

DOBRO SLOVO INITIATION CEREMONY

It is suggested that a banquet or reception be planned in conjunction with the initiation ceremony, thus creating a special occasion for the candidates to remember and cherish. Candidates may wish to invite family and friends. The Faculty Advisor may choose to invite a representative from the institution's administration or local community to add a few words of congratulations and encouragement after the initiation ceremony or during the banquet or reception. Local chapters may want to make a photographic record of such initiation ceremonies and accompanying reception or banquet. Local press coverage (newspapers, radio, T.V.) should also be considered.

The initiation ceremony itself should be limited to chapter officers, the Faculty Advisor, and the members and candidates to be initiated. Some chapters hold the initiation ceremony earlier in the day and follow it by an evening reception or banquet.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL SLAVIC HONOR SOCIETY

A campus chapter of Dobro Slovo was established at Berkeley on Oct 29, 1926, to recognize academic excellence among Slavic students. In 1963, the National Slavic Honor Society – Dobro Slovo – was founded with the help and encouragement of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). The Society serves as a means for the recognition of academic excellence in the study of Slavic languages and literatures and provides incentive for scholarly interest in Slavic life and culture. The Society was patterned after existing honorary organizations in other fields. Since 1963, Dobro Slovo has steadily grown to be an internationally recognized academic Honor Society with a distinguished membership.

The Key of the National Slavic Honor Society – Dobro Slovo – is as representative of academic excellence in Slavic studies as the Phi Beta Kappa Key is for overall academic excellence.

The Ceremony


Present: Chapter Officers, Faculty Advisor, Members, Candidates and any Society Members from visiting Chapters.

Procedure: The Faculty Advisor will greet all attendees with a brief fraternal welcome, introducing all Members to the gathering by name. In the case of Honorary Members, it would be valuable for the Faculty Advisor to outline the works that warrant this distinction.

The Chapter President now takes charge of the ceremony. S/he expresses the gratitude of the Chapter to the Faculty Advisor for the many services rendered in the course of the academic year. S/he then introduces the other Chapter officers. S/he should also say a brief word of fraternal greeting, particularly stressing the value of academic recognition for students of Slavic studies.

The Chapter President will now call the Chapter Secretary to read the roll of Candidates. At the conclusion of the reading, the Chapter President will call upon the Faculty Advisor to verbally certify to the assembled group that all Candidates meet the requirements of the Constitution (Article VI).

The Chapter President then says:

“As with other such Societies with secret symbolism, the Glogolithic letters  are named ‘Dobro Slovo’, are only the first letters of the true name of the Society. This Society has the true name “Dety Slavy”, meaning “Children of Glory”, which by virtue of your successful candidacy, you now become. Cherish this designation and remember its meaning. Engraved upon the Key, the letters will ever remind you of the distinction you have this day attained.

“Also on the Key and on all Society insignia is the image of the Firebird. This image is a favorite one from Slavic folklore and serves to remind us of traditions and cultures which go back to the very dawn of Slavic history.

“The turned-back corner of the Key symbolizes the manuscript folios that are turned over in a never-ceasing investigation of Slavic languages, literatures and cultures.

[The Candidates are here asked to rise if they have been sitting.]

“As Candidates to the Society, you have achieved academic excellence in Slavic studies and have qualified for membership in Dobro Slovo. Your membership in the National Slavic Honor Society is a high honor and publicly known, and you will be an example, in word and deed, to others who may strive to attain this same honor. Continue to maintain the high academic standards for which you are today being recognized. Since this is our most important stated goal, namely the stimulation and recognition of academic excellence, it becomes your most important responsibility; discharge it faithfully and well.

“I ask you now to hear the Pledge of the Society and respond to its challenge:

**“Will you, as an elected member of Dobro Slovo...
do your best...
to uphold the best traditions of scholarship...
in all your future studies...
of Slavic languages, literature and culture...
and be a true and faithful member...
of the National Slavic Honor Society...
and of this Chapter?”**

(The Initiates respond: “I (We) will...!”

(End of pledge. The President continues:)

“It is my distinct pleasure to announce to all that the Candidates here assembled and pledged are now Members of the National Slavic Honor Society – Dobro Slovo, with all the rights and honors accruing thereto.”

(The President or Secretary can now distribute the membership cards, Society certificates and Society Key.)

This ends the Canon. All invited guests may now join the members.

There should be a short intermission between the close of the Society meeting and the address so all invited guests may join the members. Refreshments might be served at this time..

It is highly desirable that some person now address the group. This address should be scholarly in nature, approximately 20-30 minutes in length, and may be open to the public. This will do much to heighten the overall solemnity of the occasion. Whenever possible, the speaker should be a Faculty or Honorary Member of the Society or a strong community supporter of the local Russian/Slavic program.

As a preface to the introduction of the Guest Speaker in open session, it might be interesting to share the “**Brief History of the National Slavic Honor Society**” with the assembled group: