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Plan a Recreation Room

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To Organize Or Not To Organize

Miss Dahlen Offers Grace Raffety Advice

To Organize or not to organize a Home Economics Club is the first thing for home economics students and teachers to decide when facing the needs of extra-curricular activities in a high school, according to Miss Alice Dahlen, state advisor for Home Economics Clubs. The club should not be organized merely for something more to do, but rather to meet those needs of the girls which are not met by other activities. The club may be a supplement for regular class work or it may be something entirely different.

What may be accomplished by having a Home Economics Club? The objectives set by the clubs in Kansas may help in solving the problem. Their goals are:

1. To develop an appreciation of the field of home economics.
2. To develop leadership among club members.
3. To aid in the personal development of the individual girl.
4. To train for worthy use of leisure time.
5. To advance the social and professional welfare of the members.
6. To assist in the development of the Home Economics Department.
7. To accept and carry out the state and national Home Economics Club program.
8. Then the constitution—a club may write its own or Miss Dahlen will send information on the subject.
9. Originality comes into play when choosing a name for the club. Some names chosen show what the club stands for—R. O. H. (Royal Order of Homemakers).
10. Other clubs are named for outstanding leaders in the field of home economics, and many clubs are named for the high school or town.

"Each club may have its own regulations for membership," says Miss Dahlen. At Iowa State College, where Miss Dahlen is a Home Economics Education supervisor, all home economics girls who pay their dues become members. In some schools, those girls who are taking, or who have had, home economics are eligible to membership. The usual size of high school clubs is from 35 to 50 members.

How often shall we meet, is another question confronting the clubs. The meeting time and its length depend on the conditions of the community. If girls live in town, perhaps an after school meeting would be best. For those girls who drive long distances home at night, a meeting during the day would be far better. There is a possibility of taking regular class time once a week for club purposes. The latter plan, however, might eliminate those girls who are not free at that time. Often a school provides during the week for an activity period which can profitably be used for club work.

The dues of the clubs are 25-50 cents a semester or 10 cents a month. In some schools there are no dues, but members are assessed in different ways to secure money to carry on a program.

To develop leadership is one of the aims of the Kansas State Club. What better way may this be done than by electing girls to important offices? "These girls in office learn at an early age how to conduct meetings, and how to follow rules of order," says Miss Dahlen. "I have seen girls in high school who were better leaders in a group than some college students who have failed to receive this proper training.

"The club ought not to have more committees than will function," warns Miss Dahlen, "but there should be enough to carry on the work of the club and to give all the girls a chance to participate."

And now that the club is all set up, what kind of program should it carry out? The first precaution is to be sure not to duplicate programs offered in other groups to which the club members already belong.

There are four general activities carried on by a group—educational, service, social, finance—which might serve as a guide in program planning. Educational, usually the largest activity, may include health week, meal serving, exhibits, demonstrations, assembly programs, music study, interior decoration, and clothing designing. Many clubs have found holiday seasons a chance to do service. They take baskets of food to the poor and dress dolls for children. Assisting the rehood nurse, decorating the club rooms, beautifying school and home grounds, and making costumes are other services.

Teas and school luncheons, when given in the club, help to build a true home-making spirit. Every club is confronted with the need of raising money. Suggestions for making it include bazaars, suppers, candy sales, favors for parties, and athletic letters. (It must be remembered that there are certain laws pertaining to the selling of articles, so care must be exercised when promoting a finance drive.)

One of the greatest thrills of a Home Economics Club is to be an affiliated member of the American Home Economics Club. For $3.00 a year a high school club may have the privileges such membership offers. News letters with hints from other schools, bulletins full of organizational and program material are sent out to affiliated clubs. Such membership brings a close association of all clubs and greater cooperation in homemaking.

Plan a Recreation Room

By Elizabeth Waugh

When diverting interests tend to draw away the members of the home, a recreation room is one of the solutions for bringing them together again.

A recreation room can be constructed from an attic or cellar if the home offers no other opportunities. Insulation in the attic creates a room comfortable in temperature for winter as well as for summer. Or part of the basement can be cleaned out and scrubbed up.

An ideal plan is to provide for a recreation room in your house plans. Miss Alice Waugh, instructor in applied art, advises that if children are in the family, a south exposure with a door leading to the outside offers a sunny, convenient room for the youngsters who can run in and out of doors to their hearts' content without worrying mother.

Miss Waugh says, "While the recreation room is informal and offers a chance for using novelty in decoration, the fact that people of varying ages will use the room must be taken into consideration. Bizarre colors and furnishings might not please all."

This room should be fairly empty with just the necessary furniture. Here family can use its creative powers. There may be easels for painting, a workbench for wood-working and other carpenter work, material for shaping with clay, and so on. Plenty of shelf space should be provided for storing books, equipment for games, and children's toys. It would be well to have comfortable chairs and a table upon which to work or play games.

Although the modern recreation room may be used for entertaining, it should not be thought of as a gayly decorated room for cocktail parties, dancing, and card playing. Instead it should impart a quiet restful atmosphere in which to carry on a hobby or express one's self as he pleases.