Organized Recreation and Planned Programs
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By GEORGE R. HENDERSON, In Charge Rural Organization

Part I.—Community Recreation

American people are independent and self-reliant, yet have a highly developed spirit of cooperation and community welfare. They have grouped themselves into communities, realizing that neighbors and friends help to make life more happy. The contribution of each is necessary for the good of all and the community is a unit which can serve its members only as the members serve the community, and it can serve in developing ideas and talents in a way in which no other unit can function.

Rural communities exist because people who have interests in common have grouped themselves together to follow better those common interests.

It is becoming more and more necessary for rural people to learn to work together in organized groups. The individual strengthens the group and the group strengthens the individual. But before people can work together they must become acquainted with one another, learn about the interests and aims of one another and play together. To be truly helpful, they must share one another's cares and joys.

This "working together" must be learned and "playing together" must be learned. And when they are learned and practiced the word "community" begins to take on a new and broader meaning. There's a spirit born which encourages better understanding and appreciation for the farm, for the home, for the community and for each member in it.

There can be no real rural happiness without cooperation on the part of the people, and it cannot come unless rural people play together and enjoy and appreciate one another.

People need recreation and will have it. Mother nature has made us that way.

If work and play are to be efficient and worth while they should be organized. That is, they should follow a definite system. Organization of work and play simply means that there are systems to be followed, rules to be observed, adequate and proper supervision and, most important, useful results.

Every rural community should organize its recreation program. Leisure time is like dynamite—useful or dangerous, according to the way in which it is used. It is valuable capital, and will pay large dividends if properly handled. It is a nuisance and a pest when wrongly used or neglected.
Properly utilized it gives life, health and happiness, but may become a contagious and lingering pestilence when misused. Leisure time is too important to neglect.

A community that would promote its own welfare will plan its recreation. Projects and community work go over better after people play together.

**Community Activities**

Such rural activities as camps, fairs, achievement days, institutes, tours, meetings and recreation have for their objectives the improvement of the happiness and welfare of rural people.

They contribute in the following ways:
1. By creating and developing ideals and attitudes.
2. By stimulating appreciation of country life.
3. By bringing about better cooperation.
4. By contributing to the recreational and social needs of the people.
5. By discovering and developing the latent talent which otherwise would be neglected.
6. By providing clean home-made fun.
7. By promoting acquaintance, friendship and good will between individuals and groups.

All community activities should be organized and planned long in advance so that all technical details and arrangements may be worked out. Work is easy if it is well planned and if the responsibilities are divided and understood.

**Recreation Tournaments**

A year's recreation program planned in advance will build community spirit, unity, cooperation, appreciation and rural happiness, for it will bring out the best in rural people.

There is something appropriate to every season. The year's recreation program should be organized on the competitive tournament basis. It then develops into a series of home-talent contests.

Such a tournament can be staged by a single community, by several communities, by a county or by a whole state.

The real value comes to the individual who participates in these tournaments. But communities benefit by helping the individuals in turn to be more useful to the communities. Cooperation is developed. Common goals are striven for. Useful programs result.

Every individual in a community should participate. In fact in measuring the achievement the percentage of people of the community who participate should be considered in the scoring.

There should be contests appropriate to every group in the community. Contests suitable for children are necessary, as well as for the oldest members of the community. Various activities, such
as music, dramatics, games, athletic contests, novelty features, folk games, etc., may be included.

**Organization**

A recreational tournament may be rather inclusive. It should therefore be well organized. It may be organized on a community or a county basis, or even a regional or state basis.

**Community Organization.**—A community chairman and two members may be selected to assist. These would be the community committee. Its members should represent recreation, music, and art. If preferable a director may be selected for the community.

The committee or the director should act for the group in carrying out plans. They should be leaders and able to assume responsibility.

The duties of these committees would be to select activities to be sponsored and to see that contests are carried out in each activity and that complete records are kept.

Committees of one or more should be appointed to head each activity to be taken up.

**County Organization.**—The county board may consist of the chairmen of the community committees or the directors for the communities. They cooperate with the county and home demonstration agents, county school superintendents and other interested leaders and may aid in enlarging the membership of the board if this is desirable.

This board should have full charge of all sponsored activities for the county.

**General.**—Good coaches should be selected and utilized.

**Suggestions and Plans**

Time and effort are necessary to handle a tournament properly. It is a year’s program. But the main thing is to make a start. Select interested workers at the start. The county agent or home demonstration agent could call a meeting as a beginning. The plan should then be discussed and fitted to the community. If it is decided to conduct such a tournament for a county or a community, committees for the county or the community, or both, should be selected. Projects to be carried should be decided upon, along with the eligibility of participants. The materials to be used, number of participants, time limits, etc., for each activity must be considered and decided upon in advance. The groups should be designated as to age.

**A. What Activities Should Be Sponsored?**—The range of activities is practically unlimited and must depend upon the community conditions and the desires of the people. Here is a suggested list from which enough activities can be chosen to furnish a community
with a varied program. Activities should be suitable to country life. Others may be added.

Drama—one-act plays, three-act plays
Music—vocal and instrumental, alone or in groups, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn Husking</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debates</td>
<td>Miniature Track</td>
<td>Crop Yield</td>
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<td>Yard and Garden</td>
<td>Meets</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>Essays</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Speeches</td>
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<td>Checkers</td>
<td>Dominoes</td>
<td>(Extemporaneous)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model Airplanes</td>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>Marbles</td>
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<td>Quilting</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Jackstones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>Bull Pen</td>
<td>Athletic Track Meets and Track Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>Knitting, Tatting,</td>
<td>Painting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Crocheting, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croquet</td>
<td>Whittling</td>
<td>Home-Made Toys,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Horse-Shoe Pitching</td>
<td>Hog-Calling Contests</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Pageants</td>
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Poster Contests—Advertising the Tournaments
Cake and Pie-Baking Contests
Circus—Clowns, acrobatic acts, pyramid building, trained animals, stuffed animals, fakes, juggling, wire walking, magic, slight of hand, horizontal bars, ponies, specialties.

Rules and instructions should be worked out in advance. Here are examples of sets of rules for a few contests.

**An Extemporaneous Speech Contest**

A. Topics to be selected each year by the county committee.
   Suggested, 1935
   1. Thomas A. Edison  4. Victor Herbert
   2. Woodrow Wilson    5. Will Rogers
   3. Rudyard Kipling

B. Residents of a community are eligible to compete in the community tournament. Winners of community contests are eligible to compete in county tournaments.

C. Selection of winners is to be under the jurisdiction of the committees.

D. Two topics will be drawn and contestants given 30 minutes to prepare speech upon their topics.

E. One card not over 3x5 inches may be used for notes.

F. Time of speech not to exceed 6 minutes.
   These rules are meant only as suggestions.

**Model Airplane Contest**

A. Members of community eligible for community contest.

B. Basis of Judging
   1. Workmanship, 50 points
   2. Time in air, 50 points

C. Contest out of doors.

Rules should be worked out for all contests. Scoring of all events should be according to a definite system. Not all activities are of equal importance. Some event may be worth 1,000 points.
while another only 100. Judges should be provided with tally sheets on which complete and accurate scores can be kept.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>JUDGE’S SCORECARD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music Contest</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Points to consider</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Tone quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Intonation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Accuracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Poise or personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation.**—The main value is in the preparation for the various events. Every individual in the rural community and county should be induced to participate in the year’s program of recreation. Activities of a wide enough variety to include everyone should be sponsored. There should be something for the 6-year-old as well as for the one 16 or 50. Some activities will appeal to children, while older people will be interested in others. It will be harder to get the older people interested, but we must remember that people do not stop playing because they get old, but they get old because they stop playing.

The year’s program should be well balanced with art, music, athletics, drama, etc., all having a place in the line up.

**Scoring.**—A basis of scoring should be worked out in advance with points given according to the value of the activity participated in. Here is a suggestion:

**For Adults**

**For Teams and Groups.**—Baseball, softball, basketball, drama, tennis, bands, orchestras, track meets, volleyball, pageants, circus, etc.—300 points per individual in the group. The baseball team might make as much as 3,600 points. An orchestra of 15 might earn a maximum of 4,500 points.

**For Individuals.**—Corn husking, 2,000 points
Crop yields, yard and garden, model airplane, quilting, weaving, knitting, tatting, painting, swimming, posters, baking, etc.—100 points each;
Spelling, reading, speeches, essays, drawing, etc.—500 points each;
Dominos, checkers, chess, jackstones, bull pen, whittling, home-made toys, wood chopping, croquet, horseshoe pitching, etc.—300 points each.

**For Juniors (under 18 years).**—Events 100 points less than above scores.
Leadership Pointers.—*The successful leader will observe the following:

1. Know your program.
2. Build your program to fit your group.
3. Make the play continuous and snappy.
4. Lead, not push—get in the game yourself and play.
5. Make your directions simple, clear and brief as possible.
6. Demonstrate.
7. Insist on fair play.
8. Encourage slow individuals and teams.
9. Never lose your temper. ALWAYS BE CHEERFUL! IT IS CONTAGIOUS!
10. Make people want to play.
11. Stop the game at the height of interest.


Part II.—Planned Programs

For Better Meetings

Successful rural meetings are quite a problem to those in charge. Any plan or suggestion that will help make rural meetings more useful and successful is well worth while.

Rural meetings can be made more interesting and successful if properly planned and organized in advance.

Plans should be made and developed on a yearly basis. Such planning fixes and divides responsibility, acquaints everyone concerned with their share of the work.

There are many very good reasons for holding meetings. Some of them are:

1. To train local leaders, and develop talent.—People grow and develop while serving and discharging responsibilities. These meetings are a means of discovering and leading out the ability of many adults and juniors which otherwise might be lost.

2. To create ideas, visions and develop interest.—There are few people who cannot learn from others by noting what they do and how they do it. Friendly suggestions are often very helpful when experiences are shared. New situations arise and new interest comes into being.
3. **To broaden people's viewpoint and interest.**—A farmer's interests and problems go beyond his own fence lines. These interests are not only in his own community, but they are county-wide and even state and national in their scope.

4. **To promote good will.**—"Meet together often" is wonderful advice. Meetings which bring people together and develop neighborliness yield rich returns in contentment and satisfaction for the individual, and help put a soul in the organization. Good will is very valuable capital stock.

5. **To open the way for other cooperative activities.**—By establishing the habit of cooperation, meetings develop methods of handling many difficult jobs. We can work together more effectively when we think and play together.

6. **To create friendships.**—Normal persons prefer to work with those people who are their friends. Through meetings we are able to meet new people and develop these friendships which help us to work together. By becoming acquainted with people we develop mutual admiration, for "you seldom hate a fellow if you know him very well."

7. **To provide wholesome fun.**—Good home-made fun is worth far more than the commercialized variety. We can't hire people to sing and laugh for us and expect to get all the benefits therefrom. Amateur plays, stunts, contests, mock trials, debates, etc., can add much to our recreation.

8. **To promote good citizenship.**—Constructive programs are bound to teach and develop systematically good citizenship.

9. **To stimulate unselfish service.**—People like to help others, to pass on the good ideas they may have, to encourage the advancement of worthy movements. Through meetings many are thus helping to develop their own communities.

**Problems.**—Some of the most serious problems for community committees and local organizations are:

1. Poor interest
   a. In organization
   b. In meetings
   c. In participating in programs
   d. In agriculture and rural life

2. Poor leadership
   a. Many are self-conscious or timid
b. Work is a burden to a few who then discourage others

c. Shifting constituency, leaders move away

d. Individuals are often not adapted to assignments

e. Responsibilities are indefinite

3. Lack of satisfactory programs
a. Entertainment of poor grade
b. Educational features omitted or of very limited value
c. Business conducted ineffectively

4. Lack of meeting facilities
a. Inadequate meeting place
b. Too many competing events

These problems can be met most successfully if particular attention is paid to the following methods.

1. **Prepare a yearbook in which a complete calendar for the year's meetings should be worked out.**—This yearbook should give the date and place of each meeting, the nature of each meeting and the main features of the program. It should contain the names of those on the committees who are in charge of individual meetings. It should give the names of the officials of your organization, and should be distributed to every member. A suggested form is found on page 13.

2. **Preparation of interesting programs for each and every meeting.**—Programs can be planned in advance. The early schedule could be arranged according to seasonal interest.

   The work can be planned in advance so as to divide the responsibility and place it definitely upon committees. We shall help you with timely program suggestions which will have this seasonal interest. Successful experiences of other organizations or clubs should be utilized in your own organization. Help must be provided for specific programs. Leaders must use unlimited tact, helpfulness and patience in developing the talent within your community and giving it a chance for expression. Programs should be looked upon as a method of development and growth for the individual who participates.

3. **Use should be made of vocal and instrumental music.**—All available talent in your community should be used. New talent should be discovered and developed. **It is often a good plan to exchange programs with other communities.** Light refreshments served at meetings help. Lawn socials during the summer are beneficial. Annual suppers or banquets give folks something to which to look for-
ward. Discussion of new legislation and the use of public funds, programs emphasizing law enforcement, community baseball teams, etc., all aid much in strengthening your organization.

4. The inexperienced can be trained to serve your organization and community.—People will more readily participate in your programs if they are in line with their particular hobbies. They do not do so well when told of a job which is assigned by others. Frequently children can be used on programs. They furnish excellent entertainment and respond splendidly, and usually appreciate the opportunity of thus developing themselves.

Some kind of survey of the people in your community should be made with the idea of discovering what their particular interests or hobbies are, so that these can be used. Guest speakers should be used. Such people as ministers, lawyers, school superintendents, doctors, veterinarians, bankers, public officials, business and professional people, county agents and home demonstration agents generally welcome opportunities to appear on such programs as yours.

5. Plans must be adjusted to make the best use of facilities.—The comfort of the audience should be considered. They should be seated so that they face the platform, so that there are no bright lights glaring in their eyes, so that good ventilation is arranged. It is wise to try to avoid competitions and conflicts with such things as the noise of automobiles, children at play or the preparation of refreshments. These things distract the interest of the audience.

6. Systematic and adequate advertising should be used.—Every member of your organization should feel his responsibility in spreading the word around regarding your meetings. Notices can be sent home with school children. Other means of letting the folks know what is going to take place are available and should be used.

7. Develop effective technique in conducting the meetings.—The success of the meeting depends largely upon the leader and his method of handling the audience, presenting a program and guiding the business and discussion. Do these things:

   a. Start on time.
   b. Have a definite understanding before hand of the numbers that are to be on the program and the allotted time for each.
   c. Notify participants and have them become acquainted with their places on the program.
   d. Be ready to meet any emergencies that may arise.
   e. Keep the program moving.
f. Stick to the topic under consideration.

g. Introduce in a courteous and friendly manner each number, with a few words of appreciation and information.

h. Conduct the meeting in a precise and orderly way.

i. Give everyone a chance to express his opinion, present his recommendations and use committees whenever possible. Cooperation is thus obtained.

j. Follow parliamentary procedure.

If program committees are appointed at the beginning of the year and they know in advance for what meetings they will be responsible, they will very likely take an interest and see that a splendid program is arranged.

Finally, there are a few things that should always be kept in mind in preparing the program. Some of these are:

1. The first number of a program should challenge the attention of all individuals and secure their cooperation. Community singing helps.

2. The business session should be conducted early during the meeting, and should be guided so that no time is lost.

3. Every member of your group should participate. Any meeting which closes without a contribution from everyone is not fully successful. Each meeting should have a feature that will make people remember it and talk about it after the meeting is over.

4. Meetings should not run too long, but should end with everyone happy and with a desire for more. If they leave with this desire they will probably come back. A program too short is much better than one that is too long.

Each meeting should have some singing, roll call, business or talks with discussion, recreation. One hour and a half is long enough for the ordinary evening farmer's meeting. Farmers work long hard hours and need their rest. If meetings are long, they avoid the meetings.

Planned Programs

A well-organized program saves time and effort, creates interest, enables leaders to reach their people and is more satisfactory in every way than the "hit or miss" method of conducting meetings.

Meetings should be thoroughly planned in advance so that everyone knows what their responsibility is.
Programs should be varied so as to interest people of different ages and tastes.

There is a time for work and a time for play. A meeting should be definitely divided into these different phases. The business session should be only a part of the entire program. Some recreation should be included and perhaps refreshments occasionally.

**The Year’s Schedule**

Plan meetings as accurately as possible for a year ahead. This enables you to work out a constructive continuous program and develop it. Committees should be used for each phase, and perhaps for each meeting.

Dates should be set as far in advance as possible.

**The Calendar.**—Make out a year’s calendar of meetings to be held and which will carry the name of the organization, the officers’ names, project leaders’ names and the names of the standing committees; the dates for meetings in each month with the time and place; a list of the special events and the names of the committeemen in charge. A suggested calendar follows:

**Yearbook Outline**

Name of Organization: ________________________________

Officers — President: ________________________________
Vice-President: ________________________________
Secretary: ________________________________

Project leaders and standing committees:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Programs For Meetings**

Regular Meeting Time______________________________

**January**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Special events</th>
<th>Committee in charge</th>
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**February**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Special events</th>
<th>Committee in charge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Committee in Charge</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Time Place</td>
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Card Index.—A card index of all the people in the community should be prepared. This index should contain valuable information for the use of the committee in building the programs and in making use of individuals on programs. This card index should carry the name and subject in which the individual is best qualified to participate, a list of his hobbies, his interests, his profession, dates on which he has participated in programs and the subject of such participation.

With the aid of such an index leaders can in a minute locate people in the community who are qualified to participate on any type of program.

Materials.—The following list of materials will be of great help to rural leaders in building their programs:

Inexpensive Recreation Material for Rural Leaders

Music
Community and Assembly Singing—Zanzig—M. Witmark, New York, 60c.
Church Music—Zanzig—National Recreation Assn., 315 5th Ave., New York, 10c.
People and Music—McGehee—Allyn and Bacon, Atlanta, Ga., $1.40.
The "Everybody Sing Book"—Kenneth Clark-Paull-Pioneer Music Co., N. Y. C., 25c.

Dramatics
Play Production Made Easy—National Recreation Association, 50c.
Short Dramatic Stunts for Rural Groups, Granges, Farm Bureau, 4-H Clubs,
Inexpensive Stage Lighting and How to Make It—Knapp—W. H. Baker Co., Boston, $1.00.

Games and Active Recreational Material
Recreational Games and Programs—Martin—Nat. Recreation Assn. 50c.
88 Successful Play Activities—(For Schools) Nat. Rec. Assn., 60c.
Games & Game Leadership—Smith—For Camps and General Use—Dodd Mead Co., N. Y. C., $2.50.
Games & Relays—Staley—Strenuous games for boys of all ages—Barnes Co., N. Y. C., $2.00.
"Kit" Church Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. Pub. four times a year, 25c a copy.

For the Family
Family Fun—Parent's Magazine, 114 East 32d St., N. Y. C., 50c.

For Young Men and Young Women Together
Folk Dancing
“Good Morning”—Dearborn Publishing Co., Dearborn, Michigan, 75c.
Folk Dances and How to do Them—Schirmer Co., New York City, 25c.
Hobbies—Puppet Making—The Model Theatre—35c each—Studio Pub., 381 4th
Ave., N. Y. C.
Hobby Horses and How to Ride Them—Leisure League of America, 33 Rockefeller
Plaza, N. Y. C.
Tropical Fish—You Can Write—Getting Acquainted With Your Children.
Quilting—The Life of the Party—Stamp Collecting—We Sing Our Parts—Photography
for Fun—Getting More Out of Books—Amateur Astronomy—Brain
Teasers—A Garden in the Home—Facts and Fun—The Toy Book—And many
others—all 25c.

Party Planning and Leadership
The Ice Breaker Herself—Geister—Woman’s Press, New York City, $1.00.
Recreation Material and Methods—Harbin-Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn., 20c.

Mental Games and Tests
Can You Solve It?—Herschberg—Crowell and Co., N. Y. C., $1.00.
Programs for Holidays—Hallowe’en, Christmas, Valentine’s Day and all other
Camping and Campfire Programs—For 4-H club and other rural leaders camps.
Campfire Helps—Library Series D 2, Boy Scouts of America, N. Y. C., 40c.
Reading—The Jacket Library—Home Lib. Foundation, Washington, D. C. Send
Story Telling—What to Tell and How to Tell It—Lyman-McClurg Co., Chicago,
$1.25.
Debating and Public Speaking—Dept. of Debating, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.
A program Book for Women of Small Communities—Woman’s Press, 75c. The
(Prepared by National Recreation Association—315 4th Avenue, New York City.)

Budget the Time.—Unless there is a definite division of time be-
tween the various phases on programs, some one phase will become
top heavy and have a tendency to kill out the interest of the group
generally, although one or two individuals may be interested in the
thing discussed.

One and a half hours is generally long enough for any program.
If people desire to stay longer they will stay, but the meeting should
be dismissed and people permitted to leave or stay as they wish.

There should be a definite allotment of time for each phase, and
this schedule should be followed.

The business session, should be budgeted as to time, and when
that time is up the business session should be closed. Any unfin-
ished business should be held over until the next meeting. This will
promote efficiency in the use of time and a desire to conduct business
and get it over.

The recreation period should also be budgeted. When this time
is up the recreation should cease. It is always a wise plan to stop
before people are worn out. Too much of anything kills the appetite for it.

### Suggested Allotment of Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singing</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll Call</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business or a Speech and Discussion</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments and Closing</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>90 minutes</strong></td>
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</table>

### Start on Time

Any meeting that is worth holding is worth starting on time. Meetings that are late continually are sure to deteriorate. If people come early and are on time, they are certainly entitled to consideration in preference to those who linger and come in late. Leaders are generally responsible for meetings starting late. Some people feel they cannot afford to waste their time by sitting around 10 or 20 minutes waiting for late comers. These people are the busy ones. Consequently they stay home, or deliberately come late, because they doubt the leader’s ability to start on time. Other people who are only partially interested will refrain from coming on time. Meetings delayed in starting are time wasters.

A better plan than to wait for late comers is to begin the meeting promptly at the time scheduled so that those who are present can get the benefit of the things for which they came. Then when the meeting is over, an extra 15 or 20 minutes can be taken to go over again the material that the late comers missed. However, if people are certain that leaders will start meetings promptly on time they will be there, but they do not want anyone to steal their time especially if it is to be wasted.

### Quit on Time

Almost as important as starting on time is quitting on time. Busy people arrange their activities so as not to waste too many hours. Consequently they will be busy until meeting time, and will have something to do as soon as it is over. Rural people work hard and if meetings are drawn out they stay away. Long drawn out meetings kill interest.

### Everyone Participate

Only through participation on programs is it possible for new members to develop their talent. It is impossible to train leaders unless they are given something to do.

Each person in the community should participate on programs two or three times each year. Everyone has some special interest or
hobby, and if given an opportunity will be glad to discuss the thing in which he is most interested.

The program should be arranged so that their hobbies fit into the season of the year that is most appropriate. People with hobbies can give valuable demonstrations on things useful to many people in the community.

Children are happy to have opportunities to do their part. Use them! Give them a chance! You’ll be happily surprised.

Special Programs.—Occasionally special programs should be arranged. Such topics as thrift, conservation, flowers, weeds, livestock, etc., are good subjects around which to build programs.

A ladies’ or a men’s night might be very interesting. Here is an outline for a Ladies’ Night Program:

**Ladies’ Night Program**

1. Arrange for girls to pin a flower on each man and boy as they come into the place of meeting.
2. Opening Song—“The More We Get Together”
   (Spend 10 minutes with everyone singing)
   
   Suggested songs—
   - She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain
   - My Wild Irish Rose
   - The Old Spinning Wheel.
3. Roll Call
4. Business Session
5. Program (30 or 40 minutes)
   
   Song by the women and girls—“What’s The Matter With Father”
   
   “What’s the matter with Father
   He’s all right!
   What’s the matter with Father
   He’s all right!
   A regular guy, I’ll say to you,
   And we will all of us see him through,
   So what’s the matter with Father
   He’s all right!”

Discussion led by three women on the following subjects:

1. The joy of an old fashioned flower garden.
2. Some things a farm woman can do to add to the family income.
3. A good vegetable garden is worth much more than it costs.

Or you might use these subjects:

1. How can we farm women get a little leisure time?
2. Making our farm homes more attractive.
3. Why I love my farm home.

Song—“A Gymnastic Relief”
   (Tune—Till We Meet Again)

Speech by a woman “orator”
   If desired write to the author for this.

Closing remarks by the lady chairman to show to the men that they are a pretty good lot after all, and, “We couldn’t get along without you.”

Closing song—“Goodnight Ladies”
   (Make the men sing it)
Suggestions for Monthly Programs

January

**THEME**—Let Us Be Thrifty.
**ROLL CALL**—My Pet Economy.
**SONG**—Jingle Bells.
**POEM**—“Winter Silence”—Gene Lindberg.
**HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**—Meat Cutting and Canning: Curing Pork, Killing and Cutting Lamb, Butchering Beef, Home Canning in Colorado.
**GENERAL INTEREST**—Thrift Slogans—Family Finances: Checking and Savings Accounts; Care of Important Papers.

February

**THEME**—Reminiscences of the Past.
**ROLL CALL**—Anecdotes of Famous Folk Born in February.
**SONGS**—America the Beautiful; Long, Long Ago.
**HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**—Good Meals at Low Cost.
**GENERAL INTEREST**—Family Finances: Wills, Inheritances, Property Rights.
**RECREATION**—Heirloom Tea.

March

**THEME**—Signs of Spring.
**ROLL CALL**—A New Vegetable I’m Planning to Raise This Year.
**SONG**—Pussy Willow.
**POEM**—Song from “Pippa Passes”—Robert Browning.
**HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**—The Family’s Food From the Family’s Garden.
**GENERAL INTEREST**—History of St. Patrick’s Day. Family Finances: Family Credit.
**RECREATION**—Flower Game—Exchange of bulbs and seeds.

April

**THEME**—Better Homes in America.
**ROLL CALL**—Something I Will Do This Year to Improve My Home Without Cost.
**SONG**—My Old Kentucky Home.
**POEM**—“It Takes a Heap O’ Livin’”—Edgar Guest.
**HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**—Make the Living Room Homelike by Pleasing Arrangement of Furniture.
**GENERAL INTEREST**—Family Finances: Home Ownership, Deeds, Abstracts, Titles, Contracts.
**RECREATION**—Tour of Homes, Gardens or Furniture Stores.

May

**THEME**—Mothers and Healthy Children.
**ROLL CALL**—Good Health Habits for Infants.
**SONG**—Round, “Little Tommy Tucker”. Mother Machree (May be used as solo.)
**HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS**—Celebration of National Egg Week by Using Eggs in Simple Desserts. Developing Healthy Children—Foods From One to Eight Months. Developing Healthy Children—Foods from Eight to Twelve Months.
GENERAL INTEREST—Laws Affecting Children: Child Labor.
RECREATION—Dramatization of Mother Goose Rhymes, May Pole Dance, or Child Health Play.

June

THEME—Love of Home and Country.
ROLL CALL—My Flag and What it Means to Me.
FLAG SALUTE
SONGS—The Star Spangled Banner, America, Juanita, Home Sweet Home.
POEMS—“Breathe There The Man”—Sir Walter Scott. “What Is So Rare As a Day In June”—from The Vision of Sir Launfal—James Russell Lowell.
HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS—Household Linens for the Bride.
GENERAL INTEREST—Correct Uses of the Flag ( Demonstrated by Boy Scouts).
Laws Affecting the Home: Marriage and Divorce.
RECREATION—Music.

July

THEME—Our Nation’s Birthday.
ROLL CALL—Why I Prefer to Live in the U. S. A.
SONGS—Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean. Battle Hymn of the Republic.
POEM—“America For Me”—Van Dyke.
HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION—Canning for the Family; Canning for the School Lunch; Canning to Share With Others; Home Canning in Colorado.
GENERAL INTEREST—Laws Affecting the Home: Mothers’ Pensions.
RECREATION—Peanut Pass.

August

THEME—Colorado the Centennial State.
ROLL CALL—Mountain Peaks of Colorado.
SONGS—COLORADO! Hello! Hooray! D-OH! Colorado.
POEM—“Where the Columbines Grow”—A. J. Flynn.
GENERAL INTEREST—Brief History of Cities of Colorado.
RECREATION—Chicken Game.

September

THEME—Send Them Back to School.
ROLL CALL—My Favorite School Subject.
POEM—“In School Days”—John Greenleaf Whittier.
HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION—Good Posture for School Children; Indications of Health in School Children.
GENERAL INTEREST—Relationship of Crime to Education. Laws Affecting the Home: Child Welfare Bureau; Compulsory Education.
RECREATION

October

THEME—“Getting Ready For Winter.”
ROLL CALL—“Fruits and Vegetables I Have Preserved or Stored.”
SONGS—When You and I Were Young, Maggie; Massa’s In the Cold, Cold Ground.
POEM—“God’s World”—Edna St. Vincent Millay.
HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION—Housing the Farm Flock; or Clothing Remodeling Clinic; Dyeing Fabrics; Remodeling Garments.
PLANNED PROGRAMS

GENERAL INTEREST—Family Finances: Protecting the Home by Insurance.

