

The Tussie Mussie

The language of flowers originated with the Turks. They sent gifts of fruit and flowers which represented classical poetry. Each plant's meaning varied from area to area. Today one finds different interpretations of the significance of flowers and plants.

In the 17th century, the language of flowers found its way to England. It was during the Victorian era that the custom of giving flowers to express the feelings of the sender reached its peak. Many women carried little posies of sweet smelling flowers and herbs. These were called Tussie Mussies.

This Tussie Mussie prepared for this installation represents _____ and your new officers.

_____, **Treasurer.** First we will consider the marigold. The marigold is grown for its versatility. It adds beauty to the garden, it protects other plants nearby, and it is used as an herb. Although the office of Treasurer is not a glamour position, it is functional and influential to the stability of the club. The marigold stands for remembrance in the language of flowers.

The Treasurer must always be mindful of the financial well-being of the books and diligent in protecting the club from overrunning the budget. Do you accept the responsibilities of the office of the Treasurer?

_____, **Recording Secretary.** Also in the Tussie Mussie is the pansy. This is the flower I have chosen to represent the Recording Secretary. Pansy is the anglicization of the French "pensee", meaning thought. The pansy was popular in the language of flowers. Its velvety appearance and strong colors represent the refined record of your club's history, which you will write as each meeting transpires. As years pass you will be assured that those who follow will be grateful for your work. Do you accept the responsibilities of Recording Secretary?

_____, **Vice President.** Ivy is the plant chosen for the Vice President. In flower language, it means fidelity. The Vice President is important to the club, and especially to the President. As the ivy, this office requires loyalty and willingness to serve. You must use this time to fully understand the goals of the club as you will be called upon to preside in the absence of the president, and should it become necessary, step in, if for some reason, the president is unable to complete her term of office. Do you accept the responsibilities of the office of Vice President?

_____, **President.** The rose stands for love and this is the symbol of the President. This attribute is essential for the President as your love of your clubwomen and their love for you will help you through times that are difficult for all. Your club depends on your leadership and you will depend on them for cooperation. You will preside over the meetings as you have learned to do. Do you accept the responsibility to serve as President of _____?

As I present this tussie mussie to your President, you will notice it contains a number of flowers we haven't used to symbolize the officers tonight. Each of these flowers makes a unique contribution to the beauty of the bouquet. They offer balance, maturity, color, vitality, purity, and hold the promise of talents yet to be revealed. These flowers represent the members _____. Without you there would be no club.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever"