which the three mullets are placed as principal charges. The bend itself symbolizes the noble goals of FarmHouse in pointing the way to worthy manhood for its members.

**ARGENT** The heraldic word for silver or white. White is the third color of FarmHouse and stands for purity, innocence and worthiness of ambitions of members and "The Best in Manhood" as the aspirations and objectives of the Fraternity.

**BETWEEN** A preposition indicating that the bend is flanked by other charges to be described.

**IN CHIEF** The 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.

**LAMP OF LEARNING** 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.

**FLAMED** Flame symbolizes an everlasting effort to increase one's knowledge and efficiency in the field of endeavors.

**IN BASE** Designates the lower third of the escutcheon. Here, basic tools are shown with symbols of one's main interests.

**SICKLE ABOVE A SHEAF OF WHEAT** 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** Designates their position as diagonal, one above the other, as labor and disciplines necessary to achieve success.

**ALL OF THE SECOND** 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** The part of the coat of arms which lies above the escutcheon.

**ESQUIRE'S HELMET** 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).



**SECTION 2**

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# **APPENDIX**

**FRATERNAL HONORS**

**COLLECTION OF TABLE GRACES, HYMNS  
AND RITUAL SONGS**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**GLOSSARY**

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# **FRATERNAL HONORS**

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## FARMHOUSE AWARDS

### 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 most prominent award given by the Fraternity to individual chapter members.

### THE PURPOSE

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“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—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.

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 following qualifications shall be considered in choosing a recipient:

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

## **THE SKINNER AWARD**

The Joan Chad Skinner Memorial Award was established by the International Executive Board in 1983 from a proposal by Robert L. Skinner. The award is 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**

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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 following criteria shall be considered in selecting a recipient:

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

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The purpose of this award is to recognize 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 following criteria shall be considered in deciding recipients of the award:

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

## **FRIEND OF FARMHOUSE AWARD**

The Friend of FarmHouse Award was established at the 2000 Conclave from a proposal by the Iowa State Chapter and Association. The intent was to be able to recognize those individuals and entities not within our membership for their contributions to our Fraternity. Many successes of FarmHouse are owed to friends both at a local and international level.

### **THE PURPOSE**

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

Any FarmHouse chapter, association, foundation or the FarmHouse 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 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 Fraternity

Any member, chapter, association, foundation council or the International Executive Board may make a nomination for this award. The entity receiving the nomination shall make the decision regarding the nominee.

There are no limits to the number of Friend of FarmHouse Awards that may be presented by a chapter, association, foundation or the FarmHouse Fraternity annually.

The nominating organization is responsible for ordering and covering the certificate/plaques fees and any other costs associated with presenting the Friend of FarmHouse Award.

While most awards will be presented at the local level, the International Executive Board and Foundation Board of Trustees is eligible to present the award at Conclave to a limited number of recipients.

## **DISTINGUISHED FARMHOUSE AWARDS**

### **MASTER BUILDER OF MEN AWARD**

The Master Builder of Men Award was established in 1950 by the National Executive Board. It is the highest honor FarmHouse Fraternity may bestow upon an alumni member. The award recognizes and publicly acknowledges the member's unselfish leadership and service to his fellow men, both within the Fraternity and beyond. Neither position, nor wealth, nor occupation enters into consideration for the award, but simply his contributions in helping others and living the values of the Fraternity as a Builder of Men.

A Master Builder of Men is a member of FarmHouse Fraternity who:

- possesses a continued interest in improving both the chapters and associations of the organization and is a leader in the Fraternity;
- demonstrates interest in young people by providing help and encouragement, allowing them to better themselves through further development and growth;
- embodies the Fraternity's principles in his daily actions; and,
- is a gentleman and respected citizen of his own personal and/or professional community.

### **BARNES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INTERFRATERNALISM**

The Barnes Award for Outstanding Interfraternalism was created by the FarmHouse International Executive Board in 2012 as a means to recognize men and women who have offered outstanding interfraternalism and leadership in the fraternal movement. It is named after the award's inaugural honoree, Rick Barnes (TT '82), for his service to FarmHouse, to higher education and the fraternity/sorority craft.

