

# SHELL

(Items needed: Use large shell for installation table. Have medium shells for each officer and smaller shells at tables for members.)

A group of hermit crabs possessed a beautiful shell. It glittered in the sunlight. It glistened in the rain. It gleamed when the moon was full. It was a thing of beauty, a truly glorious, magnificent shell. At first they were content to visit the shell every week or so, bring friends to admire its beauty, and enjoy the righteous and holy feeling the shell gave them. But one by one, the hermit crabs realized that the shell was just sitting there. It didn't do anything. It wasn't going anywhere. Something was missing. A few of the crabs began to whisper among themselves. They said things like: "Why doesn't the shell do something for the young people?" or "The shell never does anything for the older people." or "Why doesn't the shell do something for the poor, or the hungry?" or "The shell should do something about all those "unshelled" crabs out there."

The list grew longer and longer as the crabs complained. A few just sat there growing crabbiest. They knew the shell should be on the move. It should be growing. It should be vital. It should be filling needs in the community. Something definitely was wrong. Then one day, one wise old crab went into the shell and began to push. Just a little push at first, but she thought she felt the shell move. She persuaded a few of her sister crabs to come inside and help her. Working together they pushed and pulled and tugged, and the shell was on the move. The shell was alive and vital again. Needs were being met. Even the crabbiest crab admitted that the shell was fulfilling its mission as a good shell should.

Soroptimist International is just an empty shell without people. Is your club growing? Is it a vital part of your community, your district, your region, your federation and all over the world? We are here to install officers that will get this Soroptimist shell (club) moving and accomplish something. Just as each shell is different, each woman here is different, but she is committed to fulfilling her office's responsibility. As each officer comes forward to accept her part in giving the Soroptimist shell a push, light one candle in the center shell and accept your shell from the table as a token of your acceptance of the duties of your office.

(Explain what each officer's duties are.)

DELEGATES:

DIRECTOR (S):

TREASURER:

SECRETARY (S)

PRESIDENT ELECT:

PRESIDENT:

And now members of Soroptimist International of \_\_\_\_\_, don't just sit there and grow crabby about it. Get inside by accepting your shell from your table and help us push throughout the next year to make beautiful shells where ever we go.