

OTERO COWBELLES ANNUAL REPORT

2017 Was a sparkling year for the Otero Cowbelles. We tried with a new glimmer to appeal to the public and consumer this year and as it turned out less focus in the classroom. We really have encouragement for our changing School Board.

We began our year with a Cooking with the Community type of agenda to hopefully, rein in those folks in the cooking and purchasing process. It was a FULL class and a pleasure to work with Otero Home Economist/Dietitian Kelly Knight and the Otero Extension Service.

February and March we had a great time with Corriente Cowbelles at the 2017 District workshop in Capitan. We painted and laughed and purchased cookbooks. At this time we also learned the importance to keep going forward with the millennial mindset.

Change we learned is inevitable, or Cowbelles will begin to diminish.

April, Cowbelles purchased space from the Otero County 4H group for their fundraising efforts at a rummage sale.

In May Cowbelles served and prepared brisket for the well attended “Old Timers Day” event in the neighboring community of Cloudcroft.

June was a nice gathering at the Ruidoso Mid Year meeting. Cowbelles enjoyed a very special presentation from Matt Rush about “working together as a team” what a message! Picnic in July at Corunudas Ranch, it doesn’t get much better. Yippie! Happy Birthday America!

Fair time in August brought us yet more of the public and how much they look forward to a Beef Raffle. Unfortunately we didn’t have a raffle this year. However, we had some beautifully done “Basket Giveaways” personalized and donated by Becky McFarland. We received a huge interest and we love the knowledge we gained about such interest. Our County Fair has really struggled for a couple of years of changes brought by the County. Yes, that word “change” again. Grrrrr!

September our Treasurer resigned and moved, we had change! But, Cowbelles had to move forward and prepare for our November event “Great Bowls of Fire” chili cook-off. Even though I failed to have a great fundraiser this year we had a lot of Cowbelles that stepped up to volunteer. How grateful I am.

October was another great show of volunteers that came forward with decorations and food for our Chili Cook-off. Cowbelles promoted on our Facebook page all the details and just to mention Facebook has been super effective in reaching out to our fans and it’s free.

The Chili Cook-off was a huge success. Otero Cowbelles won Tasters Choice and a traveling trophy. The still haven’t announced a 2nd and 3rd prize winner. (formerly, United Way).

I look forward to our annual White Elephant Exchange at our Christmas Party Dec 7, 2017