

To: Pomona and Subordinate/Community Grange Lecturers

From: Leslie Jo Wells, Washington State Grange Lecturer

The following page is the 2018 Candle Lighting Ceremony. This ceremony is usually performed as the Lecturer's Program at the beginning of the Grange year.

You, as Lecturer, may want to keep these qualities and/or characteristics in mind as you progress through the year and plan your programs. You might want to have a mid-year review of this to see how you are doing. Are you offering everyone an opportunity to participate? Have you celebrated an event? Do you recognize member achievements? Are you having fun?

The theme for this ceremony is Welcome.

Suggestions for the ceremony:

You might want to have the participants stand together with each one holding a large example of the letter they are talking about as they light their candle and say their piece.

OR

Set up a table with eight candle holders – one for you and the other seven for your members representing the word WELCOME. You light your candle, say your piece (the introduction) and call on Member 1. Member 1 would light their candle from your lit candle and say their piece, followed by the other Members 2 – 7.

OR

Do it however you want that will work for your Grange.

2018 Candle Lighting Ceremony - WELCOME

Lecturer Intro: I light this candle to represent our new Grange year. Our organization prides itself on being one that WELCOMES everyone. As we begin a new Grange year, let's reflect on some of the qualities and/or characteristics of Grange members and the organization as a whole.

Member 1: I light this candle for the letter W – We WELCOME everyone and promote wholesome, family – friendly activities. Everyone should have an opportunity to participate in our meetings and programs. The 1+ Junior Program and Junior Grange Camps can offer opportunities for our youngest members to participate.

Member 2: I light this candle for the letter E – The Grange is an Enduring organization. We just celebrated the 150th birthday of the National Grange and with our continued participation we will be a viable grassroots organization for many more years.

Member 3: I light this candle for the letter L – The Lessons we learn through the ritual of the first five degrees of our order can be the guidance we use to make our way through life: Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity, and Perseverance.

Member 4: I light this candle for the letter C – Celebrate whenever we can – make the meetings fun! Have a birthday party to commemorate our Grange's birthday, the achievement of a goal, the awarding of a scholarship, the diversity of our membership, or just because it's the first day of spring – Celebrate!

Member 5: I light this candle for the letter O – Optimize our members. Let's find out about the hidden talents we have in our Grange. We should offer everyone a time to shine. Through participation our members have an opportunity for personal growth.

Member 6: I light this candle for the letter M – Mentors can help our organization grow. Let's each think back to when we first joined the Grange. We didn't always know what was going on or why things were done in a particular way. When a veteran member serves as a Mentor, new members have someone to help them on their Grange journey. This should result in active, participating members which can lead to additional new members.

Member 7: I light this candle for the letter E – Enthusiasm should be the lifeblood of our Grange. When we approach our meetings, tasks and events with enthusiasm we should be successful at everything we do.

Lecturer: Worthy Master/President – This concludes our Candle Lighting Ceremony.