

PLEDGE WITH CANDLES

(Items needed: colored candles)

It is my pleasure tonight to have the honor of installing the new officers of the Soroptimist International of _____. I have chosen for tonight our Soroptimist pledge.

Our Soroptimist pledge is not only a promise we make to ourselves and our Federation, but also our obligation to our communities, our country and to God.

As I call you name, will the new officers please come forward?

Delegates: _____

Director: _____

Treasurer: _____

Corresponding Secretary: _____

Recording Secretary: _____

President Elect: _____

President: _____

You are the Soroptimists who have been selected by members of your club to carry the responsibility of next year's achievements. They will look to you to exemplify, "The Sincerity of Friendship; the Joy of Achievement; the Dignity of Service; the Integrity of Profession; and the Love of Country." This may seem a heavy task, but remember you have the support and faith of all your club members.

Delegates: I pledge the "Sincerity of Friendship." Friendship extends beyond your own club. Through you, the club speaks at District meetings, conferences and conventions. To you is given the responsibility of voting on behalf of all your members, speaking their concerns and most importantly bringing back to them complete information concerning all Soroptimist matters that affect your club. To you I give this (unlighted) _____ candle. _____ represents courage to put words into action. Do you accept this responsibility?

Director: You have been selected to represent your club as director on the executive board. To you I give the task of exemplifying the "Joy of Achievement." You are important in the process of planning and in the direction of club activities. It is important that you use the resources of international, federation, region and district in your planning. The position of director is also a position of leadership. Be an active board member and a good team member. By accepting this _____ candle, you pledge yourself to the fulfillment of the responsibilities of this office. Do you accept this responsibility?

Club Treasurer: I assign the responsibility for maintaining the "Dignity of Service." Keeping your board and your membership informed regarding the status of the financial condition of the club is of primary importance. You are responsible for all funds and should work with the Finance and Budget Committees and watch to see that all your dues are sent in on time as required by federation, region and your club by laws. Your candle is _____ for the ink that inscribes the books, (may they never be red). Do you accept this responsibility?

Corresponding Secretary: You have a very responsible position and I give you the task of up holding the "Integrity of Profession." Your letters will reflect the image of your club to the people in your community. You will answer all letters and thankyou's professionally. You are to read and distribute all correspondence received by your club. As a board member, you should keep up to date with international, federation, region and district resources. Your candle is _____, expressing the freshness of the inspired word and diplomacy of communication. Do you accept this responsibility?

Recording Secretary: To you I assign the "Love of Country." As recording secretary you will chart the minutes of the board and club meetings. These minutes are a permanent history of your club's activities. They must be true, complete and approved. Your candle is _____. It represents neatness, clean, clear and concise keeping of records with order and efficiency. Do you accept this responsibility?

President Elect: As you know, I have assigned the five divisions of our pledge to the previous officers. To you, I give the responsibility of putting them all together and assuring us that you "will put forth your greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, society, in business, for country and for God." This is a large responsibility? All the members and officers will look to you for guidance and encouragement as they fulfill their responsibilities. This _____ candle symbolizes truth, wisdom and encouragement. It will be your duty to help the president at all times and to carry on the affairs of the club in her absence. Do you accept your responsibilities?

President: You have been elected to the highest honor a club can bestow on a member - its president. You have exhibited the attributes of leadership, ability, vision and belief in the ideal of Soroptimism. You shall preside at meetings, set the policy of the club and represent to the community the ideal of Soroptimism. Your leadership is delegating responsibility and promoting good will for the coming year. You are a part of all pledges your officers have accepted. Therefore, I give you the white candle. White is a mixture of all that is your club. It symbolizes to the president a combination of duties. Do you accept your responsibility?

Now, as installing officer, I light the candle from the WORLDWIDE FLAME OF SOROPTIMISM. I charge you to guard it well and pass it on to your other officers.

Soroptimists, your officers with lighted candles exemplify the ideals of Soroptimism, but they cannot do it alone. A successful club requires the involvement of every member. I charge each of you with your dedication to all these officers.

Let us stand and applaud the duly installed new officers of Soroptimist International of _____.

