

Installation of Officers for 2001-2002

In the beginning God created the heaven and earth. Yet to create man, God used nothing more than the mere dust of the earth. From this simple, everyday substance, came the greatest of all of God's creations. Even today some of the best and most meaningful things in life are often quite simple and ordinary. Keeping this idea in mind, as installing officer, I will use some simple, ordinary objects that we see every day during this installation ceremony. (Take one item out of the basket at a time and say....) Here I have a light bulb, a mirror, a remote control, bookends, a lock, a bar of soap and a postage stamp.

Will our officers for next year please come and sit in these chairs. You may sit in any order. (Wait)

Most of you served as an officer last year and we commend you for agreeing to give of your time and talents again by serving as an officer for the 2001-2002 year. I charge each of you to take your respective duties seriously and strive to continue to make our club a valuable asset to this community.

Mary Lou Sidden, please step forward. You have been elected to be our chaplain, so I present to you this bar of soap. Your duties will be to ask the blessing before our meal and to give a short devotional at the beginning of each meeting. Just as we use a bar of soap to cleanse ourselves on the outside, may this soap remind you that your devotional should inspire us to keep our minds clean and pure so that we will strive to be more like our maker. Thank you for your humility. You may sit back down.

Hester Jackson, will you please come up. You have proven yourself as a trustworthy reporter and historian. We appreciate you for serving our club in this same capacity again next year. To you, I present this light bulb. Your duties will be to notify the local newspaper of our monthly meetings including all business transactions that take place. You must also give full coverage of any upcoming projects and events. Just as we use a light bulb to help us "see"...that we may be aware of our surroundings, may this light bulb be a reminder that you, as reporter, will shed the light of our club's happenings to the general public. May the publicity you bring to our club promote new membership and an understanding of our commitment to serve our community. Thank you for your willingness to share. You may be seated.

Kathryn Mitchell, please come forward. This will be a repeat performance for you as our corresponding secretary, and we appreciate you continuing to serve our club in this capacity. To you I present this postage stamp, for your duty will be to send and receive all communications of our club. You should answer all correspondence promptly and efficiently. Each time you place a stamp like this one on an envelope, may it remind you that your actions should reflect favorably on each of us, thus receiving the "stamp" of approval from our club. Thank you for your creativity. You may sit back down.

Ree Edwards, I would like for you to come forward next. You have faithfully served our club in various capacities for many years and we are pleased that you have been elected to be our recording secretary for next year. I present this mirror to you to be a reminder of the importance of your office. It will be your responsibility to document the business of this club through complete yet concise minutes of our meetings. Just as we use a mirror to give a clear reflection of what we are really like, your minutes must give a clear and accurate reflection of all the things that our club does. As you give your report to us each month, your minutes should help us to look back on all the transactions of the preceding month, just as we look into a mirror. Thank you for your organizational skills. You may go back.

Mary Margaret Hothem, would you please come forward. Since you have been elected to be our treasurer for the 2001-2002 year, I would like to give this lock to you. Your duties will be to responsibly oversee the funds of our club as well as to accurately record all monetary transactions. Just as we use a lock to secure our valuables, may this lock be a reminder that we trust you to safe keep all dues and money that you collect for our club. But take note that there is a key for the lock with which the lock can be opened. This should remind you that you have our permission to responsibly take money from our accounts to pay our expenses and give to the various causes and organizations that we have voted to support. Thank you for your trustworthiness. You may sit back down.

Jo Ann Cockerham, I would like for you to step forward at this time. You graciously agreed to serve as an officer again next year and were elected to the office of President-Elect. I present these bookends to you. Your duties involve becoming an understudy of the President, as you are next in line to hold that office. You may be asked to preside at our meetings in the absence of the President. Just as we use bookends to hold up or support books to keep them from falling over, let these remind you that you will be the bookends for the president. She may at times lean on you for support and you can be her sounding board, her extra hand and the loyal friend that she will need to be an effective leader. Thank you for your steadfastness. You may go back.

Ruth Marion, it's time now for you to come forward. We congratulate you on being elected the next President of the Dobson Woman's Club and we appreciate your willingness to undertake this role with its many responsibilities. I give to you the remote control because one of your more visible duties will require you to be in charge of our monthly meetings. Just as the person holding a remote is in charge by controlling when the TV is turned on or off, you will be the one who turn us on each month by calling our meetings to order and turning us off with a vote to adjourn. Should our business discussions become too loud, it will be your responsibility to adjust our volume. In addition you will be called upon to make many decisions concerning committee assignments, by-law procedures, and various activities that we undertake. You must be gracious, patient, and understanding while providing the necessary leadership required by this high office. Serving as President may not be easy, but remember its responsibilities will be lightened because they are shared with your fellow officers. Will all of the officers come forward again and join your new president.

Together you must all strive to bring about the betterment of our club and community. We entrust the welfare of the Dobson Woman's Club to your leadership. As installing officer, I charge each of you to fulfill the duties of your respective office to the best of your ability. If you promise to do so, please say, "I do". I now declare you the duly installed officers of the Dobson Woman's Club for the year 2001-2002.

(Turn to the club members) Now will all other club members in attendance pick up the rock that you were given earlier and stand to join your new officers. (Wait) Just as they were given a simple and ordinary object to symbolically help them carry out their responsibilities, you have been given this rock. It is not for you to throw should a mistake be made or a misunderstanding arises with one of your new leaders, for Jesus taught that only a person without sin should cast the first stone. Your rock is from marble, a very strong substance that helps support the very foundation of Earth. May it be a reminder to you of the support you must give these new leaders. If you will promise to strive for unity within our club, willingly serve on a committee, and offer loyal support both to these new officers and this club, please say, "I do". With this pledge "you" are now truly the strength and foundation of the Dobson Woman's Club.

Thank you.... Let's all now recite our Club Collect.

You may be seated.

Susan White, your term in office as president has now ended. We thank you for a job well done. Although you no longer hold our highest office, your experience and past leadership can be a great tool. You may at times be called upon to share your knowledge with your successor, while at the same time not interfering with the leadership of the new president. Again, we thank you for your service this past year, and I now turn the program back over to you.