

CANDY BARS

More than # _____ years ago, before many women had the right to vote...before many women were offered business opportunities...and even before many women were accepted as equals outside the home, the seeds were planted for what would become the worlds largest classified service organization for executive and professional women.

Soroptimist International was founded October 3, 1921 in Oakland California. On that date, 80 risk taking working women joined together to "foster the ideals of service." Of course, mens service clubs had begun a little earlier, history states somewhere around the 13th century, as a means to escape their wives. Women may have had the same reason as we began the formation of our clubs. When it comes to Soroptimist, I would like to think that women join for our need to give service. We also join for support, networking, friendship, a feeling of self worth and the need to give. Certainly volunteering does not have rewards in of itself, the rewards are; someone, somewhere will be better off because we touched their life and gave them a reason to live or the tools to create a better life. We may never meet these people, but we just know e have made their lives just a little bit better.

Tonight your new incoming president and her board begin their very own risk taking year. Your new board members bring together their special talents, each one complementing the other and in the end you have a harmonious blending with the best of each board member defining and molding your year into a very special event.

But first, would last years board please stand so that the club members could recognize you for all the hard work you have done during the past year.

When I was invited to be the installing officer, I tried to think of something all Soroptimist share. Service to others? Dedication to Soroptimist? Honor in business? Finally, it came to me...the perfect answer to the question...All Soroptimist share their love for chocolate!!!!

Delegate: Your club has elected you as their delegate. You will represent your members at district meetings and regional conferences and bring back information vital to your club. Do you accept this challenge? I give to you **"GOOD & PLENTY"** candies, for you will need to be "good" and do "plenty".

Directors: You were elected to serve as directors. You are the backbone of the club. As a group you will administer control over the affairs, funds and the property of the club. Do you accept this challenge? I give to each of you a **"SPECIAL CANDY"** Bar, symbolic of the many responsibilities that you must accept as director.

Treasurer: The club has given you their vote for treasurer. Your job description is one of great importance. You are the keeper of the funds. You will receive all funds and deposit them. You will sign all checks and pay all bills. Your accounting will reflect the success and the growth of our club. Do you accept this challenge? I give to you a **"CUP OF GOLD"**.

Corresponding Secretary: You shall be responsible for all the correspondence for the club. Remember you must respond in a timely manner. A willing secretary can take much of the load of detail from the president. Much of the clubs image in the community depends on you. Do you accept this challenge? For you, I've selected the **"MOUNDS BAR"** because you will have mounds of work.

Recording Secretary: Through the years, your records become the permanent history of your club and its achievements. You must be careful to record all the matters required under the rules of good parliamentary procedure. Do you accept this challenge? I have for you, some "**M&M**"s, for memories and minutes.

President Elect: You must...be ready to step in and take over the role of president. Be a positive role model for new members. Spark and motivate your members. Obtain a working knowledge of the federation and region guidelines. Do you accept the challenge? Then I want you to always be there in the "**CRUNCH**" for your president, for you are her "**LIFE SAVER**".

President: You have been elected as president and that title depicts the duties of your office. You will.....Preside at all meetings. Set the policy of the club. Represent Soroptimist International of _____ in the community reflecting the spirit and character of Soroptimist as well as at federation and regional meetings. You will need to be fair, tactful, patient and wise. Common sense will carry you far. Your rewards cannot be measured. Under your direction you will form committees, raise money and spend it on service projects, work with the community, and join with other clubs at conferences to further the ideals of Soroptimist. You must conduct the business of the club, use parliamentary procedure at all meetings, and keep your gavel handy and use it when necessary. Do you accept the challenge of the presidency? For you, I hope you do not have a ROCKY ROAD so I give you a box of "**SEES**" chocolates, a symbol of your office. Because your duties will be as varied as the contents of this box, but all sweet and filled with anticipation of what each one holds, just like your year. It will also hold a sweetness both of the friendships you will make and the people your club will help during this coming year.

I ask all of you to do your best to carry out the requirements of your respective offices. I challenge you to be tolerant, give praise and encouragement, share yourself, but most of all....have vision for your clubs future.

I now declare these officers, directors and delegates duly installed in the offices for which they were elected. I wish you all a most successful and happy term in office.

