

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Tonight we have the honor and privilege of paying tribute to the officers who have served your club so well this past year. They have done a great job and have helped all of you as Soroptimists, to meet your goals which were set for this year. The outgoing officers should be commended on the accomplishments you have made. I am sure each member of your club would want to express appreciation to you for your effort and hard work.

Your new officers to be installed tonight are here before you. Congratulations are in order and I know each of your club members will do whatever you ask them to do to carry out new goals which will be set for the coming year.

Your theme tonight "South of the Border" brings to mind picturesque Mexico and all of the color, dancing, music and bright lights for which the country is famous.

As we install your club officers, let's take a cruise to Mexico. Let's thrill to the awesome structures and intriguing mysteries of ancient pyramids, the quaintness of picturesque towns and the natural beauty of the tropical retreats. Let's celebrate with the colorful fiestas, and enjoy the warm climate and the equally warm hospitality.

Picture the perfect vacation filled with what you like best. Is it sports? Exciting night life? Tropical seclusion? Glamorous resorts? Hiking and camping? Art? Music? History? Fantastic shopping? Incomparable dining? Just imagine your ideal vacation, then come with me to Mexico and experience it.

Delegates: Your place on the board is an important one. Through you the club speaks at regional conferences and federation conventions. To you is given the responsibility of voting on behalf of all your club members, speaking for their concerns, and most importantly, bringing back to them complete information concerning all Soroptimist matters that affect your club and its members. Your place on the board is represented by the beautiful green ferns that grow so plentiful along the mountains in Mexico. You, like the fern, will add color and strength to your board. You will be strong and you will be a major influence to your surroundings, like the fern is to the hillsides.

Director: You have been elected as director of your club and will serve until your successor is elected. You are important to the smooth operation of your club and to the planning and carrying out of the activities resulting in the growth and stature of your club. Your office is represented by the clover. The clover brings good luck and success. You will bring good luck and success to your club. Like the ferns, you will add a beautiful green color to the board and to your club, as the green of the clover adds to the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Treasurer: You have been elected as treasurer of your club. Your duties consist of receiving all funds of the club, depositing them in the bank, preparing and signing all checks, making all remittances as required by the regional and federations bylaws and paying authorized bills in the manner provided by your club procedures. Keeping your board members and club members informed is a must. Remember, the time and talent represented by the dollars you care for and the personal involvement of members are the most precious of all assets. Your office is represented by the star which shines so bright above the horizon off the Mexican coast. It helps light the sky at night for the famous and exciting night life familiar to Mexico.

Corresponding Secretary: Your duties shall be to send out notices and carry on such other correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers. You can be most helpful to the officers. A willing corresponding secretary can take much of the load of detail from the president and do a great deal for the building of good will and understanding by promptly handling all correspondence. Much of the club's image with its members, within the community and with Soroptimists at large, depends on you.

Your office is represented by the key. You have the key to help solve all problems which come before the club. You are the key to good public relations in the community through the correspondence which you carry on with members of the community, region, federation, and with other Soroptimists. Your office represents the key to your cabin, and to the glamorous resorts so prevalent in Mexico.

Recording Secretary: Your duties are to be present at business meetings and board meetings and to keep a good and accurate record of all proceedings. You are indeed going to be a busy person and an important one too. You will be keeping permanent records for all time, and you must be careful to record all matters required under good rules of parliamentary procedure. You shall submit the club minutes of the business meetings, and any recommendations from the board to the club members for approval. You shall maintain a record of membership unless provided otherwise in your club procedures. Your office is also represented by the key. The key to good record keeping. The key to success in your club. The key to proper knowledge and understanding of the workings of the club. As secretary, I give you the key to your cabin and to the warm Mexico climate. Along with the corresponding secretary, you will have the keys to all the festivities of Mexico.

Vice President: As vice president of the club, your duties will be many and varied. You may even be required to step into the shoes of the president and carry forward in her absence if necessary. Maybe one of your duties will be program planning, very important indeed. Since interesting programs will have a great bearing on the success of your club this year. Your knowledge of regional and federation guidelines will be most helpful in this respect. You will want to put forth your best efforts for the ideals and goals of Soroptimism. You are the anchor of the club. Every ship must have an anchor, just as every club should have a vice president. As an anchor in the club you will be a stabilizing influence to others and will carry a great deal of the load for the president. You will represent the art, music, and the dancing which are a major portion of the activities and history of Mexico.

President: You have accepted a great responsibility as president. You shall reside at all meetings, set the policy of the club, and represent to the community the spirit and character of the women of Soroptimist clubs. The bylaws constitute only a partial list of the duties you have accepted. The most thing here is the quality of leadership you have, and which your club members feel you possess - wisdom, patience, and understanding. You must be ready to put the welfare of your club above all else in the coming year and to subordinate your personal life to this. As the presiding officer, you will be fair, tactful and just. Above all you will be gentle and kind. Common sense and willingness will continue to carry you far in the development of communication, understanding, participation and a total Soroptimist view point. You are the big anchor of the club. Your strength and unwavering abilities will be important to the office you have accepted. You are the solid anchor which will keep your club together through all kinds of experiences and activities. Your club members will know that as an anchor holds a ship, you will hold your club together through your leadership and guidance. You represent the heart of Mexico, the pyramids, the tropical retreats, and the generous hospitality. May you use this anchor in carrying out your duties as president in the coming year.

As our cruise to south of the border is nearly ended, your responsibilities as the new officers of the Soroptimist Club of _____, are just beginning. I would hope that the symbols you have been given here tonight will be a constant reminder of the responsibilities you have accepted and will be encouragement to you to carry out your duties to the best of your abilities.

I would now ask each of you to pledge to do your very best. To each I commend a study of the Soroptimist bylaws, not once but many times so that you may be familiar with them. May I also suggest a review of all Soroptimist material made available to you.

I now declare these officers and directors duly installed in the offices to which they were elected for the coming year. I congratulate each of you and wish for a most successful and happy term in office.