

Guys and Gals keeps growing

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

The Guys and Gals Club at the Farmington YMCA wound up its bowling season with a banquet in Oakland Community College's Towers Dining Room this week and are ready to begin the baseball season with a softball league next week.

"We're glad for the college campus here, we are outgrowing restaurants that are able to provide for us," said Fred Lindholm who acts as staff advisor, consultant and general all around helper to the club of about 85 mentally retarded teens and adults.

The club is about ten years old now and was the first of its kind ever organized in this area, though the idea has since spread to other Y's. Even so, it still draws its members, ranging in age from 18-55, from all parts of Oakland and western Wayne counties.

"And there's always room for more," Lindholm said, who sees the club, in some instances, as the only social outlet some of the members are offered.

"We see them developing into much

more well-rounded gregarious people, much better able to function in their jobs and as people after they have been members here for a while," he said.

The bowling banquet, which saw everyone involved get an award of some kind, is the high point of the year, but activities don't stop for the summer; they continue year around.

The overall program is directed by a committee of parents who send out monthly bulletins and plan special outings, with one to three parents acting as chairmen for monthly events.

Holiday parties with entertainment are regularly on the agenda in addition to mystery trips, programs, concerts, camping trips. "Just anything they can think of or want thrown in as an outing about once a month," Lindholm said.

On the calendar for June is a trip to a Tigers baseball game. For July, a weekend camping trip.

The Y handles all the legalities, correspondence and finances.

Just recently a new activity was offered to the Guys and Gals through

Pat Kenyon, religious education director at St. Clare Catholic Church.

Non-denominational services are held there for members of the club on Saturdays at 4 p.m. with participating priests, ministers and pastors from the Greater Farmington Area Clergy Assn. who gear the services to the capabilities and desires of the group.

Lindholm estimates that about 30 percent of the Guys and Gals membership are employed in sheltered workshops by New Horizons and another 50-60 percent on the open job market, most of these in industrial situations.

He believes about 40 percent of them come to meetings and outings accompanied by their parents or another family member. All special events are open to members of their families.

The parents committee of Guys and Gals has just voted in new officers for the 1974-75 year. Harry Beeson will be the new president, and George Britton will be his vice president.

Membership into Guys and Gals is through membership into the Y.



Trophy winners

Guys and Gals, who were among the trophy winners in this spring's bowling banquet awards roster are from left, Joan Randolph, John Mintline, Debbie Olinghan and Kurt VonGruben.

Mintline received his trophy for the most improved bowler and VonGruben took his for having the highest total. (Evert photo).

The rights outlook -- still a long way to go

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

No matter how many laws are written and passed for the protection of women they will do nobody any good if they are not enforced.

Nor will work laws benefit anyone if there is no work to be had.

The sentiments are those of Rita Scott, education director of the Civil Rights Commission in Detroit, who addressed delegates to the League of Women Voters from 11 over the state who met in Farmington's Mercy Center this week for their annual state council.

Her topic was "Women's Rights" which ended up with the general feeling of "Baby, you've still got a long way to go."

In speaking of her high school, college, and out into the work world days, she said, "We pleaded for the good will of men to avail, but it didn't then and it doesn't now."

A woman's best bet for protection on all or any front these days, according to Ms. Scott, is to arm herself with all the facts, which ironically are not all that easy to come by. Then, if you have what you feel is a legitimate complaint, protest and prosecute.

In her words, "The government has only recently determined just exactly what discrimination is." "The government acts as though they want us all equally oppressed." And "Most (protection) laws are poorly publicized."

Michigan's Dept. of Attorney General in cooperation with the Dept. of Civil Rights has tried to correct this situation with a pamphlet, just published, called "Know Your Rights as

a Woman" which is available by contacting the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, at 1000 Cadillac Square Bldg., Detroit.

It covers the subjects of family rights, including marriage and divorce; employment rights having to do with labor laws, work conditions and benefits, equal pay and contracts; education rights; contract and property rights; public accommodations and voting.

The pamphlet lists public agencies that will answer specific questions on family law, where to go with questions pertaining to employment, and how to file sex discrimination charges.

She believes Michigan is one of the few states that have bothered to publish anything of this kind and overall spoke well of the protection laws the state has.

Enforcement of these laws is another thing. She listed a string of amendments, title numbers, executive orders and labor laws that were on the books, but no provisions for enforcement agencies.

