

1934

## EC5577 Revised 1934 The Club and its President

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Revised  
1934

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

Extension  
Circular  
5577-34

THE CLUB AND ITS PRESIDENT

Song for Opening the Club Meeting

Tune: "Believe Me if All Those Endearing Young Charms"

Oh, friends, as we gather once more to renew  
Our hopes and our faith in our task,  
May our failures all fade as the mists and the dew,  
While strength for new duties we ask.  
We must work with new zest;  
We must all do our best  
To render the service we see;  
Then let's all join our hands  
And go forth for the test,  
And render the service we see.

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## 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 Satisfactions

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 characteristics but nevertheless it will do us good to study the list.

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-roughed
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 and leadership
2. Be prepared for the president's duties.
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. have
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 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.  
Appoint committees unless they are otherwise provided. Be tactful in such appointments.  
Close meetings.
7. Call special meetings.
8. Arrange for publication of news.
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, 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 demonstration agent.
20. Keep everybody happy and kind.

#### 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.)



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"Help us, O God, to place our vocation as homebuilders and as mothers above all else; to believe with divine guidance our homes and our community can be the best; to work more diligently for strong bodied and higher principled children.

To maintain the high standard of honest dealing and broad-minded tolerance.

To lend to the less fortunate a helping hand, to preserve a high courage through discouragements and disappointments and to keep awake to the fact that we must ever march forward--for better homes on better farms."

AIMS FOR HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT CLUBS

--Adapted from the Missouri Manual for Neighborhood Club Women

1. To be an active, working, doing club, and not a passive club that meets, gossips, sews and listens.
2. To make a determined effort to interest all women in the community in the work and good times of the club.
3. To carry on a home economics program, which will help members with their ~~homemaking~~ problems and give them a vision of the importance of their task.
4. To complete at least one organized home economics extension project, and supplement it with discussions, debates, demonstrations, exhibits, and talks given by members at the regular club meetings.
5. To develop interest in the cultural phases of homemaking through a study of art, music, and reading in the home.
6. To help make the community a happy, neighborly, stimulating place where intelligent, progressive people will be glad to live.
7. To send a delegate to Farm and Home Week (Organized Agriculture), if possible.
8. To help spread the work to other communities.
9. To cooperate with other clubs in securing and maintaining a county home demonstration agent.
10. To do each year some definite piece of work that will make the community a more satisfying place in which to live.
11. To develop women by encouraging each one to take part in the meetings and by serving her turn as an officer.
12. To make the community a better place for boys and girls by providing opportunities for recreation and educational advantages.
13. To sponsor 4-H Club work.
14. To reach a helping hand to neighbors who need it and to others in misfortune.



TEN WAYS TO MAKE A CLUB FLOURISH	A DOZEN WAYS TO KILL A CLUB
1. Go to meetings and be punctual.	1. Don't come to the meetings.
2. Cooperate with officers and members.	2. But if you do, come late.
3. Accept office if offered.	3. If the weather man does not suit you, don't think of coming.
4. Express your opinion in the meetings, instead of criticizing action afterwards.	4. Do your bread baking on meeting days. It will be slow rising.
5. Do not be afraid of work.	5. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and members.
6. Pay dues promptly.	6. Never accept an office; it is easier to criticize than do things.
7. Get new members by telling the best people you know that they should be connected with the best club you know.	7. Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed on a committee; but if you are do not attend the meetings.
8. Do not be afraid of honest difference of opinion.	8. If asked by the chairman to give your opinion on some important matter, tell her you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.
9. Seek out new and interesting pieces of work for your club to undertake.	9. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.
10. Be loyal to the ideals and standards of your club.	10. Be a flatterer.
	11. Hold back your dues as long as possible or don't pay them at all.
From Year Book, Loup City Woman's Club,--Taken from the November-December issue of the Nebraska Club Woman.	12. Don't bother about getting new members --"Let George do it."
	--Author unknown

"My attendance at meetings is not determined by my wardrobe and the weather, but by the calendar and the clock."