

CLUB CHARTER WITH GARDEN TOOLS

(Items needed: various garden tools)

Members of Soroptimist International of _____ and guests. There is an old Chinese proverb which says "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." Many months ago Soroptimist International of _____ took a single step, and after a thousand miles (or so it seems) we meet tonight to share this very auspicious occasion.

The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare,
For only what you give away,
Enriches you from day to day.

I am most happy and privileged to be here among old friends and new to share this occasion with you, and I am deeply honored to install your charter officers.

Soroptimist is many things....not only an idea and an ideal, the dream which precedes the accomplishment, a philosophy of service to others. It is:

Sincerity of friendship, tolerance, understanding and patience.

Joy of achievement, gladness for a task undertaken and well done.

Dignity of service, intelligent assistance given so as to preserve the dignity of both the giver and recipient.

Integrity of profession, high standards and good business ethics.

Love of country, duty, honor, sacrifice for those democratic principles we hold so dear.

For these we strive to enrich our own lives by exercise during fellowship which leads to everlasting friendships -- not only here but with those from around the world who we meet and know and come to love. Tonight is a new beginning -- and you have come far. We have come together tonight to plant a new garden.

Life without purpose is barren indeed.
There can't be a harvest unless you plant the seed.

Today we sow - tomorrow we reap. And that tomorrow is important, for it is there that we shall spend the rest of our lives. Tonight, with your charter officers who I am about to install, I leave a list of planting instructions. First, plant four rows of peas - preparedness, promptness, perseverance and prayer.

Plant three or four rows of squash - squash undue criticism, squash gossip and squash indifference.

Plant a few rows of turnips - including turn up for meetings, turn up with a smile, turn up with ideas and turn up for conferences. Plant five rows of lettuce - let us be loyal, let us be faithful, let us be truthful, let us be unselfish and let us love one another.

I can assure you that as your officers join with you in the planting and cultivating of your new garden, you will reap tremendous and satisfying results for a successful year and many more to follow. As your club joins hands with others throughout the region, the federation and the world, and with all of the Soroptimist members dedicated to service, may you ever more clearly see the results of careful planting of the seeds of Soroptimist love and friendship.

Kind hearts are the garden
Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the blossoms
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Directors: You have been elected directors of your club and shall serve for two years or until your successors are elected. You are important to the smooth operation of your club and to the planning and carrying out of activities resulting in the growth and stature of your club. I ask you to shoulder your full share of the load and keep yourselves well informed concerning all Soroptimist matters on club, regional, federation and international levels. I give each of you _____, representing your votes and directives that you will exercise wisely and well in the best interest of your club.

Treasurer: You have been elected treasurer of your club. Your duties consist of receiving all funds of the club, depositing them into the bank, preparing and signing all checks and making all remittances as required by regional and federation bylaws and paying authorized bills in the manner provided in your club bylaws. It is most important that you keep good books and records and have them available for audit at the proper time. A must, is keeping your board and membership informed at all times of the clubs financial status. I give to you _____, representing the books of account which you will keep carefully and conservatively.

Corresponding Secretary: You have been elected as corresponding secretary of your club. Your duties shall be to send out notices and carry on such correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers. You can do a great deal to assist the officers, take much of the load of detail from the president, and build good will and understanding by promptly handling all correspondence. Much of the clubs image in the community, and Soroptimism at large, depends on you. Your _____, represents a calendar for reminding you to mail all notices and other correspondence that you will be required to handle.

Recording Secretary: You have been elected recording secretary of your club. Your duties are to be present at business and board meetings and to keep a good and careful record of all proceedings. You will be keeping permanent records for all time and you must be careful to record all matters required under rules of good parliamentary procedure. Minutes of the business meetings and any recommendations from the board will be submitted by you to the club. Further, you will maintain a roll of membership for your club. Your _____, represent a notebook for you to record the many notations you will be making of the club proceedings for its permanent records.

2nd Vice President: You have been elected as second vice president of your club and you must be ever ready to step into the shoes of the president whenever she and the first vice president are absent, or whenever called upon to do so. You should be ever ready to perform any other duties as required of you by the president, and to be aware of all club programs. Your _____, represent a storehouse of knowledge in regional and federation matters, so you may be of assistance to the president as might be asked of you.