RECREATION—Parcel Post Game.

November

THEME—Rejoicing.

ROLL CALL—A quotation expressing joy or gratitude.

SONGS—Holy, Holy, Holy; Let Me Call You Sweetheart.

POEM—Thanksgiving—Selected.

HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION—Make Your Own Christmas Cards; Toys for Children.


December

THEME—Spend the Holidays at Home.

ROLL CALL—The Gift I Enjoy Most.

SONGS—Review songs of the whole year. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; Silent Night.

POEM—"The Mahogany Tree"—W. M. Thackeray. "Glory to the King of Kings"—Charles Wesley.

HOME-MAKING DEMONSTRATION—Foods and Favors for the Christmas Dinner. Christmas Decorations Made at Home.


Interesting programs can be built about the historical events. Here is a list of some of the important dates that occur during the year:

Important Dates

January  1 New Year’s Day
        1 Emancipation Proclamation Issued, 1863

February  8 First Colorado Grange formed, 1873
          14 Lincoln’s Birthday Anniversary
          15 Battleship Maine sunk at Havana
          22 Washington’s Birthday Anniversary

March  1 Moffat Tunnel opened, 1928
        4 First U. S. Congress met, 1789
        11 First State Convention of Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, 1908
        11 Farm Bureau Organized in Colorado, 1919

April   1 All Fools’ Day
        5 Palm Sunday
        6 Entrance of U. S. in World’s War, 1918
        10 Good Friday
        10 First Irrigation Water Decree in Colorado, 1852
        13 Birthday of Jefferson
        15 Death of Lincoln
        16 First Grange Organized, 1868
        18 Paul Revere’s Ride, 1775
        19 Patriots Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Shakespeare's Birthday Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>America's first newspaper issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spanish War Declared</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Grant's Birthday</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Louisiana Purchase</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Mothers' Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dewey's Victory at Manilla</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Lusitania Torpedoed and Sunk</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>First Transcontinental Railroad finished, Ogden, Utah, 1869</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Constitution drawn up, 1787</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Lindbergh reached Paris, 1927</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>First Telegraph Message</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Franklin Drew Down Lightning</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Flag Day, Stars and Stripes Adopted, 1777</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Battle of Bunker Hill</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Longest Day of Year</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>First American Troops Arrived in France</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Battle of Gettysburg</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Garfield Assassinated, 1881</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Battle of Bull Run, 1861</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Wireless U. S. to Japan, 1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>World War Began, 1914</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Fulton's First Steamboat Voyage in America, 1807</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Panama Canal Opened for navigation, 1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Graf Zeppelin Ends World Flight, 1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Labor Day (First Monday)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>First Unit of Farmers Union Organized, 1902</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Jewish New Year</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Gunnison Water Tunnel Opened, 1909, by President Taft</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Autumn Begins</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Meeker Massacre</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>First Colonial Congress, 1765</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fire Prevention Day</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Columbus Discovered America, 1492</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Surrender of Cornwallis, 1781</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Thomas A. Edison died, 1931</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Statue of Liberty Unveiled</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Hallowe'en</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Martin Luther Born, 1483</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Armistice Day</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Lincoln delivered Gettysburg Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Thursday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
December  2  Monroe Doctrine Announced, 1823
12  First Wireless Across Atlantic, 1901
16  Boston Tea Party, 1773
17  Wright Bros. First Aeroplane Flight, 1903
21  Shortest Day of Year
22  Pilgrim's Landed, 1620
25  Merry Christmas

**General Suggestions.**—People like to do things for themselves. The wise leader helps people to get along without him.

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**Ten Commandments for a Successful Community Meeting**

1. Develop leadership. Give everyone something to do. Don’t form cliques.
2. Work for a good attendance at each meeting.
3. Meet regularly. Don’t let other things interfere.
4. Prepare programs well in advance. See that every member has a part in the programs during the year.
5. Stick to the rules and regulations you adopt in governing your clubhouse and meetings. Rigidly enforce them.
6. Vary your programs. Make them educational as well as merely entertaining.
7. Play games, dance, tell stories. Remember, folks come first to have a good time.
8. Sing at every meeting. Community singing is the key to good fellowship.
9. Leave your prejudices at home. Don’t be hard-boiled. Meet the other fellow half way at least.
10. Get acquainted with your neighbor. You might like him!