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As I write this letter the day before our Virtual Central Region meeting, it feels a little like the night before Christmas checking off the things that need to be done before morning; the Zoom meeting has been set, Committee Reports, Treasurer Report and President Reports gathered and sent, podium book reviewed, Director Report Written, PowerPoint AIMEE awards presentation along with slides for the speakers made, and the gray in my hair covered and cut and coffee ordered for Saturday morning…. lots and lots of coffee.

I have had so much help! Sharon Hiss, Evelyn Green, Connie Bass, Terry Ligon, and all club presidents and committee chairs, you all know what you’ve done to help me and get us to this point of having our 3rd, well, maybe 2nd since we didn’t have one in 2020, but definitely our 1st Virtual Central Region Meeting. Thanks Cherie Rash in my local club for providing a location for our setup for the meeting, my co-GACs, Katie Berg and Jamie Sabata, and to the rest of the Liberal club members for moral support.

Central Region is 200 members strong! As Wendy Sparks, Oklahoma City club president stated in her letter, “we may not have the quantity of members we used to have, but we have quality members! I think that is true for all 200 members of the Central Region Club. Liberal and Great Bend are tied for the smallest clubs with nine members each, and Wichita Falls wins the prize for the largest club with 33 members.

From reading the president’s reports, everyone was affected by a tough 2020 with many clubs not even being able to meet together and scholarship golf tournaments having to be cancelled. But we are still here and emerging!

**Butler County** is getting more involved in the community this year and getting word out about their club for potential new members. **Dallas** is working on getting together in person this summer for their annual July party which includes events like the horseraces, baseball game or a cookout/swimming party. They are looking to have a golf tournament in the fall. **Enid** started of 2020 normal with a video “Independent Oil, Recovering America’s Forgotten Wells and How to Control a Wellsite Fire in February and industry appreciation in March, and then Covid shut down meetings for the rest of the year. **Fort Worth** is rebuilding and plans to have their first business meeting in May. Their theme for the year is 2021 “Recruiting to Educate” and they have plans in progress to hold recruitment events. **Graham**, being a small town, met nearly every month during the pandemic, but were unable to have their golf tournament, their main scholarship fundraiser, but through donation drawings through the year, they were able to hang on and award scholarships for students to pursue their dream of a career in the oil and gas industry. They participate in “Our Daily Bread” which ensure that everyone who is in need have food. They have gained two new members in 2021. **Great Bend** is led this year by first time president Jessica Walters. After 2020, they are looking for a year of recovery and rebuilding by being better together. They are using the theme at their meetings by illustrating things that go together. i.e., January – salt and pepper, February x’s and o’s, March heads and tails – two sides of a lucky coin, April – chocolate and peanut butter. (I can’t wait to see what togetherness May brings.) **Liberal** – the nine members of Desk and Derrick continued to meet through the pandemic and had two scholarship fundraisers – selling chances on a hand gun and a diamond bracelet, which incidentally was won by President Katie Berg. **Lone Star** will start to have in person meetings again in June, 2021. They are committed to continue their annual Clay Shoot on October 15th. **Oklahoma City** is celebrating 70 years!!!! Most of Oklahoma City’s education came from YouTube videos that were about oil and gas. (good idea for smaller clubs who have trouble finding speakers.) In June, they will be hosting a putting contest at the Mid-Continent Oilman’s Golf tournament at Twin Hills Golf Club and will have a booth at the Oil and Gas Expo in October. **Tulsa** club was unable to fill the position of President at the close of 2020 with COVID and downturn in the industry and loss of members, so they found a way to continue and rebuild. Alesia Bailey, Immediate Past President and Jill Klein, Vice President are doing a great job of covering the Presidential Duties. Tulsa stated a new Student Outreach for college students to participate in the club activities for little or no charge. They are working with the University of Tulsa Energy Management Association. They had an interesting meeting in February with speaker Michaela Hager of K9 Pipe Inspections who shared how her incredible dogs detect leaks when convention methods fail. Desk and Derrick Club of Tulsa stands firm in Energy Education and look forward to better times ahead. Amen to that! **Wichita –** last fall, the Wichita club distributed 700 EAB books to schools in the area. Let me just say “WOW!” They gained a couple of new members with the Successful Succulents planting class, and are going to hold they Annual Clay Shoot where they usually garner 50 to 100 shooters as a fund raiser. Another unique fundraiser Wichita has done is to partner with a local flower shop “Tillies” to sell 12-month cards for $40. With this purchase, participants can go in once a month and get a “free” bundle of flowers, and for $5 more, can add extra flowers to the arrangement. This has been profitable for Tillies and the Wichita Desk and Derrick Club and has made a lot of husbands shine brighter in their wife’s eyes, or be the Knight in Shinning Armor to their daughters. What a great idea! And last, but not least, **Wichita Falls** – has the largest club in Central Region adding three NEW members this year bringing the total to 33. Like most of the clubs, they were faced with cancellations, but are hoping that they will be able to bring the MOLU exhibit (Mobile Oilfield Learning Unit) to their city in the Fall. MOLU sets up at two of the local elementary schools and is geared for 5th graders with hands-on learning experience for the students. Wichita Falls donates four $1,000 scholarships to students pursuing a degree in the oil, gas and energy industry at their local university Midwestern State University.

Can I just say, I am so proud of the difference Central Region clubs are making in the lives of its members and their communities and our future by investing in the lives of the next generation.

Just a reminder, the ADDC Form TaxE1, TaxE2, IRS Form 990 and 990N need to be turned in by May 15th. Since there is no committee representative, I have voluntold myself to accept the forms and I will get them compiled.

P.S. Post meeting –I hope everyone enjoyed our virtual meeting and we were able to take care of our business at hand for 2021, and have an exciting year ahead for the 2022 Central Region with Jamie Sabata as our Region Director, and the enthusiastic Wichita Falls Club planning to host us IN PERSON next spring!

Whew!

Kay (Katy) McKinley

2021 Central Region Director