

ness and to listen impartially to both sides of every public question.

"Sixth: Public servants and those who are capable of presenting public questions, especially those who are interested in great causes which make for the common welfare, welcome the opportunity which civic clubs offer them, to talk and confer with their fellows.

"Seventh: Neighborhood civic club attendance and participation not only develop breadth of sympathy and understanding, but tend to find expression for awakened civic spirit in well considered action for the common welfare."

A SUGGESTED NEIGHBORHOOD CIVIC CLUB CONSTITUTION

Of course there is no one prescribed form of organization. The citizens of any neighborhood are free to adopt whatever constitution or form of government they may choose. They may decide, for instance, to have separate organizations for men and women in the community, or they may decide to have one common neighborhood civic club for both.

The following constitution is typical of those which have been adopted by citizens, meeting as neighborhood clubs in many of the school buildings, throughout the country:

PREAMBLE

Whereas, We the citizens of _____, residing in the neighborhood of _____ school, have duties to perform as citizens which require for their intelligent performance an understanding of the public questions of our time, and a broad acquaintance with our fellows;

And Whereas, The public school building affords a convenient place for the bettering of this understanding and the development of this acquaintance through the open presentation and free discussion of public questions, therefore we, the citizens of the neighborhood about _____ constitute ourselves a neighborhood civic club to hold meetings in the public school building whose object shall be the development of intelligent public spirit through the open presentation and free discussion of public questions; and such other civic and social activities as give promise of common benefit.

For the better government of the same, we do adopt the following constitution:

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this society shall be the Neighborhood Civic Club, meeting in _____ school.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be as stated in the preamble, namely; the development of intelligent public spirit through the holding of meetings in the school buildings in which there is the open presentation and free discussion of public questions, and such other activities as shall promote the welfare of this neighborhood.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members: Every man (or person) twenty-one years of age or over, living in the neighborhood of the _____ is a member of this neighborhood civic club by the fact of his residence in this neighborhood.

Section II. Active Members. Any man (person) twenty-one years of age or over, is eligible to become an active member of this club upon giving his name to the secretary.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

There shall be seven elected officers of this club, namely, president, four vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer.

ARTICLE V—ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All of the officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the club which shall be held on _____ to serve for a term of one year each.

ARTICLE VI—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I. President: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the club and also to serve as chairman of the executive committee of the club.

Section II. First Vice President: It shall be the duty of the first vice president to preside at the meetings of the club in the absence or at the request of the president.

Section III. Second Vice President: It shall be the duty of the second vice president to serve as chairman of the program committee of the club.

Section IV. Third Vice President: It shall be the duty of the third vice president to serve

as chairman of the legislative and improvement committee of the club.

Section V. Fourth Vice President: It shall be the duty of the fourth vice president to serve as chairman of the social committee of the club.

Section VI. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the secretary of the club to keep the minutes of the proceedings of this club in a book—the property of the club—to keep a list of active members, to receive additions to this list, to carry on the correspondence of the club, and to fulfill such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

Section VII. Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the treasurer to handle the money of this club, to make all collections for the expenses of the club, to keep a record of all moneys received, spent, and on hand, and to report upon the state of the treasury whenever called upon to do so.

ARTICLE VII—COMMITTEES

There shall be four committees of the club, namely, the executive committee, the program committee, the legislative and improvement, and the social committee.

ARTICLE VIII—DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee: The executive committee shall consist of the elected officers of the club. It shall be the duty of this committee to confer upon questions regarding the welfare of the club, to consider and recommend matters of importance to the club, and in unusual matters requiring haste, to act for the club.

Section II. Program Committee: The program committee shall consist of the second vice president and four other members chosen by him. It shall be the duty of the committee to arrange programs for all of the meetings of the club, to secure speakers, and to suggest topics of discussion which shall assure live, interesting, and profitable meetings.

Section III. Legislative and Improvement committee: The legislative and improvement committee shall consist of the third vice president and four members chosen by him. It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate all matters recommended for legislation and all questions of local improvement which may be referred to it by the club, also to suggest matters upon which the club should act.

Section IV. Social Committee: The social committee shall consist of the fourth vice president and four other members appointed by him. It shall be the duty of the social committee to promote neighborhood hospitality, through the arrangement of such special programs, entertainments, serving of refreshments or other social features as the club may from time to time direct or desire.

