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EC5577 The Club and its President

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Nebraska
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
1931 U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln Extension Circular 5577

THE CLUB AND ITS PRESIDENT

"Is there joy or satisfaction for the one who is serving as the president of a club?" This question was asked of a group of club presidents who met in Weeping Water to talk over their problems. Their answers varied. The women were next asked "What is an ideal president?" and after their suggestions were written down they discussed the president's problems and duties.

These questions served so well for round table discussions that they were used for seventeen other such president's meetings. Each time the questions were asked and the answers tabulated before any suggestions were given to them about what previous groups had said. The eighteen round table discussions have been combined into the following report, so they tell us what the presidents said. Perhaps you can make additional suggestions for each question.

The President's Joys and Satisfaction

One of the satisfactions which comes to a president is that of planning and accomplishing things worth while for others. The presidents said there is a joy which comes to one from service which has been well done.

There is a satisfaction which comes when one feels that the group have bestowed the honor upon her because they approve of her and are willing to follow her leadership.

A president will find that there is an educational development which comes to her while she is serving as the president of the club.

There is a satisfactory feeling which comes to one after she has taken her turn and done her part.

Joys come to one when she has been able to maintain harmony in a group and to have secured a cooperative response from those with whom she works.

Sometimes special privileges and honors come to one because she is the president of a club.

There is a satisfaction in the increased pride a family has in mother's accomplishments.

Being the president gives one an opportunity to know and understand the neighbors and the community better. It enlarges one's acquaintance and gives closer friendships and broadens one's viewpoint.

There is a satisfaction in realizing that one's executive ability is growing, in having a chance to develop one's originality, in the increase in one's self confidence, and in seeing others use their talents under one's leadership.

An Ideal President

Each group of presidents made a list of the characteristics which they felt an ideal president might have. At each meeting new characteristics were added so that by the end of the eighteen meetings the list had become most interesting. All realized that it would practically be impossible for any one woman to have all of the characteristic but nevertheless it will do us good to study the list.

An ideal president,

Will have dignity	Will be natural
Will have tolerance	Will be systematic
Will have enthusiasm	Will be a good mixer
Will encourage others	Will be appreciative
Will have good health	Will not be snobbish
Will understand people	Will be good natured
Will have a sense of humor	Will be unprejudiced
Will have executive ability	Will not be dictatorial
Will have poise and be calm	Will be willing to work
Will observe the Golden Rule	Will not be over-rouged
Will have confidence of club	Will be a good homemaker
Will have confidence in club	Will be a good organizer
Will keep self in background	Will be friendly and kind
Will have leadership qualities	Will be cheerful and peppy
Will have respect of community	Will be firm and uncritical
Will have foresight and vision	Will be tactful and capable
Will see the best in every one	Will be truthful and sincere
Will have ability to accomplish	Will be spiritually inspiring
Will have courage and initiative	Will be a good parliamentarian
Will develop leadership in others	Will be punctual and dependable
Will retire gracefully from office	Will be unselfish and thoughtful
Will have an attractive personality	Will be broadminded and impartial
Will have a sense of responsibility	Will be courteous and considerate
Will have self control and patience	Will not be too easily influenced
Will have a perfect attendance record	Will be neat and not over dressed
Will have ability to work with people	Will be able to pass duties around
Will have an abundance of common sense	Will be willing to take suggestions
Will create good atmosphere for leaders	Will be willing to pass honors around
Will have a good voice and good posture	Will not talk too much nor be egotistical

President's Problems and Duties

The presidents suggested a number of duties for themselves, such as:-

1. Be willing to assume responsibility
2. Be prepared for the president's part.
3. Conduct the meeting in a business like manner. It is easier for a president if she is familiar with parliamentary practice. Extension Circulars Nos. 51 and 52 may be helpful for this. They may be secured free from your county agents.
4. See that dates and places for meetings are arranged.
5. Begin and close the meeting on time. A number of project clubs had had all day meetings with a covered dish luncheon at noon. Many of the other clubs seemed to feel it would be well to have clubs begin at one thirty so the business meeting and the music work could be completed by five minutes of two. Then the project leaders could be started by two o'clock and have two hours in which to give the demonstration. If the club is a study club there would be time to study the lesson and have a discussion on it.

- ✓ 6. Preside at meetings.
Call meetings to order.
Announce order of business.
Present business not brought up by the other members.
Put all questions and motions.
Call another member to chair if she wishes to take part in discussion.
May appoint committees unless they are otherwise provided. Be tactful in such appointments.
Close meetings.
- ✓ 7. Call special meetings.
- ✓ 8. Arrange for publication of news. *News reporters.*
- ✓ 9. Create an appreciative attitude for the project leaders and encourage them.
- ✓ 10. Serve as alternate leader if one of the project leaders can not attend the training meeting.
- ✓ 11. Create and hold attention. Some of the presidents who had been project leaders suggested it would be easier for the presidents to keep order than for the leaders to do it. The president can remind the members that each leader has given a day's time when she attended the leaders' training meeting and since has studied at home and prepared illustrative material, so it is a courtesy toward them if all listen attentively.
12. Have all share in responsibility.
13. Have the meetings kept peppy.
14. Create the sentiment that the majority rules.
15. Help in having a 100% completion.
- ✓ 16. If refreshments are served encourage the club to keep them simple. Many clubs find that "1 drink and 2 eats" simplify the refreshment problems. When elaborate refreshments are served frequently the hostess and some of the club members have to miss a part of the demonstration. Clubs which meet more than once a month often find that it is well to have no refreshments on the days when the project leaders give their demonstrations. Then they enjoy refreshments at the other club meetings.
- ✓ 17. Assist in interesting new members.
18. Sometimes the presidents can make arrangements for having some one entertain the children in another room.
19. Cooperate with the county home extension agent.
20. Keep everybody happy and kind.

21. Completions

The Club's Part

A good president is an asset for any club but it is necessary also to have good members if the club is to do its best work. If every one is willing to do her part and to cooperate in the various activities the club may mean much to the community. It has been said that it is easier to find fault and criticize than it is to be constructive. In our club work we need constructive people.

"A good thing to remember,
And a better thing to do,
Is to work with the construction gang,
And not the wrecking crew."

- Churchman

(Prepared by Mary-Ellen Brown from the suggestions given by club presidents.)