

THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

"Lifting as we climb"

Issued by

The N. C. Federation of Negro
Women's Clubs

NOTICE

This year the Journal is being sent free to each club member registered during the Federation Conference. They will be mailed to the president of each club for distribution as usual.

Presidents of clubs not registered will be sent one copy this time and if they wish the next issue they must request it and the charge is twenty cents each. Executive committee.

Editor: Mrs. Fannie T. Newsome
Box 295, Rich Square, N. C.

Co-editor: Mrs. Lu Sybil Taylor
Durham, N. C.

Contributing editors:

Mrs. Mocile Spellman

Elizabeth City

Mrs. Edna Taylor.....Pinehurst

Mrs. Ester Barnes.....Greensboro

Mrs. E. R. Merrick.....Durham

Editorials

CLUB YEAR BEGINS

The scenes of summer are gone and women shift mental gears. They begin toying with winter-time menus, new fall books, fashions and club meetings. And well they might for many of the women's clubs resumed meetings a few weeks ago.

There is no central source anywhere for a complete picture of women's clubdom.

You may be interested to know that questionnaires were sent to 40,000 clubs and hundreds of club leaders about 1945 and this gives the nearest approach toward getting any statistics on Women's Clubs anywhere in the country. The U. S. Bureau of Census has nothing—this is disturbing when we think of the influence Women's Clubs have on the American scene. The Woman's Club field is a very big, as well as an important field.

A definition that is broad says, "A woman's club is a local group of persons, organized for a common purpose and led by women."

The survey showed at least 200,000 clubs with about 20 to 30 million members. The average woman being a member of two or three clubs, there must be more than 10 million clubwomen. Other facts brought out that 49.4 per cent meet in homes—13.8 per cent in clubhouses—6.9 per cent in churches—6.0 in schools—3.9 in community buildings—2.4 in libraries and 16.0 other places like hotels, etc.

Also:

They average 15 meetings a year.

They average 2 1/6 hours for each meeting.

They average \$3.50 dues.

78 per cent plan yearly activities.

38 per cent hold summer meetings.

Clubs can be all things to all women. The leaders of our clubs should not let them become static but make them dynamic. When men speak of us as the weaker sex, they refer only to the physical—not the mental or spiritual.

Note this quote: "Today the not always gentle sex owns more property and securities, possesses more votes, and is better organized than the American male." You need not go beyond that simple statement of fact to recognize the importance of organized women, not only to themselves, but to society.

With this recognition we face this club season thrilled over the beckoning opportunities and the profound responsibility club work offers. We have not yet begun to accomplish all that we can achieve. Women's Clubs are inevitable. As long as human nature exists, there will be the urge for new horizons, fresh thoughts and escape. I challenge you to march on with pride. More power to you.

(Figures and quotes here are from "Clubwoman's Book" by Avery & Nye.)

DO WOMEN NEED EACH OTHER...

DO WOMEN NEED EACH OTHER? The true answer is yes. You see there are so many false theories; as, "A woman does not trust a woman, instinctively, she regards every female as her rival," which sounds as if it comes from a man's world.

There are some women who have never bothered to learn the technique of making friends among their own sex. Actually, those women have been missing a great deal. Male companionship, no matter how satisfying, is not enough for a woman. It takes another woman to appreciate your enthusiasm over the new shades of nail polish or the bargains in sheets. Only another woman can sympathize with the various stages which led up to Junior's arrival. And of course no lassie ever really reached the height of ecstasy over her true love's most eloquent phrases until she repeated them to her best friend. Many a glamour girl eventually finds that she would trade half her coterie of admirers for an occasional after-the-lights-are-out giggle-fest.

Women need each other. They always have. In certain times, the need becomes acute. You owe it to yourself to make friends, and to be one to the women around you. When women are alone there is a chance to take some of the feminine interest out of cold storage. Each has her own special interest. Men do the same when they are among men.

