

Hands

The word "installation" means to place in office or a seat of dignity. It is merely the formal words that are phrased at the time of the ceremony. To reach the position of being installed is the power and the dignity.....For it takes dedication and Service to receive the plaudit and recognition that brings one to the installation time.

*Back of your work must be a hand
And back of your hand a heart;
And back of your heart a far-flung dream
Of which every task is a part.
For though the applause of the world might come,
It will die when the day is done,
Unless your labor is linked with the skies,
And your life a God-centered one.*

Installation is both an ending and a beginning.....its excitement and regret.....its anticipation and memories. To serve as an officer of any group requires a giving of self—time must be used wisely to keep home and family matters orderly and at the same time to keep faith with the group you are serving.

Hands are among the most precious tool that one possesses - a fact symbolized in the first gesture of the newborn babe, and the last movement of the dying. The gestures of the hand reveal ones personality - they speak for themselves. By the hands we ask, promise, invoke, dismiss, entreat, threaten, and abuse. By our hands we can express fear, joy, grief, doubt, consent and penitence. We mark numbers with our hands and mark time with our hands.

By electing the officers who will be installed today you have placed your organization and its future in their hands. Will the officers who have served please stand? I know that you will want to give these retiring officers a hand for their devotion and service to this organization.

Director of Junior Clubs, _____ Your hands will be busy as you direct the plans and carry out the projects of the _____. You will have the future in your hands as you lead the _____ Junior membership. Do you accept this responsibility?

Treasurer, _____ In the busy hands of the Treasurer are placed the trust of the income and expenses of the organization. Records must be kept meticulously and according to legal requirements. Bills must be paid promptly to keep the organization in good standing. Do you accept the responsibilities of the Treasurer of this organization as outlined in the Bylaws?

Recording Secretary, _____ The hands of the Recording Secretary are busy recording the action of the organization. This will become the history of your many achievements and the permanent record of your group. Do you accept the responsibilities of the Recording Secretary of this organization as outlined in the Bylaws?

Corresponding Secretary, _____ The Corresponding Secretary is the official communicator of the organization. Communication is vital to a group and all correspondence should be handled timely. You will maintain the records of club presidents for your state and should keep GFWC advised of changes to promote good communication. Do you accept the responsibilities of the Corresponding Secretary of this organization as outlined in the Bylaws?

Membership Chairman, _____ The membership of the organization is vital for the strength of the group. Not only extending the hand of membership to gain new members but clasping the hands of current members in love and appreciation. Membership is critical to any group. Any need to use your hands to ask, entreat and to pray for membership growth. You will be busy. Do you accept the responsibilities of _____ and **Membership Chairman** for this organization as outlined in the Bylaws?

_____, **Dean of Departments** gives you the opportunity to direct the programs and projects of the clubs. The General Federation of Women's Clubs offers many programs and projects as its name implies. The wise use of these programs can be the strength of the organization. You should advise the clubs to choose wisely according to the interest of their members - to try new ideas. Your hands will be busy as you communicate with the many chairmen in your state and with the GFWC Chairmen. Your hands will be full of reports each year as you see the success stories unfold. This office needs a guiding hand. Do you accept the responsibilities of the office of _____ as outlined in the Bylaws?

_____, **President-Elect**, The President-elect is the right hand of the president. She should be supportive, should assist and should be ready to assume the duties of the president in her absence. As she supports the current administration, she must busy her hands in planning for the next administration. Do you accept the responsibilities of the office of President-elect as outlined in the Bylaws?

_____, **President**, Your hands have been busy for many years as you have held many positions of leadership which have led to this installation. Today you hold opportunity in your hands. You have the opportunity to make the world a better place by guiding the efforts of the members of _____ as they work in their homes and communities. As you lead you will have hands of plaudit, hands raised in question, hands seeking assistance, hands raised in opposition. You will need strong hands and you will need the helping hands of your members. You have given your consent to serve as the leader of _____ and in reaching this position have been extended the hand of confidence of the entire membership. Do you accept the responsibilities of the office of President of _____ as outlined in Bylaws? It is with confidence and a prayer that I install you as President. Will all of the members please stand and join hands? Do you support these officers? It is with faith in the future that I declare these officers duly installed to lead the _____.

In closing:

*May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*