Honorees receive the Barnes Award, in addition to a financial donation being made by the Fraternity to the interfraternal organization or respective national fraternity/sorority of the honoree's choice, in recognition of his/her service and interfraternal spirit. Award winners must not be a member of FarmHouse Fraternity or any fraternal organization; however, they must have made a significant impact on the fraternal community.

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**COLLECTION OF TABLE  
GRACES, HYMNS AND  
RITUAL SONGS**

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Singing has been a long time tradition of many fraternities, but specifically FarmHouse Fraternity. As one of the ultimate symbols of brotherhood, there are often times when you will see FarmHouse men joining their brothers in song. These songs have special and sentimental meaning to FarmHouse men, young and old, across the country and for that reason a selection of FarmHouse songs are included in this *Builder of Men Affirmation*. Here you will find selected table graces and hymns as well as Ritual songs, most of which have been referenced or suggested for use. A complete FarmHouse Fraternity Songbook is available through headquarters staff.

## **TABLE GRACES AND HYMNS**

### **BE PRESENT—THE FARMHOUSE BLESSING**

*(THE DOXOLOGY)*

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*(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)*

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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

## **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**

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*(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 lingering  
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!

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## **A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY**

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FarmHouse is not just an institution: it is a spirit, it is a web of relationships, it is a way of living. We are a band of men who want, more than most, to be our best selves; and we band together to gain and to give help in accomplishing this end. Our purpose, man-building, is not accomplished by forcing a man into some kind of mold or trap. Rather, it is accomplished by helping him find his way out of molds and traps, including those of his own making.

Whatever contributes to the realization of a man's highest potential, we are for, and we believe our kind of brotherhood can make many such contributions. This is man-building.

Whatever prevents or reduces the realization of a man's highest potential, we are against, and we know that many kinds of association do prevent and reduce that realization. This is man-destroying, or man-demeaning.

Building men is more than our motto; it is our single and ultimate purpose. That is why we see no place for hazing or humiliation. They seldom build; they always demean; they sometimes destroy. That is why we resist conformity, limit ritualism, and maintain a cooperative but unencumbered relationship to other fraternities. That is why we take so seriously our central commitment to scholarship. That is why we acknowledge in all our chapter living that no one is the man he could be except as he gives himself fully and freely for his brothers and draws humble and gratefully upon them in the fullest spirit of brotherhood. That is why we place such emphasis upon the qualities of faith, ambition, reverence, morality, honesty, obedience, unity, service, and excellence.

Men who come into our fellowship should find a soil that nourishes, and a climate that favors, the finest manhood that lies within each of them. Each is entitled to find help and each is obligated to give it.

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# **GLOSSARY**

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## GLOSSARY

**ACTIVE:** An outdated term used to describe a brother of the Fraternity or a fully initiated member. The equivalent term used today is chapter member.

**ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP:** One type of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Rubies Ceremony confers Alumni Membership and the requirements to confer this membership is outlined in the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** One type of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Pearls Ceremony confers Associate Membership and the requirements to confer this membership is outlined in the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity.

**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 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. Specifically, it is only worn on collared shirts, sweaters or vests. The badge should be worn on formal occasions or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity.

**BID:** A 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 collectively by the chapter and each new member to offer support during the new member education period and beyond.

**BUILDER OF MEN AFFIRMATION:** A formal compilation of educational and Ritual tools produced by the FarmHouse International Executive Board and Staff. 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* seeks to ensure every action of the Fraternity and its members reflect the ideals of its motto “Builder of Men. Please refer to the front cover for the statement of purpose.

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:** As determined by each chapter, leadership is celebrated by Ritual for members whom have taken on significant roles with their campus or community.

**CHAPTER MEETING:** The regularly scheduled meeting of the members of each local chapter. The By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity outline the requirements of chapter meetings.

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:** One type of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Pearls Ceremony confers Chapter Membership and the requirements to confer this membership is outlined in the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity. A combination of the physical or graphic representation and a technical heraldic description. FarmHouse Coat of Arms is our crest and its description.

**COAT OF ARMS:** A combination of the physical or graphic representation and a technical heraldic description. FarmHouse Coat of Arms is our crest and its description.

**CONCLAVE:** Conclave is the Biennial meeting of the entire Fraternity. This is offered to referred to as a convention in other fraternal organizations.

**CRESCENT CEREMONY:** The Crescent Ceremony confers Imminent Membership. The Ritual is to be performed in a timely manner following the Star ceremony and at the close of the Builder of Men Week.

