

March 13, 1945.

Mrs. Harry F. Stuckman,
1057 Third Street,
Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Stuckman:

I regret that I have not answered your communication sooner, especially as you requested the answer to be within a week. But, frankly, I have not had an opportunity to do so before this moment.

I am very much afraid that you will have difficulty in getting an efficient leader for your community recreation program at this time. We have had great difficulty in recommending suitable material for athletic coaching in the high schools. There is a much greater demand than there is a supply. We receive on an average of two to four requests a week, but we have just got a manpower shortage and I see nothing to do unless you hire someone in your present system. That may be impossible, but more and more we are forced to look inside of our city group for aid. I realize that it will not be what you want, but we are faced with the same situation here in Lawrence.

I happen to be on the Selective Service Board and know that there will be a tendency to increase the age of the draft rather than decrease it. This means that there will be a further shortening of available material for all endeavors.

Lawrence is in the field for a community recreation leader but the only hope we have is to take persons from our own group. We too are faced with having some of our coaches called into the service at the present time. I regret to give you this rather drab picture, but the only answer that I see is to break up some of the responsibilities and even go to the point of drafting some of the women leaders to help until the war is over.

The thing that I have been advocating is that we should enlist these teen-agers in the war activities, farming, gardening, and so forth. We should endeavor to change their minds from all fun into an added responsibility of teen-age to the war. I am sure that you have already done this, but only last week here in Lawrence this was brought up and I advocated that an all-out enrollment of the teen-agers was needed for the war activity. Youth has always been first to accept the challenge to greater endeavors. I am sure this will be no exception.