

Installation of Officers Sea Shells Theme

The ocean is filled with many wonders. Among these wonders are found beautiful and useful sea animals – their homes are known to us as sea shells.

There are lessons to be learned from our ocean friends and today I'd like to present a gift from the sea to each one of you to remind you of the office that you are to hold next year.

To you Madame PRESIDENT I present the CONCH. In the olden days this shell was often used as a trumpet perhaps to herald the beginning of a meeting or to give notice of a gathering. Appropriately enough one kind of conch is known as the queen conch - for its qualities set it apart from others. May you, Madame President, let this shell remind you that we have elected you because of your leadership qualities.

To the FIRST VICE PRESIDENT I give the CLAM. Clams live in the midst of many coral animals and at times with sea plants and animals actually living on the clams' shell. You will be in charge of the membership committee and like the clam you will help others to thrive as they join your group and you, too, will gain by having many members around you.

To our two SECOND VICE PRESIDENTS I give the OYSTER SHELLS. Oysters are known to grow slowly and to add to their shells each year. And best of all they are known for the beautiful pearls they produce. You will grow and add to your wisdom as you do your job. And like the oyster you will through your position as program chairman present us with pearls.

To the THIRD VICE PRESIDENT I present the CONE SHELL. These shells are the favorite of many collectors and are considered some of the most highly valued shells in the world. As you prepare the yearbook for this organization may the shell remind you that you are of great value to us and may this thought encourage you in this position.

To you, the RECORDING SECRETARY I present a SCALLOP. This type of shell fish travels by a kind of jet propulsion. After the shell opens and closes a jet of escaping water pushes the scallop forward. As you record the minutes you will perform quickly and efficiently. May this shell remind you of your responsibilities.

To the TREASURER I present the QUAHOG. Many years ago Indians used this shell animal for two purposes....for food and as money. May you be reminded to be useful to your organization and may the quahog especially remind you to be cautious as you handle the finances.

To the PARLIAMENTARIAN I present the COWRIE. The lovely shell is unusual in that it is as smooth on the outside as it is on the inside. Because these shells were considered valuable they were used as a trade item by fur traders long ago. May this shell remind you that because of your role in this organization you are valuable to us all. Like the sea shells that all of you hold, you, too, are only a part of a complete picture of our club. May each one of you do your part and may the rest of us do our part so that we can function effectively, harmoniously and joyfully as do our friends from the sea!

Supplement for Miscellaneous Officers:

PRESIDENT ELECT (Practices with the President, attends meetings, serves as delegate)

To our PRESIDENT ELECT I present the CONE SHELL. These shells are the favorite of many collectors and are considered to be some of the most highly valued shells in the

world. As you participate with the president and serve as delegate, may you be ever mindful of your position in our organization and know also that we value you as you will surely value this gift from the sea.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (Chairman of social committee)

To the **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** I give the **ANGEL WINGS**. This particular sea animal lives in colonies. While the shells are delicate and look terribly fragile, some of these creatures can burrow into wood or rock. As the chairman of the social committee you shall deal with many people and although some tasks will seem difficult may these angel wings remind you of the capability with which you will approach these tasks.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

To you, the **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**, I present the **COCKLE SHELL**. These shells, when placed facing one another, resemble a heart; therefore they are also called heart shells. May you remember this shell when you correspond with others as you represent the organization and may you always have your heart in your job.

PUBLICITY CHAIR

To the **PUBLICITY CHAIR** I give the **SNAIL**. This sea animal is known for its keen ability to distinguish different flavors. May this lovely shell help you to keenly seek out the necessary publicity that our group needs to maintain our standing in the community.

HISTORIAN

To our **HISTORIAN** I hand the **CHAMBERED NAUTILUS**. This sea animal lives at the center of this spiral shell and as it grows larger it leaves one chamber and moves on to a larger one. As our historian may you keep accurate records of our history for the benefit of our club all the while growing and moving forward.

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Submitted by Esther Read, PARTT Recording Secretary

Used for the First United Methodist Garden Club installation.

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