

2017 President's Report

Powderhorn Cattlewomen

The year started well with budget and committee meetings to plan our activities for 2017. Per our yearbook, we had 36 active members and 12 inactive members. We also added two new members during the year.

Major focus early in the year was planning the District II Cowbelle meeting held in Santa Rosa, NM on March 18th. This was the first time Powderhorn has held the District Meeting in Santa Rosa (rather than Fort Sumner), so our Guadalupe members worked very hard to plan a great event. There was a good turnout for the meeting and overall it was a great success.

Later in the spring, our group was asked to do a concession stand at a ranch estate sale of one of our long-time members who was moving to Texas. Although it was short notice, several members planned a wonderful breakfast and lunch and did beef promotion through banners and posters. Added benefit was the money we raised.

In May, our group awarded one \$500 scholarship each to a graduating senior from Fort Sumner (DeBaca County) and Vaughn (Guadalupe County). We also awarded a \$250 scholarship to a student to attend the NMSU Youth Ranch Management Camp. Our group donates \$500 to the NM Boys' and Girls' Ranch and \$250 each to the Baptist Childrens' Home and Christian Childrens' Home annually.

Our largest fundraiser of the year is the annual Old Fort Days BBQ. Old Fort Days celebrates Billy the Kid, who was killed and buried in Fort Sumner, and the Old West. Our group spends many days preparing for the large meal, which typically feeds 500 people. This year numbers were down overall for Old Fort Days and we only fed about 300. Due to the amount of work and high cost, we will be considering other menu/event options next year.

In November we elected the 2018 officer team and tried out a new meeting format: a lunch-only meeting at a restaurant with no program. Our group may have some of this type of meeting next year to accommodate women who have jobs in town and can only get off for lunch.

Throughout 2017, we have enjoyed educational programs at most of our meetings. Speakers included Cindy King- Heart and health, Dina Wetzel- Beef

Council update, Kelsey McCollum- Lawn and Garden Planning, Patti Waide- Event Planning, Heath Kull-NM Boys' and Girls' Ranch.

On a sad note, we recently lost two long-time members of Cowbelles: Nikki Lou Gregory and Frances Hall Fikany. Both were living at the same assisted living facility and passed away within a week of one another. Powderhorn cooked and served funeral dinners for each member's family.

To finish the year, Powderhorn is planning a record number of attendees to the state meeting in Albuquerque, where we will serve as hostesses. This will be followed by our annual Christmas party and ornament exchange. We look forward to 2018 and continuing to promote beef and the agriculture industry.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey McCollum, 2016-2017 President

2018 Officers

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