

Gunnison Branch Report

Fund Raising:

Our 45th Annual Art in the Park was successful. We appreciated that Paula and Stormy came. The funds raised have allowed us to award a \$600 scholarship each to one Senior and three Junior non-traditional women students at WSCU.

Membership:

All our past members (some we did not reach last year) have renewed and we have added three new members.

We just lost a special member Mary Jane Ellis, BA/Elem. Ed; MA/Spec Ed WCU in Gunnison. After a 25 year career in Apple Valley, CA she moved back to Gunnison and joined our branch. The illness of her brother in CA required she move back, but she continued her membership in our branch during that time because of the deep friendships and support she felt she received from the branch. We were delighted when she moved back again and was able to attend the Sept. Meeting. Shortly after she developed a fast and fatal illness.

Programs:

September meeting was held in Sharon Schlegel's cabin up Mill Creek. The presenter was Phyllis Guerrieri, a fourth generation rancher, whose family spent the summers on their summer ranch in the Mill Creek valley (before gravel roads and pavement). She shared her knowledge, wisdom, stories, and has served as an inspiration for all of us as she has published a book of her paintings of ranch life in her 87th year of life. She started painting only a few years ago.

October Meeting held at Pat Jagger's home overlooking the Ohio Creek Valley. The presenters were three members whose degrees are in the stem fields. Ruth (Scotti) Willey: PhD in Entomology from Harvard University (first woman accepted in that field); Sharon Schlegel: BS in Math from Fort Hays State University; Janece Koleis: BS in Chemistry from the University of Colorado. Each was about a generation apart and arrived at their degrees by different paths. But all had a MENTOR that sought them out and encouraged them. Scott received an AAUW grant to further her research early in her career. Janece benefited first from the Clean Water Act of 1972 which opened up laboratory positions in chemistry and the passing of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act which allowed her to move from a position as a helper in an all women Medical Lab to the Water Quality Lab when the lab because of EEO Act was looking to add women to the all male profession offering a significant different pay scale.

Activism:

We voted as a branch to support the Gunnison Ballot issue requesting a 1.9ml for the library district which will allow a continued funding source for expansion of the services the library can offer. We are taking out a paid ad in the Gunnison County Shopper and submitting an op ed article.

Sharon Schlegel
Gunnison Branch President