

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – THETA CHAPTER -Donna Pence

This was a particularly busy year as Theta Chapter is hosting the State Convention in Ketchum. We did have some very significant programs and projects related to educational issues, support for new teachers, family research and more.

Our first meeting featured Jim Fouty, Blaine County Superintendent, reporting on minority housing, the communities' budget for youth, and the success of their cellphone policy. At that meeting we were charged with finding recipients for the set of 5 New Teacher Kits Theta provided for new teachers in our local districts.

For our tri-chapter meeting we were introduced to the fabulous free facility in Burley to trace family histories. After lunch Holly presented information about membership and recruiting new members and we watched a video by Dr Kimberly Beckerdite for ideas.

We had a chance to work on convention planning when the government shutdown caused our program on public land issues from the BLM to be cancelled. Hope to get it next year.

A gift exchange and a lesson in making Christmas Tree ornaments made a festive program in December.

In January a Legislative Update from Sally Toone talked about the Voucher bill and its unconstitutionality because of the Blaine Amendment in our Constitution along with other legislation concerning Education. Sheri Ross presented the clever denim quilt featuring a huge red rose in the center that she created for a raffle at State Convention.

We again tried a Zoom meeting on a weeknight for those having difficulty meeting on Saturdays. Debra Van Law, Director of the Blaine County Education Foundation, presented on "Mind Over Mountains" concerning taking risks. You will hear more from her at convention. It did work to boost attendance. Karen secured two fellow symphony members to provide background music at the early part of the Presidents banquet. Can't wait to hear them.

In May our new officers Co-Pres Sue Haffner and Cheri Ross, 1 VP Heather Ross, 2VP Karen Bliss, R Sec Marsha Azorsky, Treas Robyn McHan, and C Sec Donna Pence will be installed at our Founders Day celebration. Danell Wolf presented an inspiring program featuring our founders and other significant women leaders of our nation.

Throughout the year Convention planning has been an essential part of our meetings, and we are looking forward to hosting all our sisters at the Limelight Hotel in Ketchum.

