

SPICE RACK

INSTALLING OFFICER: It is said that variety is the spice of life. The dictionary defines spices as pungent substances used as seasonings. If we think about it for a moment, that's the way it is with a women's service club . . . a variety of personalities and talents putting the spice in a club so that its aims and achievements are pleasing to all members. Solomon sang of them. Marco Polo wrote of them. The mightiest monarchs of ancient Babylon, Israel and Egypt prized them as highly as rare jewels. The search for spices changed the face of history.

And to further indicate that variety and spices go hand-in-hand, the theme of this installation will be "SPICES" . . . with a few herbs thrown in for extra flavor.

DIRECTOR (Cloves) Names: _____

We take from our spice table one that is famous for its spicy fragrance . . . cloves, which means "dignity" . . . a qualification for your job, _____ & _____, as Directors. Cloves are the dried flower bud of a tropical tree . . . the buds are shaped like fingernails and are imported from a couple of romantic-sounding, far-away places . . . Madagascar & Zanzibar. Your chief concern will be to guide and direct the club affairs and your experience qualifies you, _____ & _____, as directors of Soroptimist International of _____. May this spice, cloves, serve as a reminder of the degree of excellence and the dignified manner in which you will help direct club activities.

TREASURER (Ginger) Name _____

If ever a job needed ginger, it is that of club treasurer. _____, yours is a task that not everyone can do or even wants to do. Upon you falls the responsibility of guarding the funds of this organization. It is not only an office of bookkeeping, but it is your duty to keep the membership advised as to the financial status of the club at all times, and to see that financial obligations are met. I now install you, _____, as treasurer of Soroptimist International of _____, with the hope that the joys of your job are as numerous as the grains of ginger in this jar.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (Parsley) Name _____

On your installation spice table, we also find parsley, rich in vitamins and minerals. And you, _____, will need plenty of both to help make your office of Corresponding Secretary an active and viable force for communication between our service club's officers, members and other correspondents. Parsley means "festivity". Creative communications can create a festival of interest and involvement among the members. I now install you, _

_____, as Corresponding Secretary of Soroptimist International of _____ with the hope that your correspondence will garnish the new club year.

RECORDING SECRETARY (Rosemary) _____

On your spice table is a spice that sounds like a girls name . . . rosemary. It has a refreshing tea-like fragrance and is described in legend as the symbol of fidelity, which of course means accuracy and exactness. These are two important aspects of your job, _____, as recording secretary. It is important that you strive to be accurate and concise in recording for posterity the actions taken by your club. Rosemary is also a traditional symbol of remembrance, and as I now install you, _____, as recording secretary of Soroptimist International of _____, may this bit of rosemary serve as a memento to help you record not what was said, but what was done.

VICE PRESIDENT (Thyme) _____

On another part of our spice table, we find thyme . . . spelled a little differently from the way we spell the 24-hour variety. Thyme is a common garden herb, slightly pungent and is one of the most popular in America although it is grown mainly in France & Spain. The meaning of thyme is activity and/or courage. As vice president, you will need the courage to present new program ideas to your club; ideas you believe might benefit your club and members. You are also the understudy to the president and must be prepared to take over for her at a moment's notice. I now install you, _____, as vice president of Soroptimist International of _____ by offering you the spicy herb of activity and courage - thyme.

PRESIDENT (Allspice) _____

At the very top of our spice table . . . in the spot that demands the highest reach, is allspice. Appropriately named, allspice, is a mildly sharp spice made from the brown berry of the tropical allspice tree, and is similar in flavor to a combination of cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg. _____, as president, you must be a combination of many things, too. You must be gracious, tactful, considerate, enthusiastic, willing to listen as well as to lead, knowledgeable in club work, and interested in the unity and progress of your club. The meaning of allspice is "compassion". This must be one of your qualities too, for tenderness and love of one another is one of our Lord's commandments. The office of president is the highest honor a club can bestow on one of its members. Enjoy your presidency and the members will enjoy it with you. I now install you, _____, as president of Soroptimist International of _____ club, with the wish that, just as the allspice blends several flavors into one, you will combine your talents with those of the members, for a most

successful administration.

(To Newly Installed Officers)

You have been duly elected to put spice in the life of your club for the coming year. Do you pledge yourselves to perform faithfully the duties of the office you are about to assume?

(they respond, "we do")

(To Members)

Any dish whipped up by the officers must have the substance that a solid membership provides. You members are the sustaining ingredients. Do you promise to uphold these officers in their work; to help them keep this an active organization, full to its purpose and ideals?

(they respond, "we do")

CLOSE WITH PRAYER (see Food for Thought message in Inspirations)

NOTE: There are a few other spices which might be worked in, if the need arises for an office or chairmanship which could be adapted to one of the spices and its meaning.

Coriander: an herb bearing aromatic seed-like fruit used as a flavoring - one of the first spices known to man. Its meaning is "hidden worth".

Fennel: believed by the ancients to be one of the nine sacred herbs; it has a licorice or anise-like aroma and is used both in cookery and medicine. The meaning of fennel is "worthy of all praise".

Sweet basil: an aromatic annual, belonging to the mint family, that grows about two feet tall with tiny flowers born in branching spikes. Its meaning is "good wishes".

Props: spice jars, bags of fresh herbs w/ribbons, or clay pots with actual herb plants