

The Zonta Rose Garden

Roses are wild or cultivated and have been closely associated with the culture of many civilizations. Not only is it a favorite flower, but the rose serves as a symbol of perfection, elegance, romance, and love! No other flower is so universally known and even the name is easily recognized in most languages of Latin or Germanic origin. The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans also regard the rose as a symbol of love.

Is it any wonder, then, that at the International Convention in Sydney, Australia in 1986, the yellow rose (yellow for the sun which shines overall) was selected as the official flower of Zonta international, our great organization that is striving for love for all mankind?

Spring has come, and with it a natural time for a change in administration, when those officers who have served you so well, who have given of their time, strength, and energy, will move to other work in Zonta. It is my duty and privilege to install in their respective offices those members whom you have chosen to lead you during the coming year. Excellent as the present officers are, and how loyal and affectionate we have become towards them, new personalities must be brought forward to bloom in the rose garden of Zonta.

Directors _____, please stand. The roses in your garden represent strength, courage, fidelity, and hope because your duties are varied and important. You will counsel with the President and her assisting officers in all board meetings. You will weigh carefully matters pertaining to this club that are presented at the board meetings; and you will not recommend or reject any items because of your personal preferences, but will let the merits of the ideas be your sole guide, that the work of the club may be carried on successfully and creditably.

Will you do your utmost to see that your work reflects credit upon those who have elected you to this honorable and responsible position? If so, please respond, "I will."

Will the Corresponding Secretary, _____, please rise? The roses in your garden bloom for faithfulness and clear thinking. It shall be your duty as Corresponding Secretary to send out notices and letters, and to perform such other duties as pertain to your office. Do you so pledge? If so, please respond, "I do."

Will the Recording Secretary, _____, please rise? Your rose garden has many bushes of joy of service and vigilance to duty. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a complete record of all business transacted, to keep a record of membership, to make reports to Zonta International, and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to your office. Do you so pledge? If so, please respond, "I do."

Will the Treasurer, _____, please rise? Your rose garden has blooms of honesty and prosperity. It is your duty as Treasurer to have custody of all funds, to make monthly reports to the board of directors and a report at the annual business meeting to the general membership, as well as to perform such other duties as pertain to your office. Do you so pledge? If so, please respond, "I do."

Will the Second Vice President, _____, please rise? Your rose is truth and loyal service. Although your duties are many and varied, your main responsibility is membership and growth of your club. In case of illness or resignation of the First Vice President, you will become the First Vice President. Do you pledge to fulfill these duties? If so, please respond, "I do."

Will the First Vice President, _____, please rise? A garden of roses named dignity and assistance bloom in profusion. Your duties are also many and varied, and include special duties designated by your President. You are Program Chairman and responsible for planning programs in the Zonta spirit. In case of illness or resignation of your President, you will act as President. Do you so pledge? If so, please respond, "I do."

Will the President, _____, please rise? You have been chosen as the Yellow Rose for your elegance in leadership and wisdom. Your club has chosen to honor you in this way. It shall be your duty as President to preside at all meetings of the club and of the board of directors, and to perform such other duties as pertain to your office. You shall countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer, and you shall appoint, subject to approval of the board, the chairmen of standing committees. You shall supervise all of the affairs of the Zonta Club of _____, having concern for the welfare of each member, for the maintenance and growth of club membership, for the club's support of local and international service projects, and for its active participation in public affairs. In the spirit of the yellow rose of fellowship, do you so pledge? If so, please respond, "I do."

In presenting you with this gavel, I also turn over to you the responsibilities and privileges of the office of President.

Members of the Zonta Club of _____, do you pledge yourselves to cooperate with these newly installed officers. If so, please respond, "We do."

My congratulations and best wishes to you, both officers and members of the Zonta Club of _____.

Contributed by Past Governor Mary K. Sherman

The 5 Presidential Attributes of the Gavel

- G** - for *graciousness* in a presidential manner
- A** - for the *ability* to administer wisely
- V** - for *valiant* upholding of laws and *veracity* in speech
- E** - for *enthusiasm* about plans and projects
- L** - for *loyalty* to all in all things at all times

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