



VIRTUAL CEREMONIES: Friendship, Alumna, Memorial Acknowledgment

A Ceremony of Friendship of The Links, Incorporated (VIRTUAL CEREMONY TO USE DURING PANDEMIC)

Purpose of the Ceremony

This closed ceremony embraces and reaffirms one of the founding tenets of our organization, friendship.

VIRTUAL CEREMONY GUIDELINES FOR CEREMONY OF FRIENDSHIP

1. This ceremony is to be used in a virtual platform/format only and not for use as an in-person ceremony.
2. For Links members with speaking parts in the ceremony, all microphones and phone lines should be muted, until it is time for the Link to speak.
3. Under no circumstances are photographs or screen shots of the platform or participants allowed.
4. The Ceremony of Friendship is to be conducted on a secure, password protected platform and granted entrance by a designated member in the chapter.
5. Each Link attending should be in a dedicated space free from interruptions, i.e., walk-throughs by others in the house.
6. The friendship ceremony is to be performed as delineated in this document – no substitutions are allowed unless they are specified in the ceremonial script.
7. The ceremony should be rehearsed in advance

Preparation for the Virtual Ceremony

NO CEREMONIAL TABLE WILL BE SET UP OR DISPLAYED

- Chapter President designates a Leader and one Candle Lighter (chapter president may serve as the Leader)
- The Candle Lighter will need either a 5-pronged candelabra or 5 single candles in candle holders visible in their area
- Each chapter member will receive an electronic copy of the ceremony/program
- Each chapter member will require a 6” white candle or pen light
- Soft music should be played at the beginning of candle lighting portion of the ceremony (suggestion: The Candlelight Song)

Properties Needed for the Ceremony

- Five (5) prong candelabra or five (5) candle holders
 - Five (5) 14-inch electronic white candles
 - 6-inch electronic white candles or penlights for participating Links
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VIRTUAL CEREMONY OF FRIENDSHIP

Leader:

What is a Link, the cynic asks?
What marks her from the rest?
How would you know her in a crowd?
Is there someone, perfect test?
As a Link in friendship's chain,
Review the standards we have set
Do we live by friendship's creed
And give what we would get?

Leader:

The voiceless hands whose gentle touch speaks of faith and willingness to serve us in a moment's stress.

Group:

For these we search in friendship's quest.

Leader:

Or the silent gaze of kindly eyes that praise us when a job's well done.

Group:

By this we know the friendly one.

Leader:

Deaf ears turn from unproved blame, criticism and disdain.

Group:

This Link is might in friendship's chain.

Leader:

To warm the soul — a cordial smile like stolen radiance from the sun.

Group:

A sign this is — a friend we've won.

Leader:

The repressed tear that eases sorrow when life for us seems burdened down.

Group:

By this we feel a friend is found.

Leader:

And the leavening presence of one who cares and checks — least we ourselves condemn.

Group:

This is friendship's crowning gem.

Soft music should be played throughout candle lighting.

Candle Lighter (after lighting the first candle):

This candle burns in memory of Margaret Rosell Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott, co-founders of The Links, Incorporated.

Leader:

There's always something about candlelight that moves the heart and makes things right because within its soft warm glow bitter thoughts can't live and grow.

Candle Lighter (after lighting the second candle):

For Sarah Strickland Scott this flame is spent — co-founder and our first national president.

Leader:

Within its shadows one can't see
The critic's stare nor the cynic's glee.
And ugly pride is forced to cringe
Along the path of its golden fringe.

Candle Lighter (after lighting the third candle):

This flame is to remind us we have a civic trust.

Leader:

Then hidden deep in its yellow flame
Are the scars of words that sting and blame,
While values false and pretenses shallow
Smolder and die in its melting tallow.

Candle Lighter: (after lighting the fourth candle)

Such soft illumination is for cultural appreciation.

Leader:

Warmed in the blaze of candle gleam
Are frozen hearts with forgotten dreams,
And the hands of those who can't understand
That kindly mercy is part of the plan.

