NCAR

Ikebana International Officer Installation
Using Flower Petals and Fans

1. Each officer is presented with a fan
2. They place the fan in their right hand
3. The officers stand in a semicircle and at the nod of the installer, open their fans and bow to the installer
4. The installer steps forward with the petals on a lacquered tray upon which is placed petals of plants chosen for special symbolism
5. The installer places the petals on each fan as she murmurs the symbolism
6. After each officer has been given the petals, the installer steps back and with encouragement asks the officer to remember and think carefully about their responsibilities, charging each with their particular duties
7. Then the installer instructs the officers to sweep the fan upward over their left shoulders and making a wish that the qualities of the designated petals will be embodied in each officer.
8. As the petals waft to the ground the installer says:
9. *Now shall you always be most elegant in spirit, with a sense of majesty, yet with an element of shyness, you shall do all things in moderation, you shall be brave, be able to endure , accept defeat with grace, and still be able to rise and again win. You shall have the strength, courage and belief to build an everlasting life.*
10. *You will always be hospitable and friendly toward your court and other officers, and welcome our loyal people for consultation and commendation, make them part of our regime. Last you shall never be without the hope to attain human perfection*.
11. *Each of the petals you have cast to the wind embody one or more of the qualities I have mentioned and their spirit will live again in the fields, mountains, the pathways and along the shores as other like flowers will grow.*
12. *Regard them well as you pass and remind yourselves of their qualities. While at the same time you shall search your minds to be sure that you have lost none of these and have even grown in spirit and stature according to the nature of these qualities*.