

# Quilts

In preparing for tonight's installation, I decided I would like to use a theme that would be something that was almost always associated with women. An art form perhaps, that would embrace the very essence of the way we feel, the way we think, and show our unique appreciation of the world around us.

I considered many subjects, but kept coming back to just one. The theme chosen has brought warmth and comfort and joy to those fortunate enough to share one. I speak of the patchwork quilt. The patchwork quilt, of all the quilts was the most prized. It was usually well planned and executed and usually made of new cloth.

It was a more refined version of its cousin, the piecework quilt, which was fashioned to conserve usable cloth, in a time when, survival was chancy at best, and one must make do.

**Treasurer.** The block which represents the treasurer is simple in design, but through its simplicity, shows solidness and strength. Rob Peter and Pay Paul is a fitting name for this block and a fitting description of how the treasurer sometimes feels when she is addressing the fiscal matters of the organization. Your office requires that you become familiar with all of the club's accounts and financial obligations. The funds of \_\_\_\_\_ will be in your hands and your club members have entrusted to you, the responsibility of administering them. You will need to keep them regularly informed as to the club's financial status. Members of \_\_\_\_\_, I present to you your treasurer, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Corresponding Secretary.** The Friendship Ring exemplifies the office of the Corresponding Secretary. The patches show the variety of letters she will write. As Corresponding Secretary you will be responsible to answer all correspondence and write letters and notes as directed by the club. The care you take in composing correspondence, will render a great service to \_\_\_\_\_ as you will make known, in a clear and concise manner, the feelings and intentions of your club. Members of \_\_\_\_\_, I present your Corresponding Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Recording Secretary.** For the Recording Secretary's symbol I have chosen the quilt called The Album. As the album holds memories, you will record the proceedings of your club and thus provide a history for generations to come. Your job is especially important, as your officers and clubwomen will depend on you to accurately pen the motions made, the actions taken and the projects reported. Your records will be used by your president to complete yearly reports and to insure that the club operates efficiently. Members of \_\_\_\_\_ I present to you your Recording Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Vice-President.** The Weathervane represents direction, and that is why it seems appropriate for the office of Vice President. As the Vice President for \_\_\_\_\_, your primary responsibility will be to take direction from your President. You will be asked to conduct meetings and represent \_\_\_\_\_ in the community, when necessary.

You will have the luxury to study Federation and the job you will fulfill in the future. Take this time to further develop leadership skills. They will not only serve you in good stead when you lead your club, but will improve every aspect of living. Members of \_\_\_\_\_, I present your Vice President \_\_\_\_\_.

**President.** The President is depicted here by the block known as Cross and Crown. As the chief officer of you will be given respect and courtesies by your club members and others. Your breast will swell with pride in your club's accomplishments, and you will be given much of the credit for those successes.

You will work hard during your administration and you will bear the burdens of your club members. You will be looked to by the members for comfort and encouragement, just as you will look to them for support and action.

They have shown their esteem for you by asking you to serve. You will respond to them in kind as you lead them forward in Federation. Members of \_\_\_\_\_, I present to you \_\_\_\_\_, your President for 19\_\_\_\_.

Now for each of you a patch of cloth, to remind you that you are the cloth of which the quilt of \_\_\_\_\_ is made. Your patch must be strong and durable. It may look the same as others, but the uniqueness of you, the individual, that very diversity of which we often speak, is that which adds beauty, and interest, and joy, the zest of life and the service for which \_\_\_\_\_ is known.

(Give an index card with a patch of cloth to each member in attendance with the following poem):

*Life's a Patchwork  
Stitch a little bit of lovin'  
Add a lot of tender care.  
Sew together with some kindness,  
Let the sun shine everywhere.  
Choose a pattern for your life's work,  
Add some fun along the way,  
Life is like a valued patchwork,  
Keep it precious day by day.*