Candle Lighter (*after lighting the last candle*):

For our social phase, I set that tiny blaze.

Leader:

What gift of power has candlelight
That reaches deep and makes things right — And glorifies upon their shelves,
The good we've stored within ourselves!

All Links light candles.

The entire group joins in singing the Candlelight Song.

Candlelight Song

Candlelight — candlelight,
In the soft hour of gloaming All the cares and all the blame
You have purged them in your flame.
With a prayer in our hearts
That has grown with this day,
We will walk in your glow And will find our lost way.
In thy spell-candlelight
As the day nears its end,
We remember we have come
In the name of Links and friend.
As the day dawns tomorrow,
May we pledge once again
To gather our blessings And share them with friends.

The music of the Candlelight Song continues.

THE ENTREATY

Leader:

God, who is the guardian of the universe, the secret of Thy humble spirit, share with us today so that in this business of being friends, we, too, can employ Thy gentle way. Teach us to have and yet not bulge with the knowledge of our possession and to use it wisely for all as our first and greatest lesson. Make us think of wisdom as a rare and precious trust to guide us in our leadership of those who turn to us. And let us wear the prestige and position that we get as a symbol of the downy stuff so often spun in sweat — by those who could not feel its fluff with hands from toil grown rough.

Help us to understand that most women hold their dreams of finding each a better place somewhere in life's great scheme — and our job — if we're really fair — within our circle's band is to make a little room so that these can also have a share.

Then give us God, with boundaries wide — a gracious, tender soul. Plant it well with friendship's seed and tend it as it grows, so that we can simply tackle life and take it in our stride, and meet and solve each changing need because there's love inside.

~ Amen.

Leader:

Sister Links, let us recite The Links, Incorporated pledge and sing the National Song of The Links, Incorporated

All turn off candles.

Ceremony to Honor a Member/Members Requesting Alumna Status of The Links, Incorporated (VIRTUAL CEREMONY TO USE DURING PANDEMIC)

Purpose of the Ceremony

This closed ceremony celebrates Link members who meet the requirements, and now seek Alumna status.

VIRTUAL CEREMONY GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER(S) REQUESTING ALUMNA STATUS

1. This ceremony is to be used in a virtual platform/format only and not for use as an in-person ceremony.
2. For Links members with speaking parts in the ceremony, all microphones and phone lines should be muted, until it is time for the Link to speak.
3. Under no circumstances are photographs or screen shots of the platform, candidates or participants allowed.
4. The Alumna Ceremony is to be conducted on a secure, password protected platform and granted entrance by a designated member in the chapter.
5. Each Link attending should be in a dedicated space free from interruptions, i.e., walk-throughs by others in the house.
6. Each participating chapter member should receive (via email) a copy of the alumna ceremony to be performed.
7. The alumna ceremony is to be performed as delineated in this document – no substitutions are allowed unless they are specified in the ceremonial script.
8. The ceremony should be rehearsed in advance.

Preparation for the Virtual Ceremony

NO CEREMONIAL TABLE WILL BE SET UP OR DISPLAYED

- Soft music may be played during the ceremony
- All chapter members should have candles/penlights
- The chapter should see that the requesting Link(s) receive a white rose bouquet for the day of the ceremony
- The chapter president designates the role of The Leader
- The chapter president will require a 14 inch electronic white candle in a candle holder
- Each participating chapter member will require a copy of the ceremony
- The chapter president will need a list of the achievements of the Link(s) requesting Alumna status
- Each participating chapter Link will require a 6 inch white candle or pen light

Properties Needed for the Ceremony

- One (1) electronic 14-inch white candle in candle holder for Leader
 - Six inch white electronic candles/penlights for chapter members
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CEREMONY

The ceremony calls for the two (2) reading parts of the Leader and the president.

Leader:

A candle was lit when you chose to enter this chain of friendship. Today I light this candle to honor your devotion to the _____ Chapter.

