

SUGAR TREE

Script:

Tonight marks the beginning of a new administration for _____ Woman's Club. It also concludes two years of successful club service on the part of your retiring officers. To them we say, "Thank you for a job well done."

When I was given the slate of officers with the names of individuals who have agreed to serve - my first thought was "_____ Woman's Club has surely got a sweet deal." These talented and capable individuals are the sugar frosting on the cake!

Club leadership roles are often demanding. Sometimes a club woman's sweets supply can run a little low. So as these new officers embark on two busy years of club work I thought it would be beneficial to have them stock up on an extra supply of sweets. My unconventional green thumb has produced - TA DA! - a Sugar Tree. Tonight I'm going to harvest some sweets that these ladies may need extra portions of.

I'd like to ask the incoming officers to choose a sugar bowl. Let the outgoing president pin a spoon hanger on each of you. Then I'll need you lined up in order, with the treasurer nearest me. For those of you who still think that sugar comes from sugar cane I'd like you to listen to this song. (Play Shake the Sugar Tree recording.)

Well, let's shake our sugar tree.

_____, as Treasurer you will be guardian of the club funds. Your most desirable sweet will be honesty. This sugar packet represents an extra helping. To meet the financial obligations of the club you will need lots of exactness and dependability. I'll share these extra portions. A treasurer has an important function which requires much hard work behind the scenes with usually no glory attached. I think for that reason you're going to need extra patience at times. Let me add patience to your sugar bowl. _____, I install you as Treasurer of _____ Woman's Club.

_____, as Recording Secretary you will be keeper of the records. The first sweet that any secretary needs is promptness. Obviously if you are late for meetings it would cause an inconvenience to the club so I bestow this extra helping of promptness. It is vital that your full attention is given to all proceedings; therefore, another sweet you will need is alertness. I'll place this alertness in your sugar bowl in the hopes that it will assist you. On our sugar tree we find two additional sweets that are helpful to a secretary. These are accuracy and conciseness. The minutes of the meetings must be accurate and preferably concise. Here are your accuracy and conciseness. _____, I install you as Recording Secretary of _____ Woman's Club.

_____, as Vice President you will be program chairman in charge of yearbook planning. To begin your job you will need two sweets - knowledge and loyalty. Knowledge of club members' interests and loyalty to club goals are essential to begin your yearbook preparations. Here are your extra knowledge and loyalty. To plan interesting programs you will need generous amounts of creativity. I add this creativity to your sugar bowl. Lastly, when juggling program ideas, speakers, and schedules, you will need lots of flexibility. I share this packet of flexibility with you. _____, I install you as Vice President of _____ Woman's Club.

_____, as President Elect you will be an understudy to the president. The tender sweets of

compassion and encouragement will be needed by the president from time to time. Our sugar tree gladly yields these two sweets. May you have an ample amount to share with the president anytime she needs it. Here are your compassion and encouragement. The president elect also serves as dean of department chairmen. For this you will need commitment to Federation goals and enthusiasm for department work. I'll place these extra amounts of commitment and enthusiasm in your sugar bowl.

(Full Name), I install you as President Elect of _____ Woman's Club.

_____, as President you will be overall supervisor of the club. The primary sweet you will need is versatility because your job involves such a variety of responsibilities. Here is your versatility. As you strive to further club goals and purposes you will need much energy. Here is an extra portion. Tact, kindness, and wisdom will be most helpful as you preside at club meetings. Here are some tact, kindness, and wisdom. Occasionally, (First Name) there may be times when your club members disappoint you in some way. At the risk of overloading your sugar bowl, I'm going to give you generous portions of the next sweet. It is love. Use this love just as God uses it when dealing with his children, that is - look past all the flaws and see the exceptional value and worth of each individual. _____, I install you as President of _____ Woman's Club.

To you, the newly installed officers - Your badge of office for this administration is a simple spoon. Use it to spoon out or share the useful sweets you have been given today. As you can see, our sugar tree is now bare branched. With my limited gardening skills it will take two years to cultivate another sugar crop so dispense your sugar wisely.

For my assistant who has been sweet 'n' low - keyed - throughout this installation I have a sweet 'n' low corsage. For the members I issue a challenge. It's printed on the little cards you received before we started.

(Outgoing president reads verse aloud.) The ideal club member should be: Even tempered Quality minded Uniquely creative Always loving Largely dedicated. Are you Equal to the task?

_____ Woman's Club I present your new officers for (19____).

Props needed:

1. Small tree - Spray paint a tree branch with white paint and anchor in attractive flower pot.
2. Individual sugar packets (22 packets) and 22 five-inch long pieces of 1/8 inch diameter satin ribbon - On small slips of paper type or write out these "sweets": honesty, exactness, dependability, patience, promptness, alertness, accuracy, conciseness, knowledge, loyalty, creativity, flexibility, compassion, encouragement; commitment, enthusiasm, versatility, energy, tact, kindness, wisdom, love. Staple one paper slip with one piece of ribbon to each individual sugar packet. Tie sugar packets onto branches of tree. (It is helpful to color code these such as blue ribbons or blue paper slips for treasurer, red for secretary, etc.)
3. Five sugar bowls - Be creative and make them from recycled plastics. Colored plastic drinking cups can be melted on a cookie sheet in the oven for a few minutes. Watch carefully and remove from oven as soon as they fall into a free form bowl shape.
4. Five plastic spoons

5. Five spoon hangers - Make these from metal "D" rings purchased from sewing department. Glue a pin back onto the back of the straight side of "D" ring. Cover front of straight side with glued on ribbon, glitter, etc. to make decorative. Pin to officers' clothing with the "D" turned sideways, curved side down. Spoon can then be placed hanging through the loop.
6. EQUAL cards (enough for all members) - Type verse (refer to script) onto index cards and staple individual Equal packet to each card. Distribute to members at start of service.
7. Sweet 'N' Low Corsage - Create from Sweet 'N' Low packets, pink silk leaves and ribbon.
8. Portable cassette player with a recording of "Shake the Sugar Tree" recorded by Pam Tillis.

Note: Outgoing club president can assist by distributing Equal cards, pinning on spoon hangers when indicated and by clipping sugar packets from tree as they are needed. Either outgoing president or installing officer can place sweets in sugar bowls as indicated in script. As installing officer installs each officer with the words "I install you as ... etc." she slips spoon through spoon hanger of incoming officer.