



SHOWING OFF SOME of the many activities of the Kayettes in Oberlin, Dana Sattler (left) adjusted the high school hall bulletin board while Sarah Olson (above) moved scrap copy paper and Kortney Stapp (below) adjusted Christmas greenery the club sells.

Kayettes work to improve world

By JENNIE SWART
Decatur Dictator Staff

One of the biggest and most active organizations at Decatur Community High School is Kayettes, a state-wide service organization.

The club is part of the Kansas Association for Youth (or KAYS), a character-building, leadership-training program directed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. It is a nationally acclaimed organization which provides students with an opportunity to assume their citizenship responsibilities and to enrich their personalities through well-organized programs and projects.

Through the Kayettes program, girls at the high school put together an assortment of carefully planned service projects. These projects emphasize four areas of service: school, community, nation and world.

"The most enjoyable thing that we do is going to visit the nursing homes," said President Theresa Smith.

Kayettes was started on October 3, 1945, over 56 years ago. This club was started because after years of discussion, the association's Legislative Council passed a resolution to organize a character-building, leadership-training club. Kayettes was a huge success and the idea quickly spread to many schools across the nation.

The six objectives that each member of Kayettes strives for are character, health, service, appreciation, recreation and leadership.

The privileges promoted by this group are to love and to be loved, to think creatively, to seek the truth, to appreciate and respect all races, to enjoy fun and laughter, to share with family and friends, to strive to be a good citizen, to live a healthy lifestyle, to give oneself to a cause, and to take the long look.

With each new year of Kayettes, each member takes the following pledge: I will, as a member of the Kansas Association for Youth, endeavor to maintain the high ideals of my organization, to make my personality a positive influence in the life of my school and my community, and to pass on an association which will be a challenge and inspiration to future members.

The Kayette motto is "Today for Tomorrow," and the slogan is "Laugh, Love, Lift."

The sponsor of the Oberlin chapter is Linda Glaze. Mrs. Glaze said that she likes being a part of Kayettes because "It's a great service organization, and we get

to learn about helping others."

Throughout the course of the year, the girls in Kayettes do many things to help the community and world, such as recycling paper. They made boxes for each classroom to collect used paper for recycling.

They also frequently make things, such as dinner tray favors, for the residents of Decatur County Good Samaritan Center and Cedar Living Center.

For a national project, the girls bake and sell cookies to raise money for cancer research. To demonstrate and promote school spirit, the organization has sponsored face painting on game days.

Other Kayette officers this year are Vice President Dana Sattler, Treasurer Brianna May, and Secretary Amber Reynolds.

The Kayettes also have a governing board to help run meetings, to give the president advice and to come up with group activities and projects. Board members include Dani and Kelsey Dorshorst, Kelsey Jackson, Janna Stef, Laci Leichliter, Lindsay Fortin, Katelyn Unger, Courtney Scott, Sarah Olson, Becky Moore, Ramsey Meitl, Leah Marietta and Megan Tally.

"It's a real honor to be on the Kayette board," Miss Moore said, "because out of our many members, I get to be a major part of the organization."

There are 69 girls in the Oberlin chapter.

Kayettes is a fun club and a good way for the girls in our school to come together and do things that help in our school, community, nation, and world.

The girls have been involved in their annual Christmas greenery sales, one of their major ways to raise money to finance their many service projects.

The Kayettes are working on their gold award, which is the highest award a club can get. At summer camp, which Miss Smith and Miss Sattler attended, Area 4 chose to work with the elderly for their area project. Area 4 includes WaKeeney and Norton and other surrounding schools.

For their part in the area project, the Oberlin chapter made ghosts out of suckers for Halloween and delivered them to the Good Samaritan Center and Cedar Living Center.

"Kayettes gives us a chance to help out our school and community," said Miss Smith, "but we also do national and world projects. Being involved in Kayettes has made me a better person because we donate our time to the good of others."



Herald photos by Cynthia Haynes