

Oregon Chapter at Sutherlin, OR  
October 4-8, 2018 by Paulette Beliveau

Summer has already said goodbye, the leaves are changing color and the air has the faint smell



of autumn. The October rally is also the time for our chapter members to say goodbye for another year. Hi Way Haven RV Park in Sutherlin was the site for this bittersweet get-together. As hosts it was difficult for Helen Bressler, Mary Fries or I to keep an accurate head count. Throughout the weekend women were coming and going. The park was full to capacity so the "locals" attended the rally commuting from home. Other members stayed at a nearby motel as they had closed their summer homes in

Oregon and were heading to their winter homes in California. Still others came for specific weekend events but did not attend the whole time. At one count there were over 40 women in the community room. But amidst this attendance confusion one thing remained constant, everyone was having a good time.

The park welcomed us with beautiful fall covered tables in the community room. Helen completed the fall theme with lighted decorations in the windows and table decorations of paper pumpkins and streamers and garland. Helen was also the official greeter for this rally and she welcomed everyone with bagged favors which contained candy, fall decoration and a plastic wine glass which complimented our unofficial weekend theme.

The official start of the weekend began on Friday with our usual pot luck. Food overflowed two banquet tables with a good balance of savory and sweet offerings. Six banquet tables accommodated members and guests who came to "check us out". Judging by the volume of noise in the room, everyone was having fun and judging by the drop of noise after everyone had returned to their places with heaping plates, the food was being very well received.



The hosts offered a continental style breakfast on Saturday. Our Vice President, Gail Taylor, led her very first chapter meeting and she did very well. Members set their own plans for the day with suggestions from the hosts. Some attended the "Oakland Living History Days" celebration



in nearby Oakland where barmaids and cowboys roamed the streets and businesses and everyone better behave or the Sheriff might lock you up. There was free entertainment throughout the weekend. Others opted to stay at the park and enjoy a beautiful day and the company of friends. Local restaurants got a boost in revenue as

small groups chose to eat "down home" cooking at one restaurant or traditional Mexican fare at another. That evening the park played a movie on the "drive in" outdoor screen for all to enjoy from inside their rigs, if they so chose.

Sunday was a busier day with scheduled activities. A warm and cold brunch complete with mimosas was served by the hosts at 10am. Following



breakfast we christened two rigs and wished them safe and happy travels. After breakfast clean-up and dog walking members who'd signed up attended a demonstration and hands-on experience of how to make butter, mozzarella cheese and ricotta cheese. When everyone had their butter churned and wrapped, and had tasted the cheese on freshly baked sour dough bread bites it was time for wine tasting (remember, I said Helen had provided plastic stem wine glasses in the welcome bag!). The general manager for Henry's Winery, a local vineyard, had us taste 4 different kinds of wine explaining the origin

and attributes of each bottle. Dinner on Sunday was our second pot luck and again there was food aplenty. A pot luck dinner was the perfect end to a cheese making and wine tasting day.

Though I didn't stay long after dinner clean-up, I got reports that the members playing games in the community room had a lot of fun playing Nine Square and the game regulars even had newbies to teach.



Monday morning dawned drizzly but the chat in the community room over breakfast leftovers was warm, hugs were plentiful, promises of "see you in March" abounded.