

## **Public Services**

*Human needs exist from conception to death. However, just as each individual differs from all others, so do one's needs vary through their lives. To the sensitive observer, the presence within the community of many people having different needs is a reality that cannot be ignored.*

### **The Public Services Committee:**

- Studies needs of the community and what is being done to meet those needs.
- Proposes one or more service activities to the club board of directors.
- Assumes responsibility, as directed by the board, for performance of the activities adopted.

### **Organizational Meeting**

1. Chairman checks first with the president as to goals for the year and budget considerations, and with the vice president under whose responsibility the committee operates as to committee duties.
2. Chairman sets date, time and place for meeting: notifies committee members at least one week in advance.
3. The first meeting is very important. Here achievements or any unfinished plans of the previous year's committee are discussed; ideas and goals for the year are revealed, and ways of promoting and ensuring the success of these goals, are discussed.
4. Chairman reads a list of suggested activities from this source and leads discussion of needs, emphasizing the club's role.
5. Goes over those activities in which committee members have shown interest.
  - a) Type of activity.
  - b) What will be the reaction of the community to this activity?
  - c) What will be the reaction of club members?
  - d) How greatly will the community or the individual benefit?
  - e) How long will it take to complete this activity?
  - f) How much will it cost, and how will it be financed?
6. After thorough discussion, committee narrows choice to two or three activities, long-range or short-range as seems best for club plans.
7. With assistance of committee members, chairman prepares a written report for the board of directors. It should include project recommendations and project cost estimates.

### **Suggested Activities:**

#### **Food Production**

1. Encourage home food production in rural areas, supply seeds and instructions.

2. Sponsor meetings for farmers and invite speakers from local agriculture agencies to present information on fertilizers, insecticides, irrigation/drainage, improved seeds, new farming methods.
3. Publish and distribute bulletins concerning new farming techniques, available equipment and agricultural events.
4. Sponsor a mobile library of agricultural and educational materials to visit rural areas.

### **Food Distribution**

1. Provide volunteer labor to help farmers harvest crops.
2. Sponsor a produce newsletter with current crop prices and trends.
3. Assist local farmers to transport crops to market.
4. Cooperate with officials and agencies responsible for distribution of food to the people, especially in times of drought and disaster.

### **Nutrition**

Sponsor speakers and forums on the importance of a well-balanced diet.

1. Support a school lunch program that provides school children with a proper diet.
2. Distribute surplus food to the needy and urge the use of varied meals for better health.
3. Provide information on what to buy and how to prepare meals on a limited budget.
4. Contact your local health agencies for information and literature on nutrition and dietary requirements and distribute information in your area.

### **Traffic Safety**

1. Initiate or support driver education programs and defensive driving courses.
2. Generate support for adequate driver licensing, highway safety and vehicle standards.
3. Conduct community programs for driver safety, driver courtesy.
4. Conduct periodic vehicle inspection programs where such voluntary activities are allowed.
5. Initiate or support bicycle safety programs.
6. Promote or equip junior safety patrols.
7. Investigate available emergency medical services, ambulance services, rescue squads and communications.

## **Home Safety**

1. Distribute safety checklist and information on dangers involved in use of electrical equipment, power tools and mowers.
2. Conduct public information campaigns home poison prevention and safe use of pesticides and other chemicals.
3. Conduct a fire prevention survey in your community. Check for possible fire hazards, including bad wiring, overloaded sockets and combustible trash.
4. Distribute cards or telephone labels, listing numbers to call in case of emergency.
5. Sponsor community crime prevention groups and child identification programs to safe guard children.

## **School Safety**

1. Promote safety checks to keep schools and school grounds free of hazards, broken glass, potholes, faulty stairs.
2. Check schools for fire extinguishers and be sure they are inspected and ready to use.
3. Sponsor "safety first" and first aid instruction. Distribute leaflets on safety for parents.

## **Recreational Safety**

1. Sponsor safety instructions and provide a safety checklist for boats or other recreational vehicles.
2. Provide safety equipment and guards for pools and beaches in your community.
3. Sponsor swimming classes, life-saving and first aid techniques and artificial respiration.
4. Ensure that pools, parks, playgrounds or other recreational areas are properly supervised and are free of hazards, and that equipment is sturdy and safe.
5. Urge the use of proper safety equipment for contact sports or other vigorous recreational activities.