

Open the Garden Gates

Ask officers to be installed to be seated at the head table- As each is called, she rises, is given a silk flower tied with ribbon and remains standing until all officers are installed. For this installation we are going to OPEN THE GARDEN GATES and stroll down a flower-bordered walk among the trees and many plants. We have been told that flowers are an expression of love from God to us. After God had provided for man's material needs, such as food, shelter and raiment, he went a step further and made flowers. He must speak to us through them every day. To see God's word in flowers and plants, the only requirement is to look and listen. They are God's thoughts of beauty and his whispers of courage. Flowers have many of the same traits as club members.

*Flowers have habits, just as we, like, dislike and mood.
Some will be most particular over drink or food.
Some are sensitive and take slight at lack of care.
Others no complaint will make left untended there.
Some are sturdy and will stand straight against the fence or wall.
Flowers are much like people and need patience, spring to fall.*
Edgar A. Guest

Now, we will OPEN THE GARDEN GATES and if you will stroll along with me, we will pluck a flower for each officer.

PRESIDENT (Gladiolus - Ready) _____

For the president we will pluck the gladiolus which means ready. For the leader must take heart and not be fearful of the task she faces, but ready. You have been chosen because of your ability and willingness to serve. You must lead with self-confidence and for the good of the most concerned. March at the head of the group, interpreting correctly the signs along the path which lead to success. It is yours to be ready always to represent your club at any function with grace and dignity. May you lead with such readiness and strength that all your officers will seek to emulate your pattern. At the same time may you possess an inner sufficiency that will enable you to have a happy and rewarding stroll down your garden path.

VICE-PRESIDENT (Pansy - Thoughts) _____

We have plucked pansies for thoughts. As all flowers arouse thoughts, it seems almost a pity that they cannot make a sound. As one looks into the happy, little face of a pansy, it seems more human than other flowers. Its message must be intelligent, concerned thinking. It will take thinking, contacting and planning for a full calendar of programs and social activities which will stimulate interest and impart information. To gain this, one must be able to refuse to give in to self, to doubt or other things. Always expect the best. This takes patience, consecration and persistence. May each of your programs become a contributing factor to the realization of the objectives of this club. Walk closely with your president down the garden path, extending to her an open mind and a helping hand when called upon.

RECORDING SECRETARY (Rose - Remembrance) _____

To the recording secretary goes the rose for remembrance. Many times the unsung hero is the secretary. How many times does the secretary's record save the day? Very helpful are her records for recall and remembering. There will be thorns at times, just as surely as the rose bears them, but at the same time, the rose is the universal messenger of love. Your duties will be carried out as a labor of love and for remembrance, I'm sure. You must be a persistent collector of facts and information. Work to train your memory. Your records serve as a countdown for your club's advancement and as a measure of its progress. Keep your records complete and up to date. This is detail work which calls for thought. Your permanent records will serve as a remembrance for future club members.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (Carnation - Cheerfulness) _____

In all the flower gardens probably no flower has been more generous with its message of cheerfulness and fragrance than the carnation. Who can number the sick, the sorrowing, the lonely of heart, who have received strength from its cheerfulness. Just so, your correspondence and news of the club should spread cheerfulness and courtesy as it is sent out. Be sure to read all in-coming correspondence and act promptly and accordingly. Be careful to handle all the correspondence in accordance with the rules and policies of the club while cooperating fully with the president. The club's public relations are very dependent upon you. Radiate drawing power and merit respect, for your club, thereby making for good public relations.

TREASURER (Lily - Purity) _____

For the treasurer we will pluck the lily for purity. The lily has been closely associated with religion, both pagan and Christian, throughout the ages. It is said to proclaim the matchless PURITY of the resurrected Lord. Everything of value costs something, we have need of monies and those of purity and honesty to handle them. You must keep the funds and disperse them at the club's direction and needs. Your treasury is really the energy that turns the club's passive interests into active participation. You are responsible for all financial records, deposits, receipts and reports. Always double check for accuracy and be punctual.

PARLIAMENTARIAN (Daisy - Encouragement) _____

While the Garden Gates remain open we pluck daisies for encouragement to give to the parliamentarian. Daisies seem to have an inner sufficiency and satisfaction the world knows not, and its word to the inquirer is that of encouragement. In a spot in the garden where other plants do not choose to grow, we find the daisy looking up and extending its encouragement. Your previous experience and knowledge of the rules and policies of this club serve to give you inner sufficiency and satisfaction - Your encouragement is the spirit which will keep officers and members working together and gives you security when you have Robert's Rules of Order as the last word in leading your club in correct parliamentary procedure. Through appreciation, knowledge and power of selection, seek the best for those you serve in order to guarantee greater success in performance and results. Now let's Close The Garden Gates with this quote from Horace Smith:

*Your voiceless lips, O flowers, Are living preachers.
Each cup a pulpit, And each leaf a book.*

It is my privilege to entrust these offices to each of you. And now I declare you duly elected and installed officers of the _____ Club.