



LEADERS' GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

1. Why Have A Community Organization

- A. It gives families an opportunity to plan and work together in an orderly cooperative way to solve individual and community problems.
- B. It tends to coordinate all rural organizations toward improving the spiritual, social, economic and physical welfare of people in the community.

2. How Is A Community Organized?

- A. If a number of people are interested in a community organization a general meeting should be called.
- B. County extension agents, teachers, pastors and leaders from actively organized communities may be invited to give suggestions as to officers, committees and programs. In general discussion, decide if your community has problems and needs that might be solved through cooperative effort.

- C. Elect a community president, a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer. Decide on the number of committees needed. For example, objectives found on page 5, C-304, "Improving Texas Communities Through Organization", suggests committees. The president will appoint a chairman for each committee and a reporter.
- D. Before the next meeting the officers and committee chairmen meet and select committee members--(3 to 5 in each committee) get consent before announcing. Have each family in the community represented on some committee if possible.

3. How Are Community Programs Planned?

- A. The officers and committee chairmen make up a program committee (Designate the one to be chairman of the program committee). You may ask this committee to serve as the finance committee or you may think it best to make a different finance committee.
- B. Each committee will meet and work up suggested goals of a plan of work based on needs of the community. Invite discussion by all members of the group to determine the "felt" needs. At the next meeting the committee chairmen will present these and move the adoption of the recommendations. The goals should be approved by the group.
- C. After goals have been accepted the committee involved makes plans for the group to carry out the goals. For example, if landscape improvement is decided upon as a goal, plan a program to bring helpful ideas on landscaping. Progress reports should be made from time to time on all goals.
- D. Each committee plans one or more community programs that have a direct relationship to its plan of work. The community that makes progress is one that plans programs to reach specific goals for the year.

E. Obtain participation of local and county people for programs.

- (1) Successful farmers and homemakers can show or tell of favorable experiences in specific problems.
- (2) Programs or demonstrations may be given by 4-H club teams, other youth groups, home demonstration club members, teachers or pastors.
- (3) Group discussion (by committees or other--planned with a purpose)
- (4) Questions and answers (committee planned)
- (5) Some recreation at every meeting.
- (6) Technically trained people (Plan with them in advance--announce plans after acceptance and in advance of the meeting.

4. How Are Community Organizations Kept Active?

A. Elect new officers regularly every year.

B. Plan programs in advance (These are worked out by the program committee according to seasonal interest.)

C. Begin and stop on time. Do not let the meetings drag.

D. Have a short business session to discuss phases of community program. A suggested pattern for order of business is:

- (1) President calls the meeting to order.
- (2) Opening: prayer, song or game.
- (3) Minutes read, considered and approved.
- (4) Letters of interest read.
- (5) Committee reports (President calls on each committee chairman for reports.)
- (6) Old business.
- (7) New business.
- (8) Announcements.
- (9) Program: (Presented by committee chairman in charge)
- (10) Social hour.

E. Plan for variety in the programs.

F. Give special recognition for work done.

G. Provide recreation for all.

- H. Check progress every year--(This annual report is the responsibility of the secretary and committee chairman.)
- I. A community open house once a year where neighboring community leaders are invited in is a good way to maintain enthusiasm.
- J. Publicity is essential. Newspapers, farm magazines, radio, television, bulletin board, pictures, tours and exchange programs (with other communities) are helpful.
- K. County-wide organizations of organized communities strengthen both the community and the county.

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