

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE CANDLE LIGHTING – 2019

“YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE”

SETTING: A circle arrangement of ten candles is placed upon a table in the center of the stage or in front of, or on, the altar. The Bible can be placed in the center on in front of the candles. The ten candles could be lighted by ten of the members with the Lecturer as the leader. If a large turnout is expected, it is suggested that the stage be used. If fewer are in attendance, the table in front of the altar could be used. Everyone could be standing around the altar in a circle with ten people designated to read the parts.

LEADER: This is the beginning of our new Grange year. So many questions come to mind. What are our real goals? Who will help achieve them? Aren't others more capable than I? How can we make this year, as a group, worth the time we devote to it?

Several members are assisting in presenting some of the factors that are necessary for the success of this Grange year. We challenge you with this thought: You Make the Difference. Each of us will represent a candle and each candle represents a part of the whole. And what is a candle? Someone anonymously wrote this little poem.

A candle is but a simple thing;
It starts with just a bit of string,
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand
Until complete and snowy white,
It gives at last, a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string;
Each deed we do a simple thing,
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient hearts and hand,
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,
And gives at least, a lovely light.

We see here, a circle of candles. There is no glow.....no light. Let us hear the messages of the candles and learn how YOU make the difference.

(The leaders lights his/her candle and then passes it to the first person who lights his candle from it, speaks his few words, and passes the candle to the next in line. Each person, as his turn comes, lights his candle, speaks his assigned words and passes the candle to the next in line.)

First: COURTEOUS WORDS – Yes, courteous words! It would pay us all to fasten this quip where it would be a constant reminder. The chief exercise some seem to have is Running down others, Skipping their obligations, Jumping to conclusions, Pushing their own interests! The art of saying the most appropriate words in a kindly manner never goes out of style and never ceases to reap big dividends.

Second: SMILES – not frowns. Smiles are much like sunshine. They lighten and erase away the frowns that may appear. There is strength and happiness in a smile that gives courage to everyone who sees it. We all feel better when we are wearing smiles.

Third: ENTHUSIASM – truly the magic spark that can inspire and ignite all who come within its radiance. Someone has defined enthusiasm thus: Enthusiasm is the vibrant thrill in your voice that sways the will of others into harmony with your own. It is a magnet that draws kindred souls with an irresistible force and electrifies them with the magnetism of its own resolve. Let us have enthusiasm for our year's work.

Fourth: RESPONSE – not indifference! In today's idiom, don't just stand there. Do something! Is there anything more disheartening for a chairman or for those on a program, the facing a row of expressionless faces – a group which never speaks to dissent or assent, never volunteering to help? Let us all be quick to respond.

Fifth: UNDERSTANDING – NOT CLOSED MINDS! Bring understanding when you come to our meetings with an attitude that says, you and I don't profess exactly the same ideas but we do seek the same end – for the best interests of all. Our points of view, our circumstances, our educations all vary and the road to understanding is not always easy, but let's put forth our best efforts to understand one another.

Sixth: ATTENTION – for this brings importance to our work. Attention to the speaker at our meetings, or to the member who has the floor, is a matter of courtesy. Certainly nothing is more disconcerting than trying to talk above the whispers of a group. Let's resolve that we will give whole-hearted attention at all times.

Seventh: PATIENCE – not irritation, but consideration instead of annoyance. Let us all have patience to allow ideas to grow and take form, patience to wait for something short of immediate results, and patience to bear and forebear, knowing that others are doing so with you.

Eighth: SINCERITY – not sham. For a few days each spring the orchards are white with blossoms. They seem to turn to fruit or else float away, useless and wasted, upon an idle breeze. So it is with our good intentions, our high ideals, our resolve to be loyal. They must be deepened into decision or be dissipated by delay and be lost. Let us always be sincere in all our resolves.

Ninth: FACTS – yes, they are important! Many troubles and heartaches are caused by thoughtless acts when we jump to conclusions without knowing all the facts!

Tenth: CREATIVITY – instead of the humdrum. It isn't necessary to fall back on "the way we have always done it." I like the way Edwin Markum put it: "Great it is to believe the dream when we stand in youth by the starry stream; but a greater thing is to fight life through and say at the end, the dream was true! If we have been dreaming of ideas that we would like to try, let us not hide them away. Great things come from the little spark of an idea.

LEADER: Brothers and Sisters, we as a Grange have endless opportunities to make a difference in our communities and our nation. These ten words will provide us with direction throughout the year for the benefit of all. And now, as we put to rest one chapter of our Grange work, let us open the next chapter with a renewed vengeance and dedication that will allow us to continue our work in the future.

Ceremony adapted from Margaret Bodine, Jersey Creek Grange (KS)