

Installation of Officers Hands

Did you ever stop to think how wonderful our hands are? God not only gave us hands, He also gave us emotions and the capability for feeling very deeply and the ability to accomplish many things in our lives.

So much of our feelings and emotions, and our accomplishments, are expressed in some way with our hands. We place a great deal of emphasis on our hands. We wave our hands to say "hello" and "good-bye". When we are married, we join hands. We clasp hands when we meet friends. To seal an agreement, we shake hands. In taking an oath, we raise our right hand.

Today we place a great responsibility in the busy hands of these new officers. They will have your club in their hands for the coming year.

«**PastPres**», as the Immediate Past President, you have been an inspiration to all members. We know that they are grateful to you for the fine way you have represented them in the work you have accomplished. It will be a comfort to them to know that you will still be a member of the Board of Directors and that they will continue to have your council and guidance. Your hands will still be active.

Directors, «**Direct1**», «**Direct2**», «**Direct3**» and «**Direct4**», you have many duties in your hands. You will have general supervision over the affairs of your club. You must see that the club progresses and grows. Remember. Altrusa is a builder of leaders and that it takes a combination of all hands to formulate policy and programs. Yours are the hands of leadership.

«**Treasurer**», as the Treasurer, in your hands are the club's finances. Accountability requires a steady pair of hands! The receipt of dues, the club's commitments and reports must be handled promptly and accurately. Learn your duties thoroughly, and their timing, so that your hands may always be held high.

As our Secretary, «**Secretary**», your hands are the hands of communication and information. The reputation and esteem in which our club is held will depend on your response to communications from other clubs, from International and District, and to and from our own members. You must have accurate hands to record the decisions of all board meetings and take the minutes of the club business meetings. Your hands will be busy at the keyboard. May they always be willing hands.

«**VP1**» and «**VP2**», as Vice Presidents, you have helping hands. Be a confidante and aide to the president, in whatever she designates for you to do. You have the obligation to be ready to serve in the president's place at all times in her absence. Familiarize yourself with parliamentary procedures so you won't have shaky hands when you are asked to preside. You must also begin to prepare yourselves to assume this higher office, when you turn comes.

«**President**», let's look at your hands. As President, yours are the hands of administration. And, with this goes a large responsibility. You are the top leader of your club and you have the responsibility to uphold the Principles of Altrusa. You hold, in your hands, the effectiveness of Altrusa and of your club. It is for you to inspire the officers and members to the achievement of your goals. To accomplish this you must give each member an assignment in which she is interested, so do this with care.

Honesty, sincerity and unselfishness cannot be a part of membership unless the spark is handed down by its leader. We know that you will use your hands in search of perfection; in carrying out the objectives of Altrusa. The members have chosen you for a place of honor and importance, as their President, and I know you will always remember that Altrusa is a service club. We look forward to great things under the guidance of your very capable and experienced hands.

Members of the Altrusa Club of «**Club**», you also have a responsibility. You must have upholding hands. You must have ready and willing hands that are dedicated and cooperative. You must be ready and willing to do whatever these officers ask of you. Remember that a good Altrusan never says “no” when asked to serve her club! Your support is vital to the success that these officers may achieve.

Shakespeare once said, “Now join your hands, and with your hands, your hearts”. Let’s do that now, as I read the Altrusa Collect:

Our Heavenly Father,
Surrounded by Blessings,
May we learn to bless,
Reaping the fruits of patriotism,
May we love our country more;

Members of the worldwide community
May we cherish our neighbors everywhere;
Grateful to Thee,
May we show our gratitude
By efficiency and service.

I now declare the officers of the Altrusa Club of «**Club**» duly installed for the 20__ - 20__ club year.

May God hold each of you in the palm of His hand!