

Vice President

The duties and responsibilities of a Vice President in most organizations have historically been minimal, often only ceremonial or to stand in during the President's absence. Because of Farmers Union's emphasis on grassroots organization, this under-utilization of talent does not make sense. Members and officers hold many responsibilities on and off the farm, and a Vice President taking an active role in the Farmers Union division bolsters grassroots activity. It is an office to be taken very seriously and can be highly visible in the organization and community if the Vice President is aware of the importance of the role.

In the President's absence, a Farmers Union Vice President's responsibilities make the post and its office holder much more important and active in most Farmers Union divisions.

From the office of National Farmers Union President to President of the local or county level, Farmers Union Presidents have always known they must rely on their Vice Presidents to share responsibilities. Effective presidents delegate a variety of tasks and responsibilities to their Vice Presidents, making them active members of the Farmers Union leadership team. The tasks assigned to Farmers Union Vice Presidents vary greatly from division to division. In some divisions, they chair all special committees and may serve as the division's Legislative or Publicity Directors. In other cases, they also may lead membership drives or take on other responsibilities that fit their various talents.

Whatever the unofficial duties assigned to them, Farmers Union Vice Presidents have one big responsibility. They must be prepared to take over the top office in the event it becomes vacant for any reason. They must remain active in the division so the membership recognizes and respects his or her leadership abilities, and they must remain up to date on all Farmers Union policies and the day-to-day activities of the organization.

Helpful Hints for the Vice President

- Always come to the meeting prepared to take over in case the President is unable to preside or conduct the meeting's business for any reason.
- Display a willingness to take on any task the President may delegate to you.
- Take the time to discuss your areas of interest with the President and express a willingness to take responsibility.
- Stay active in the organization and other community activities that interest you and make sure the community is aware of your active involvement in Farmers Union.