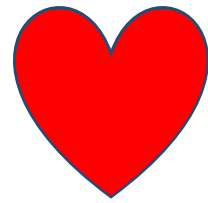


LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART

February Program of the Month

And Ice Breaker



Purpose: Uniting women educators in genuine spiritual fellowship and honoring women who have given distinctive service in the field of education.

By Teresa Maguire, Gamma Upsilon

Make a list of retired women teachers in your area that are not members. Have each member “adopt” one of these ladies and invite them to a Sweetheart Tea. Keep in mind that most of these ladies do not like to get out at night and the possibility of bad weather may be a factor that you have to plan around as well. The Tea should be in a facility that is easily accessed by those that may have mobility issues. Invitations could be children’s Valentines sent to each of the ladies with the date, time and place listed on the invitation. A nice touch would be to offer to go and pick up your “sweetheart” and bring her to the meeting.

The room should be decorated with Valentine colors and of course, lots of heart decorations and napkins, etc. Valentine candy is a nice favor and can be a decoration on the tables as well. As for the program or even as an ice breaker, ask each member to introduce their guest and tell the group where and what they taught before they retired. Since we all have stories of our teaching experiences, your program could be a sharing time of some of those stories. Another possibility might be to ask someone from your area historical society to give a program about the history of the schools in your area. Perhaps rural one-room schools or other subjects of interest to the retired educators in your area. Make sure that you allow time for the ladies that you invite to visit among themselves. Many of them may have worked together as colleagues and not have the opportunity to get together to catch up on their lives since they are not actively employed.

Other activities and suggestions for a successful Valentine party include doing a sing-along with some older traditional songs that your guests are more likely to be familiar with. Ask your music committee to make a song sheet with lyrics if you want to make it easier for everyone to participate. You might want to include a few door prizes and have a drawing for a special centerpiece or long-stemmed roses. Whatever you do—make it fun and let them know that you are DKG and if they are

not familiar with our organization, educate them. Some may want to become members.

My chapter has been doing “sweethearts” for over 30 years. As a matter of fact, we had a sweetheart who was so impressed by our efforts that when she died, a sizeable sum of money was left to our chapter to award as scholarships. When her brother, who was also an educator died, he left an even larger sum to us for the same purpose. We started the sweetheart project by having a tea but over the years have changed it to a luncheon. We pay for the lunch of the guests with a portion of the bequest and each year award at least two grants of \$2000 to college students majoring in education. We enjoy having these ladies at our meetings and have received many cards of thanks from them over the years. They really enjoy getting together with other retirees and they also enjoy fellowship with currently working teachers as well.