

Fruit Basket

It is a pleasure to be here today and to serve as installing officer for the _____. Now ladies, I would like for you to think back with me to the days of your childhood. Can you recall a game known as "Fruit Basket Turnover?" If I remember correctly, it seems that it involved being named a particular fruit and sitting on chairs in a circle. When two fruits were called, those youngsters exchanged chairs; But, when "Fruitbasket - Turnover" was shouted, everyone joined in and then there was a complete interchange.

In a sense, an installation is somewhat similar. True, sometimes one remains an officer, but merely assumes a different title. But in any event, a change of some sort does take place. So today, I have a fruit basket and an assortment of fruit.

Here I find the perfect one for _____, who will serve as **President**. You will recall the "show biz" term for the one who is number one in the show - that's right, the Top Banana! So, this is for you to symbolize your rank. The botanical name of the common banana is *musa sapientum* which means "Fruit of the Wise Men"; and according to legend, the sages of India rested in the shade of the plant and ate the fruit. So, congratulations and best wishes, and may you use wisdom as you serve your club.

To the **First Vice President**, _____, we present a Pear, for this homonym can also be spelled PAIR, and that's what you have - a pair of jobs! One is to assist the President and to serve in her absence; the other is to plan the programs for the year. This word has a third spelling which is PARE. This meaning applied to program presentation could be effective, if the time schedule is closely observed. Keeping in mind the interests of your fellow members, I feel certain a year of informative and enjoyable programs under your direction can be anticipated.

The **Second Vice President**, _____, will be in charge of membership and hospitality. This responsibility entails the social aspect of the club and the welcoming of new members. In 1493 Columbus, during his second voyage, found on the Island of Guadeloupe, the *Ananas comosus*. So, to you we present the Pineapple, The recognized symbol of hospitality.

The **Third Vice President**, _____, will be the Flower Show Chairman for this year. Looking in our fruit basket, we see a piece of citrus, but this we reject immediately. No lemon for Flower Show! But instead, we take a plum, for we have a feeling this important event will be plum(b) good with you in charge.

The **Recording Secretary** has a busy job for she must keep concise and accurate minutes of each meeting. For you, _____, we have chosen a lovely round peach, for in American argot, peachy means "excellent, fine, beautiful." We believe that the minutes for which you will be responsible will reflect these very qualities.

_____, you will serve as **Treasurer** and will compile the financial records for the club. After much deliberation, we have concluded that this honeydew melon should be for you, for undoubtedly at the conclusion of this meeting, You will turn and say to the lady next to you, "Honey, Do pay your dues!"

A fruit melange such as this should be most delightful. A slate of officers Such as this should be most effective. May I now congratulate each of you, wishing You a challenging and rewarding year!

GEMS I

I hold in my hand a casket of gold. A symbol of wealth and talent untold. My casket holds gems, which have held for all men. The hopes, dreams and fears of what man could win, it's how each is used that makes it worthwhile. The results can be joy, grief, guilt or vile. I open the chest to witness the sights, of sparkling, shimmering, glistening lights. There are blues, reds and whites, yellows and greens. Let's pause for a moment to see what each means.

_____, **Historian.** The yellow is amber, not really a gem, but it collects bits and pieces of what once has been. And just like the amber our historian must be. She guards and collects the club's history. Will you, in this office, work hard to prepare all that should and must be rightfully there?

_____, **Treasurer.** The emerald is prized and its color is green it helps to boost spirits in good times or lean. The treasurer, honest and faithful must be to insure we pay bills and end up debt free. Will you in this office work hard, as in past, to keep our books sound and help our treasury last?

_____, **Recording Secretary** The next stone is blue and as clear as the skies, its beauty symbolic of those who are wise. In keeping our records, your thoughts must clear be, and wisdom in writing will help the world see that our club is well worth the time that we give. It enriches for us, the lives that we live. Will you in your office most diligently strive to help the club grow and remain quite alive?

_____, **Vice-President** The ruby so red is a jewel most rare. As next to our President you must show that you care to help the club grow in spirit and mind. This will require that you always be kind. Your support and good cheer is what we all need. Will you help our good leader to make us succeed?

_____, **President.** And now for the diamond, the star in our crown who never has wavered or let the club down. Your wisdom and love and wanting to share has buoyed us up and prevented despair. If you'll continue to serve as you have these past years. We'll all have experienced memories quite dear. The jewels you hold which represent you, must all work together, red, white, yellow, green and blue.

Together we'll sparkle, we'll glisten and gleam and let the world know that we serve as a team.

