

Out With The Old and In With The New

That's what happened to me when I accepted the job as president of the Butte Falls Active Club 16 years ago. I took over for my cousin Roni Burg who was in charge for 11 years. She in turn worked with her mother, Sherri Ellis and our Aunt Lila McClanahan for many years. Volunteering must run in our family, because sometimes it's hard to stop.

I had to recruit new members as the old members resigned, all three of them. I managed to get seven able bodied people and we decided to try something different for Christmas that year. We held our first of many, free community dinners that served around 300 people. Needless to say, it was a huge success.

Just like every year, our awesome fire department volunteers brought Santa over to the community hall on their fire truck, with the children squealing in delight. He was surprised when he came in and saw a winter wonderland theme, decorated to the hilt. Another huge hit with the community. After that we decorated each Christmas with a different theme. One year Santa went on vacation to Hawaii, complete with a beach, sand and all the trimmings.

Then came the 4th of July. I always remember what my Aunt Lila told me, "The 4th of July theme is always patriotic". So we have happily kept up with that tradition.

Over the years we had haunted houses, hosted Bingo, held city wide yard sales, flea markets in the park, and in the last two years we have donated Thanksgiving baskets to needy families and have hosted the annual Christmas Bazaar.

But I certainly didn't do it alone. Some members came and went over the years, while others stayed on for the duration. Patti Shafer was by my side for 15 years, Becky Hobbs put in 14 years and Linda Williams 12 years. Needless to say, these three ladies and I are best friends now.

Now it is time to move on as I have resigned my post from the club. In doing so, all of the 10 members resigned too. But the club will survive because it will have a new president, Sunshine (Sunny) Bryant of Butte Falls. She will do a great job as I have tremendous faith in her abilities. I want to thank the Butte Falls community for letting our club serve you for the last 16 years. It was fun and well worth our efforts.

We sincerely hope everyone has a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Lori Paxton