

Sewing Basket Installation Ceremony
Extension Association of New Mexico – October 2015
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Supplies needed:

Basket – 1	Measuring Tape – 1	Seam Gauge - 1
Buttons - at least 7	Needle - 1	Seam Ripper – 1
Fabric - 1 piece	Pins – 1 pack	Thimble – 1
Marking Pens - 4	Scissors – 1 small pair	Thread - 4

The installation of new officers provides a time to reflect upon the accomplishments of our previous leaders and to look forward to the new ideas and inspirations of our new leaders. To those who have served faithfully this past term, you have provided the pattern guide for our organization's upcoming year. We thank you for a job well done.

It is the job of our newly elected officers to continue to construct a strong organization and help us to complete new patterns. As seamstresses we use many tools. Each tool in our sewing basket has its own unique purpose. Our projects cannot be completed with just one tool. Likewise our officers have unique duties but all are necessary for our organization to function.

The membership has shown their faith and confidence in your ability and have chosen you to give leadership to our work in the upcoming year. Your willingness to serve and discharge your duties to the best of your knowledge and ability is the first step towards making your term successful.

The Seam Gauge symbolizes the President. The purpose of the seam gauge is to make sure our seams and hems are straight and on track. Similarly, the president's job is to guide the organization, ensuring that it is operating at its full potential and following the pattern as designed by the Board of Directors.

_____ do you pledge yourself to provide guidance, service, inspiration and leadership as president of the Extension Association of New Mexico? I present to you a seam gauge to help you measure your success.

Scissors are a very important tool in every sewing basket. Not only are they responsible for cutting out the project, they are important in making sure seams are trimmed to help the garment lay flat. _____ as President-Elect, you will be assisting the President with the many activities of the Association while you are learning the job of President. Like the scissors, you will be working behind the scenes trimming the loose threads and seams making sure the final product is the best it can be. Do you agree to take on this role of President-elect? Here are a pair of scissors to remind you of your tasks.

The pins symbolize the Secretary and her many duties. _____, could you please step forward? In sewing, the pins hold the fabric firmly together. Similarly the Secretary ensures the work of the organization is properly held firm and stitched together for reference and guidance. Do you promise to carry out your duties to the best of your ability? Let these pins symbolize your duties of Secretary.

The measuring tape symbolizes the Treasurer and her duties. _____, could you please step forward? In sewing, the measuring tape is used to insure that the completed garment fits and hangs straight. As Treasurer, you must make sure our activities fit our budget and provide the measurements of the organization's financial status. Do you promise to faithfully and diligently carry out your duties as Treasurer? Let this measuring tape remind you of your role and responsibilities as the Treasurer

A marking pen or tailor's chalk is used to mark important points on our fabric. The marks help us line up the cut pieces and help us know where to start and stop sewing. The tasks of the District Presidents are similar to the marking pen. _____ you are responsible to share information from the Board of Directors with the members in your districts and keep them on point as you encourage them to be involved in state projects. Do you pledge to work to keep the clubs in your district informed? Let this pen remind you of your responsibilities as a District President.

The thread symbolizes the District Vice Presidents. _____ could you please step forward? The thread ensures that the pieces of fabric hold together and that the project doesn't fall apart. Likewise, the District Vice Presidents provide the means to join together the organization for common goals and objectives through programming. Do you promise to support your district president and carry out your specific duties to the best of your ability? Let this spool of thread remind you of your duties as a District Vice President.

The needle represents the Vice President. _____, could you please step forward? The needle's job is to draw the thread through the fabric to hold it together. The Vice President ensures that the organization's projects and programs are underway by initiating action and then ensuring that the action completes the projects. Just like a needle, the Vice President holds our organization together with quality programs and projects. Do you pledge to fulfill your responsibilities as the EANM Vice President? Here is a package of needles to represent the many great programs you will be working with.

The thimble protects our fingers as we sew. Skip using this handy tool and you are likely to bleed on your project. The Parliamentarian of our organization is like a

thimble. Her job is to protect us and make sure we are running our business in the proper manner. _____ your job is an important one. Do you pledge to do it to the best of your ability? Let this thimble remind you of the importance of your job.

One of the most useful tools in the basket, is a seam ripper. The seam ripper is used to gently remove our mistakes without making holes. We use it so we can perfect our project. _____ as Immediate Past President, your job is like the seam ripper. You will gently guide the Board and help repair any wrongly sewn seams in our organization. Do you agree to continue to serve the organization in this manner? Here is a seam ripper to remind you of your new role.

The true workers of any organization are the committee chairs. A tool in our basket that is used over and over even after the project is put together, is the button. A button's job is to hold the project closed, it is the last item added, thus completing the project. As committee chairs, you work hard to complete your job assignment, while you are also looking ahead to the next task and making sure the project stays together. Standing Committee Chairs:

Cultural Arts _____
Newsletter _____
Scholarship _____
Heart of Extension _____
Pioneer Woman _____
Membership _____
Historian _____

Do you promise to work with these committees to complete the tasks assigned you? Here is a button to remind you of your task.

Members, your job is not done with the election of these officers. A sewing project cannot start without fabric. Fabric provides the substance for the final product. Likewise, the members are the bulk of the organization. Without members, the organization would be unable to function. Members, do you promise to be active and to support these leaders in the projects and activities of the Extension Association of New Mexico?

Lastly we have the sewing basket. This item is reserved for the advisors. A project can be successfully sewn without a basket, but the task is easier, when all of the tools are organized together. The job of the Advisor is to provide support for the officers and members and help them stay organized. _____ and I pledge to do our best to provide support and guidance to the Extension Association of New Mexico.

I now declare these officers as duly installed. Congratulations and best wishes.