The Nixon administration is talking about allocating a sum for this in its 1975 budget which would make the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Labor Dept. of the Civil Rights the enforcement agencies.

"Only if this is so, and it is passed, there might be the kind of resources needed to pull it off," she said.

Another bottleneck women in the

work would face today is that the unemployment figure is now approaching 18 percent, and "I can't see opportunity of any kind coming with this economic climate," Ms. Scott said.

In an expanding economy the whole concept of equal opportunity is feasible, "but the pie is dividing. When you get down to zero expansion you have zero opportunity to change anything. When you have frozen tenure, and tenure professors who have been laid off you can not occupy positions that don't exist."

Before Ms. Scott accepted her present position with the Dept. of Civil Rights, she served with the Detroit Housing Commission and supervised the Education Div. of the Detroit Commission on Community Relations. So it was no surprise that she had not much good to say about the anti-ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) lobbyists who were demonstrating in Lansing last week.

She wound up her talk at the banquet mid-way into the council two-day session by asking the audience to look into "this whole picture of discrimination clean across the country. You cannot imagine the degree of freedom known in one place and the degree of oppression there is in another."

The event was hosted by the West Bloomfield-Farmington Branch of the LMV, whose president is Ann Beurele.

It was conducted by Maryalice Casey, president of the Michigan League, and a member of the local branch.



Rummage for sale

"Everything from coffee pots to skis," says Mabel Fake, at left, co-chairman of an upcoming spring rummage sale who is giving her basement as use for a collection depot of household goods for the sale. She's with Margaret Bowland,

working toward the event that will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 7-8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day in the home of Heather Siegel, 6374 Northfield, West Bloomfield. (Evert photo)

Halfway house planned for female alcoholics

By DONNA SZATKOWSKI

The American Medical Association ranks it with the big ones—cancer, heart disease and mental illness—as a major medical problem. Although it is no respecter of sex, facilities for the treatment of alcoholism on a residential and out-patient basis have until now been strictly limited to men in the Oakland County area.

For some time, a volunteer group called Azape, has been planning and reviewing establishment of a halfway house for women alcoholics.

OUR HOUSE (Opportunity,

Understanding, Renewal), as the proposed center will be called, will provide a place for the female alcoholic to receive constant care, outside of her home environment.

Barb Petz, a registered nurse in the Alcoholics Program at St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac said OUR House will be unique in that it will offer long term professional help.

"The woman will be totally removed from her family for a period of time long enough for her to receive constant professional care and guidance," Mrs. Petz said.

OUR House board of directors, many of whom are now involved in

the Alcoholics Program at St. Joseph's Hospital, said they are seriously considering a site for the project in Pontiac.

According to Mrs. June Shada, projects coordinator for OUR House, the enterprise is "a kind of pioneering effort."

"THERE HAS been so little help made available to women in this area," said Mrs. Shada. "Hopefully, OUR House will give women the opportunity to get back into the mainstream of life through counseling and therapy."

Mrs. Shada added that alcoholism is indeed an illness that de-

merits more attention in medical schools.

"You should no longer reprimand a person for being alcoholic as you would reprimand him for getting cancer," said Mrs. Shada.

According to patients contacted, who are undergoing treatment in an area alcoholics program, all of society is not ready to accept alcoholism as the treatable disease that the AMA has proclaimed it to be.

Many persons cling to the old belief that an alcoholic is a skid-row bum not worthy of society's sympathy let alone its help.

"ONLY THREE PERCENT of all alcoholics are on skid row," said one patient, who is for all intents and purposes a "recovered alcoholic." "The rest of them are doctors, nurses, nuns and professional people in every walk of life, and in every economic bracket."

She added: "I was fortunate to have a family that understood my illness. They were willing to help me get through every stage. For women who aren't as lucky, OUR House will provide a place to go when no one, not even their family, will accept them as they are—an alcoholic in desperate need of help."

According to the directors and volunteers, OUR House also intends to help the spouse of the alcoholic man.

"She will be better able to set her own goals while she is away from her alcoholic spouse," said one board member. "She can direct herself, think, without the distraction she would find at home."

At OUR House, the alcoholic woman, as well as the spouse of the alcoholic will be dealing with a very serious disease.

Therapists and patients themselves know they can beat that disease, but they know it's got to be one . . . day . . . at a time.