

HEART

It is an honor to be here tonight to share this occasion with you. Tonight is another opportunity for new beginnings. Just when you think all the major accomplishments have been made, we come up with another fantastic group of officers and all the good deeds begin again. The excitement of new ideas, new projects, new vision for prosperity and success.

We begin with the pulse of Soroptimist International of _____ the heart The world's most fantastic machine ... weighing less than a pound and only a little larger than your fist, is the center of the circulatory system. The heart is a definite important part of the human body as well as the body of any functioning organization. Despite the small size, it beats an average of 72 times a minute, 100,000 times a day, nearly 40 million times a year. Think about that. The work done by the heart could be comparable to the effort you would have to expend to lift a ten pound weight three feet off the ground twice a minute for your entire life. And so it goes with Soroptimist. If your heart isn't in it, the system will fail.

Each officer, delegate and member has a function similar to that of the heart, keeping the body functioning.

Delegates: You are a part of this system known as valves, to prevent a backward flow located where the Aorta and Pulmonary artery emerge. In other words, you go forward, not backward, by attending Regional and District meetings to find out what the latest development might be in the Soroptimist organization from the top down. These meetings are the place for learning and education and you must be well informed as you are given the responsibility of voting on behalf of your club members and speaking for their concerns. Even more important is your responsibility to communicate to the club membership what you have learned. Your enthusiasm will motivate the entire membership. I can hear the quickness of your pulse with excitement now. Are you willing to do your share to pump life into this organization?

Directors: You may think that being a director is not a very important part of this system, but that is not so. I tend to think of you as the node which contains nerve cells, the so called pacemaker of the heart. You will work for a stronger fellowship within the club. You must set the pace by bonding the club together and assisting the president in every way. Bring new ideas to the board as well as letting the club benefit from your past experience. You can't just sit back and relax. If this heart is going to continue to beat, you must do your share. Are you willing to set the pace and spark the impulses to work together?

Treasurer: The heart, being a muscle, and a hard working one, needs nutritious blood and nature has seen to it that it gets it by special means. The heart's special system begins at the Aorta, from which branch off two arteries, one on the right side, the other on the left. The two together form a kind of a wreath about the heart. You will be working by taking care of the life blood of the club, the money. You must collect and deposit all monies of the club. Keep an accurate record of the financial aspects of the club, preparing these monthly from the board and the club showing all monies received and remitted as authorized by the budget of the club. There will be deadlines to meet in sending monies to Federation and Region, and you must meet these deadlines to keep your club in good standing. You must remember that the dollars you care for and the personal involvement they represent are precious assets. The circulization of funds will show in the service projects of the club. Are you willing to accept the obligation to keep this life blood flowing?

Corresponding Secretary: Circulation is a speedy business. When the blood moves from the heart into the Aorta, it is at a speed of about 15 inches a second. Now that is really moving. And that is what you will be doing, moving the correspondence of the club with speed and accuracy. It is your duty to send all letters of the club except those done by respective committees. These letters must be neat and informative as they will reflect on your club within the community. These communications are the link between the club and the rest of the Soroptimist world and the world at large. You will relate information received by the club in written form by communicating at the board and club level. If the club and the rest of the world is not informed, the heart beat will fluctuate and cause distress. Are you ready to expedite an efficient flow to keep communications alive?

Recording Secretary: There are some 25 trillion red cells in our system. Each lasts about four months. Your red blood cells must last longer than that for you are the keeper of the permanent records of the club. This is the history of the club and must be kept on file forever. You must be careful to record all matters required under the rules of good parliamentary procedure. You will submit to the club, minutes of the business meeting and any recommendations of the board. You will maintain the record of membership of each individual in the club unless this function is performed by another committee so designated. You are the memory of the club, flowing from the heart to the brain. Are you ready to begin your journey?

Vice President: There is much you can do to guard the health of your heart and the circulatory system. Contrary to what people believe, the heart is a tough rather than a delicate organ. Guarding the health of the heart does not mean trying unduly to spare it. It needs exercise. You will be the support system for the president. She will count on you to be there when she needs

you and you should exercise your knowledge of regional and federation guidelines. Your willingness to do whatever is asked of you will provide her with reassurance to enable her to do a good job and it will also prepare you for the future. Be there to help in the defense of invasive bacteria. Help your heart to go at the pace best suited for a healthy atmosphere. Are you ready to perform your exercises under a well programmed training system?

President: Take your heart seriously, but don't worry about it. Fear can injure the heart. A good diet (or increase in membership) will help the heart flourish. Good diet (a healthy membership) can reduce the likelihood of damage elsewhere in the body helping to maintain the integrity of the entire circulatory system. Keep your work and social life under reasonable control so that you are not chronically fatigued. If you think you have iron poor blood, search for the proper solution. You are the heart of this club, the leader. You will preside at all meetings. You will represent the spirit and character of Soroptimism to the community. You will need patience and understanding to determine where the club will be going in the year to come. Knowledge is important. Learn all you can about this intricate system. There are many things associated with the heart, blockage, murmurs, palpitations and failure. But there is also one really great item pertaining to the heart that I couldn't find in the medical books. And that is LOVE. Without love, the heart has no function at all. Those of us here tonight have shared a love dear to the hearts of Soroptimism, that of helping others. May this group of representatives installed tonight continue to share the heartbeat of all Soroptimists everywhere and enlarge the heart with generous acts of love.

I declare you duly installed officers of Soroptimist International of _____.

Props: None