

CLUB MATERIALS BULLETIN
ON
PROGRAMS

CM #5: PROGRAM STUNTS

The purpose of this bulletin is to suggest ideas for adding variety to the usual club meeting program. If your committee has developed other unusual program stunts, the International Office welcomes your ideas, which may be shared with other clubs.

Local News Events

Certainly every member of the club should be informed concerning important community affairs. One way to ensure such knowledge is to have one outstanding local news event brought to the attention of the club by a different member each club meeting. To begin such a program, select one member to summarize the first local news event of the week. At the conclusion of the presentation, the member then appoints the next meeting's reporter. In turn, each reporter selects a successor.

Give importance to this project by having the reporter of the week at the head table. Not only does this project help to keep the club membership informed, but it also enables each member to have the opportunity to appear briefly before the club membership.

Club Meeting Fellowship

Consider devoting an entire program, once a year, to one of relaxation where those present have the opportunity to lift up their hearts and spirits together in song and laughter. Select a master of ceremonies who will keep things moving. With a little encouragement, members will spontaneously relate good stories or humorous incidents. Intersperse these, or other humorous program stunt ideas with group singing such as old songs, new songs, songs of hilarity and songs of sentiment. Record the highlights of this unusual program for future enjoyment.

Good Club Programs Within Membership

Not every club meeting program must come from an outside source or speaker. Within the membership of every club there are individuals well qualified to speak on their respective occupations, hobbies, or vacation trips.

General News Bulletin

Clubs in communities where newspapers or radio stations have a wire service might consider distributing copies at the meeting and asking members to read the news for the club.

Special Music

Any meeting can be a good time to arrange special music as the entire program or as a supplement to the program of the day. Community choruses, quartets, other small ensembles, and the school music departments are sources of talent. Not only does special music add to the enjoyment of the meeting, but also soloists and groups are afforded opportunities to perform before additional audiences. (For more suggestions on music, please see bulletin CM #6.)

Inter-Service Or Civic Club Meetings

Joint meetings with other service or civic organizations are not only interesting but also helpful in developing greater fellowship among such groups. The visiting organization could provide the program, either of a general nature or for the specific purpose of telling the story of its aims and work.

Farm-City Get Together

Many clubs schedule farm-city activities during Farm-City Week in November, but summertime is a good time for a farm-city barbecue. A meal can be scheduled at a local farm with Kiwanians and farmers present. Follow the meal with a period of fellowship and an inspection tour of the farm.

Know Your Fellow-Member Program

This addition to the regular club meeting program can be informative and entertaining. Schedule one member each club meeting to give a short, biographical sketch of him or her.

Advertising Day

Kiwanis tradition correctly discourages members from promoting their businesses, and professions at club meetings, but an interesting once-a-year meeting would involve each member bringing some form of advertising calling attention to his or her career. Members might distribute such things as pamphlets, rulers, pencils, and blotters, or they might bring one to two samples to be given away as attendance prizes. Encourage unusual ideas, such as a farmer bringing each member a hard-boiled egg upon which is written: "Yes, we still have eggs - Farmer Lloyd." Or a service station owner might distribute his or her business cards, three or four of which have been marked to receive a free oil change.

Baby Face Program. Procure baby pictures of your members, and project them on the screen. Award a prize either to the best looking baby or to the member who guesses the identities of the greatest number of pictures.

Award Members Their Own Belongings. A stunt resulting in some big laughs is one in which a committee calls at the homes and offices of members without their knowledge to secure from their spouses or employees one or two of their personal belongings. At the next meeting the members receive as prizes their respective belongings.

Sketching Contest. Conduct a contest among your members in which each presents a sketch of what he or she considers has contributed most to the fame of your community. This has possibilities for humor, and when undertaken by the Oshkosh, Wisconsin club, the prize was awarded to a member who drew a picture of a cow, the sketch being reproduced in the daily newspaper.

Questionnaire

Arrange the following questions in consecutive order, allowing space opposite each for the answer. Allow a limited time for answers to be given in order that they may be read the responses to the membership.

- Who is our most brilliant member?
- Who is our quietest member?
- Who is our best-dressed member?

- Who is our club orator?
- Which member gets things done?
- Name the member most likely to succeed.
- What member has done the most for our club this year?
- Who is our best-looking member?
- Who is our “personality kid”?
- Who is our club poet?
- What is the average age of our members?
- Name our greatest optimist.
- What make of car do you drive?
- What does the other member think of your business?

A club recently reported a meeting at which a rancher gave ideas as to how a bank would be operated; a banker told of what they would do with an undertaking business, etc. The plan has possibilities!

This Is Your Life.

Follow the format of the former television show of the same name. Select a member from your club for this honor. A committee should be appointed to find as much information about the individual as possible (date of birth, birthplace, schools attended, wedding date, employment, children, Kiwanis membership history, and above all, some humorous events). At the time of the presentation, invite family members, employer or employees, school teachers, and friends to participate. Make sure the honoree does not see the guests.

A program of this nature works well when presenting the “Kiwanian of the Year Award” or some similar award.