These few pointers they say will prove helpful with your female friends. You will have to improve your art of listening. Jim may be content with a wide-eyed stare and

an occasional well placed "yes," but not a woman. If she is torn between an orchid dress and a chateause one, she wants you to express a preference and give reasons. You need remember that a repeated secret invariably gets back to the teller. If you don't want it to, just keep your lip buttoned. Don't make the mistake of passing out flattery with lavish names. Unless your praise is sincere and subtle a woman may figure you have an axe to grind. Some say a sure way to a lady's heart is to ask her advice, but be careful in seeking advice not to dwell too long and too intimately on your problem. Too many details are boring, and boredom never promoted a friendship. Cheer is a premium these days. The girl who laughs and has a liberal supply of cheer will find a ready welcome wherever she goes. Lastly they warn, be dependable. The woman who can be depended on to do exactly what she says she'll do is the woman other women trust, and consequently love. After all is not these pointers good for all of us regardless of who our

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Parliamentary Procedure

1. Club meetings take place with the presiding officer (usually the President) facing the rest of the membership.

2. The president calls meeting to order by loud tapping and a quiet "Ladies, the meeting will now come to order."

3. The president usually honors the club and membership by rising to her feet when she speaks. She sits down when other reports are being made, that is, when someone officially has the floor. During discussion when members speak from the floor, she stands. If she asks an officer or chairman to answer a question from the floor, she seats herself during the answer. It is nice to have a gavel.

4. Dignity on the part of the president or presiding officer is needed for order of the meeting. As in every other aspect of life, do what you have to do when presiding. The "standing silence" is a most successful method of quieting people who talk when the meeting is being conducted.

5. The practice of parliamentary law during meetings is advisable depending upon the organization itself.

6. A basic parliamentary structure of personnel is needed by every club: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Also parliamentary action: minutes, roll call, reports, accepting and disposing of reports, getting action on a motion, controlling the floor, discussion, the question, old business, new business, election of officers once a year, the program, adjourn-

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NO TIME FOR READING

Compared with many European countries, the United States doesn't appear to be a book-loving nation. For instance, little Denmark has 600 bookstores; the sprawling U. S., 1,400. To equal Denmark proportionately, the U. S. would have to have 23,000. Ratio-wise to Sweden's number of libraries, the U. S. should have 77,000 instead of its actual 7,500. According to a recent Gallup poll 55 per cent of Britons, but only 17 per cent of Americans, read books.

Most Americans will defend their position by saying that it isn't that they don't like to read. They do, but they just can't find time. There are too many other demands on them by their home, community and jobs.

All right, take care of those demands. No one thinks well of the men or women who let their responsibilities slide while they bury themselves in books. Reading then becomes a form of escape from reality, rather than the fount of knowledge and relaxation that it was meant to be. But regardless of how busy you are, you can, with a little planning, determination and foresight, get some reading done. And it may surprise you to know how much.

A little calculation points up these facts: if you read for only 15 minutes each day for a year, your annual total will be approximately 1 1/2 million words. Thus, at 15 minutes a day, you should be able to read about 20 books a year. That's 1 2-3—or almost 2—books a month. Not a poor score for someone who thinks he's "too busy" to read!

Even the busiest person will discover, upon close scrutiny of his time, that his day or night will yield fifteen minutes for reading.

At home, place books at strategic places—on the bedside table, near your easy chair, in the bathroom, by the telephone, in the sunroom. If possible, let the use of your spare moments serve as a reading bonus, but set aside at least fifteen minutes each day at a certain time for your regular reading. Many persons feel that the fifteen minutes or half hour before going to sleep at night is their best and surest way of getting their reading done.

Reading takes on an even deeper meaning in your life when you plan a reading program. You then have a definite goal, and it becomes a pleasant challenge for you to accomplish it.

Your librarian will be glad to help you make your list. Just tell her the types of books that interest you most. You'll discover too that owners of small bookshops, or long-time employees know a lot about books, and are usually willing to share their knowledge with you, if you ask them.