**EXTERNAL HONOR:** An external honor should be defined as any significant credit given to an individual member, a group of members, 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 removed from the title FarmHouse Rituals as we understand all ceremonies require a degree of formality, some more so than others.

**FRATERNAL CELEBRATION:** As part of the Further Affirmations, 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. Honors given exclusively by the Fraternity, namely, Master Builder of Men, Barnes Award for Outstanding Interfraternalism.



## GLOSSARY

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

**GOLD EXTENT:** The Gold Extent of Membership encompasses the second Extent of Membership. The color gold or the color of autumn meaning to reap what one has sown represents this extent. 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 its symbols and ideals.

**GREEN EXTENT:** The Green Extent of Membership encompasses the first Extent of Membership. The color green or the color of spring meaning new birth and fresh growth represents this extent. The color green should inspire every man associated with our Fraternity to pride himself in the history of our organization, that of agricultural interest.

**HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION:** Ritual should be celebrated for members whom achieve membership status within any significant campus or community honor societies.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:** One type of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity conferred only by the International Executive Board. The Pearls Ceremony confers Honorary Membership and the requirements to confer this membership is outlined in the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity.

**HOUSE DIRECTOR:** (see Resident Advisor)

**IMMINENT MEMBER:** An affiliated man whom has completed new member education and thus has been a candidate in the Crescent Ceremony. However, Chapter Membership has not yet been conferred through the Pearls Ceremony.

**INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP:** 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 and often includes a physical document such as a bid card.

**INITIATION:** The act of conferring Chapter Membership.

**LAVALIERING:** A public announcement by a member 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 member to his significant other during a lavaliering.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP:** One type of membership in FarmHouse Fraternity. The Star Ceremony confers New Membership and the requirements to confer this membership is outlined in the By-Laws of FarmHouse Fraternity.

**NEW MEMBER EDUCATION:** The International Executive Board and Staff offer and publish a prescribed new member education process which details lessons and activities of the FarmHouse member orientation. The program is in congruence with the standards of the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

**PEARLS CEREMONY:** The Pearls Ceremony confers Chapter Membership, also known as initiation. The Ritual is to be performed no more than two weeks into the second semester of affiliation. The Pearls Ceremony shall also constitute as the ceremony to confer Associate and Honorary Membership.

**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.

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

## GLOSSARY

**POINTS OF MEMBERSHIP:** The Points of Membership mark a new beginning or ending of a journey in the life of a member. For example, the Star Ceremony marks the first time a member is offered to wear the badge of our Fraternity. Each point offers a challenge, or charge, for the next stage of membership. The Points of Membership are derived from the Star which has much meaning. 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” just as the Points of Membership.

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBER:** An affiliated man whom has observed the Shield Ceremony as a candidate, but is yet to observe the Star Ceremony.

**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. The recognition pin may be worn for formal occasion or as appropriate when representing the Fraternity. 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.

**RESIDENT ADVISOR / HOUSE DIRECTOR (HOUSEMOTHER) :** An appointed or designated individual who lives within the chapter home to offer support, guidance and resources to the chapter and its members.

**rites of membership:** The Rituals prescribed to honor the Points of Membership, namely the Shield, Star, Crescent, Pearls and Rubies ceremonies.

**RUBIES CEREMONY:** The Rubies Ceremony confers Alumni Membership and acts as a declaration of Intent for Alumni Membership. The Ceremony is to be performed following the final chapter meeting of the graduation semester or after proper procedures are taken for a member to become an alumnus of the Fraternity.

**SHIELD CEREMONY:** The Shield Ceremony confers an invitation to Prospective Membership. The Ceremony is to be performed at time invitation is given to a candidate or at the first organized meeting of new membership, prior to the Star Ceremony.

**STAR CEREMONY:** The Star Ceremony is which confers New Membership and acts as a declaration of Intent for Fraternal Membership. The Ceremony is to be performed at start new member education and is intended to be performed outside of a weekly chapter meeting, preferably, with a celebratory meal.

**WHITE EXTENT:** The White Extent of Membership encompasses the third and final Extent of Membership. The color white, or the color of winter, meaning wisdom represents this extent. 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 members are recognized by the color white.