ARTICLE IX—MEETINGS

The club shall hold a regular meeting each _____ evening in the _____ room in the _____ school between 7:30 and 10:00 o'clock.

ARTICLE X—DUES

There shall be no regular dues of this club. Active members of the club may contribute _____ cents per year to pay the expense of sending notices of the meetings of the club and such other incidental expenses as may be incurred.

ARTICLE XI—QUORUM

Ten active members of the club shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

ARTICLE XII—AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

BY-LAWS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

By-Law I. The meeting shall be called to order by eight o'clock or earlier, so that the business routine may be disposed of and the speaker of the evening may be introduced not later than fifteen minutes past eight.

The main address should be finished and the subject of the evening thrown open for general discussion at or before nine o'clock.

This discussion should last not longer than three-quarters of an hour, and should close with a ten minute opportunity for the speaker to sum up the discussion and to answer questions.

By-Law II. The chairman of the meeting should leave the chair in order to engage in discussion.

By-Law III. In speaking from the floor in

the open discussion which follows the main address, the parliamentary rules of addressing the chair, etc., should be strictly followed.

By-Law IV. Speeches from the floor are limited to five minutes and the time may be extended only by unanimous consent.

By-Law V. No speaker may have the floor a second time unless all others who wish to speak have had opportunity to do so.

By-Law VI. Speeches from the floor must deal with the subject chosen for discussion.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. Call to order.
- II. Report of standing committees.
- III. Report of special committees.
- IV. Treasurer's report.
- V. Unfinished business.
- VI. New business.
- VII. Special program.
- VIII. Discussion.
- IX. Adjournment.

THE FIVE C'S OF THE CIVIC CLUBS

The following five key words express the spirit and policy of neighborhood civic clubs as a rule:

Construction: There is, of course, no limitation upon public criticism, but the tendency is to make even criticism constructive and positive rather than destructive and negative.

Co-operation: The neighborhood civic clubs being representative of all parties and different points of view, are themselves illustrations of the spirit of co-operation. The policy has been found best to extend this idea of co-operation, to work with, rather than against other people. As Lincoln said, "To stand with anybody who stands right."

Concentration: One thing at a time and that done well, is a good rule as most of these neighborhood clubs have found.

Consultation: These neighborhood civic clubs have uniformly shown a desire to learn the experience of other similar organizations and to benefit by their experience.

Cultivation: Along with the devotion to the accomplishment of definite improvements, a great part of the civic club's work is everywhere the cultivation among the members themselves, and throughout the community, of the American spirit of unselfish interest in the common welfare.

TOPICS FOR CIVIC CLUBS

For lists of topics for discussion, and for suggestions as to local resources in speakers and lecture subjects, see "General Statement," "Civic Clubs," and "Farmers' Clubs," bulletins published by the University Extension Division.

A GOOD WORD FOR OFFICE-SEEKERS

Is there not a note of unreason, a tinge of cant, in the prevalent assumption that office-seekers are a cormorant crowd who deserve only the derision of honest men?

Ninety-nine per cent of the offices of the government—national, state and municipal—are filled by men who wanted the places and took more or less eager measures to get them. How, then, can the government be respected if office-seekers are not respectable?

The pay of the most sought-after places under the federal government is small—much smaller than can be got in equally exacting places in the service of private corporations. The best men in the departments at Washington stay there at great financial sacrifice.

A reflective observer need therefore have no doubt that a large percentage of those who seek public office in this country do so because of the idealism, the generous sentiment, that goes with the idea of public service.

Certainly, if it is allowable to seek mayoralties, governorships and the presidency, there should be no necessary stigma put upon those who volunteer for minor posts.

Of course, it must be admitted that there are a good many people on the public payrolls who do not earn their living. There are men whose object in life is to achieve a sinecure—to do nothing and to do it at public expense. It is a fault of the frame and casting of our government that it should be full of that kind of blow-holes.

But the fact remains that multitudes of Americans cherish a perfectly honorable, though often illusory ambition, to enlist in the public service—for the sake of the glow of conscious statesmanship that sometimes sits upon the brow even of fourth-class postmasters.—New York American.