

Anderson, Indiana LIFE club

Suzy Kolden , Sue Glaze, Linda and Bob went down to Anderson to meet with the “Friends for LIFE club to see how they have recruited about 140 members and have an extremely active group.

Over 80 of their members were at this meeting so we got a chance to talk with many of them. Some of our observations included:

Use of name tags: a name tag “tree” was at the door and the tags were sorted alphabetically by the first letter of the last name...and hung on a string. Everyone wore one with the first name in large readable letters. That was nice for that “elusive” moment we all have when we forget our best friend’s name.

There was also a sign in sheet at the door...not so much an attendance sheet as ‘Hey, Im here (or was here.) You could also sign up to play if you felt like it.

There meetings are always held on a Saturday which allows them time enough to have a program, a pot luck, “friends playing for friends”, and lots of time to talk to others (or as my mother in law always said “to visit.” It was very relaxed and fun. No rush to finish before another class needs to start.

Every meeting has a raffle for something simple.

The pot luck food was fabulous!!! So much home made stuff...we were “stuffed.”

Hanging on the wall was a quilt of musical design with EVERY members name pasted on it. Also, many pictures on the wall and in binders of activities and participations.

Once a year they vote for the LIFE Member of the year based on their criteria. Probably participation. We also noted everyone was assigned to a task for the meetings...programs, clean up, etc. Everyone seemed to have a part.

They used a “blessing plate” passed to help collect for expenses such as mailings etc. but also for donations to various causes. There was no “expected” amount, but if you could, throw something in the plate.

They seemed to do a lot of playing for the community much as we try to do; churches, nursing homes etc.

They also held bake sales within the group. (with 140 members, that would be easy)

They also put out a monthly news letter.

We noted that there window displays were really neat and hope to “borrow” some of their ideas for our windows. The building was an old Montgomery Ward building and they had the middle (ground) floor. The whole place was decorated with Lowery posters and many pictures of members and activities. It really made you want to be a part of such an operation.

Thought you all might be interested.