You have served your community and chapter with sincere commitment, dedication, and in the true spirit of friendship for _____ years.

All:

We light our candles to honor Link(s) _____ (calls name(s) of member(s)).

Links are to turn on their candles or turn on their penlights.

Leader:

We need a friend to listen to our fears and failure, to the big events in our lives, to our complaints. We need a friend to share our joy.

All:

Thank you for listening ears.

Leader:

We need a friend who can see in our struggling moments the solution to many of our problems. One who can see behind our facade. One who has a vision for our chapter.

All:

Thank you for discerning eyes.

Leader:

We need a friend who will speak out when we are off track, and call us back to the problems at hand.

All:

Thank you for your voice of wisdom and understanding.

Leader:

We need a friend who loves and will be willing to share ideas, time, and resources: one who really loves our chain of friendship.

All:

Thank you for the love you shared.

Leader:

(If a charter member.)

You, Link(s) _____ are a charter member(s) of the _____ Chapter.

Leader:

We owe you a special debt of gratitude for the sacrifices you made; the time, resources, tears and services that you have shared with this chapter over the past years.

All:

Thank you for keeping this chapter active, committed, and focused for us to enjoy. Your Link friends respect and love you and recognize your service to your community

President:

Link(s) _____ you have served this chapter in many capacities. You have:
_____.

List achievements.

Our records verify that you have met the requirements for achieving Alumna status. All that remains now is that you declare before this chapter that you still desire Alumna status. Is this your desire?

Link(s) Desiring Alumna Status:

Yes, this is my desire.

President:

Having satisfied all requirements, I now officially declare you an Alumna member of The Links, Incorporated, with all privileges granted by our constitution and bylaws.

I extinguish this flame in love and friendship.

President turns off candle and all members turn off their candles.

Leader:

Let us now sing the National Song of The Links, Incorporated.

The National Song of The Links, Incorporated

We strive to do some good each year
For those who need our aid;
It binds us close and brings us joy.
And so we feel repaid.
We're each a Link in friendship's chain,
And loyal to our creed
Of doing good through work and play;
Together we'll succeed.

Lyrics: Frances Atkinson

Music: Marietta Hall Cephas

President:

In friendship, you have received our offer of tributes.

At this time, Alumna members may show the roses they have received from the chapter.

Memorial Acknowledgement of the Passing of Links, Connecting Links and Heir-O-Links

(VIRTUAL CEREMONY TO USE DURING PANDEMIC)

Purpose of the Ceremony

This closed acknowledgement is intended for use during the period of pandemic to honor our passing loved ones.

VIRTUAL MEMORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT GUIDELINES

1. This ceremony is to be used in a virtual platform/format only and not for use as an in-person ceremony.
2. For Links members with speaking parts in the ceremony, all microphones and phone lines should be muted, until it is time for the Link to speak.
3. Under no circumstances are photographs or screen shots of the platform, candidates or participants allowed.
4. The Memorial Acknowledgement is to be conducted on a secure, password protected platform and granted entrance by a designated member in the chapter.
5. Each Link attending should be in a dedicated space free from interruptions, i.e., walk-throughs by others in the house.
6. Each participating chapter member should receive (via email) a copy of the alumna ceremony to be performed.
7. The Memorial Acknowledgement is to be performed as delineated in this document – no substitutions are allowed unless they are specified in the ceremonial script.
8. The ceremony should be rehearsed in advance.

Preparation for the Virtual Ceremony

NO CEREMONIAL TABLE WILL BE SET UP OR DISPLAYED

VIRTUAL MEMORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President:

We have gathered in our separate spaces, but on one accord to acknowledge the passing of our sister Link _____, (Connecting Link, Heir-O-Link) _____).

Chapter Chaplain:

Opening Prayer

Designated Link:

Reads Psalm 23

Designated Link(s):

Offers Tribute(s)

Chapter President:
Reads Chapter Resolution

Chapter Chaplain:
Closing Prayer