

Keeping members' interest during summer

Are your organization's summertime activities different than those held in the winter? Has the mood of your meetings changed from what it was three or four months ago?

Spring fever means more than just playing hooky from school. The shift in what we do and how we act can be very dramatic from season to season. Attitudes may change from a serious tone to a more light-hearted nature. The "I don't care if I go to tonight's meeting" syndrome!

Here are some tips to help your organization through the good weather.

1. Consider not having the meeting. If business can wait, why not let it?
2. Turn the meeting into something different (eg. make it a supper meeting, or plan a barbecue with spouses invited).
3. Practice the agenda. Prepare for possible developments and be ready with contingency strategies. This will help the program run more efficiently;



members will appreciate the extra work you've done and shorter duration of the meeting as a result.

4. Weed out the business that can be handled by executive members only (by telephone if possible).

5. Ensure good seating arrangements prior to meetings in order to get everyone's input.

6. Change the format of meetings. Perhaps a guest speaker could be used, or a twilight tour planned. Scheduling a get-together of all the committees during the monthly meeting with a report from each one after the break, may be different. (It also eliminates one more meeting for committee members.)

7. Be sure to use agendas, meeting notices and telephone confirmations. It's better to cancel a meeting prior to its scheduled time than to send members home because there was no quorum present.

There are many other methods of building enthusiasm for the organization during the summer. This may be the time for your creativity to come out!

Your presentation checklist...

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- * When do you change your speed of presentation? When you want to emphasize an idea? When you're running out of time?
- * Do you laugh or smile? Do you do it at an appropriate time or is it a nervous reaction?
- * Do you use examples? Do you use them often? Are they relevant?

- * How do you emphasize main points? Do you repeat them, in different ways? Do you use flip charts or audio-visual material?
- * What do you do when your listeners seem to be falling asleep? Stop and ask questions? Ignore them and plunge ahead? Tell a story that brings them back to the subject? Move toward them?
- * Do you encourage participation? Do you ask questions and wait for answers?

Are your presentations dialogues or monologues?

- * How do you begin and end your presentations? With a summary and conclusion? With a preview and a review? Or with yawns and boredom?

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Winner of centennial contest is a Wingham WI member

To commemorate the centennial of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, a quilt contest was held in Huron County.

First prize of \$500 was awarded to Doris Bushel of Wingham. Doris is president of Maitland WI.

Other prize winners were: 2nd - Drika Foster, Alma - \$200; 3rd - Belgrave Quilters - \$100; 4th - Majestic WI, Brussels - \$50; 5th - Bev Fielder, Goderich - \$25.

On volunteers...

The Bradley Museum in Mississauga will be displaying a wide assortment of its valuable collection of quilts during the summer of 1989. Stitches in Time, featuring several handmade quilts dating from the early 19th and 20th centuries, will be on view from July 1 to Sept. 9.