

2015 PARADE REPORT

The absolutely perfect weather contributed to a wonderful parade and events. The parade had 44 units, 2 more than last year, with 43 preregistered, 1 last minute cancellation, only 2 no shows and 4 last minute entries. The craft area had 12 preregistered and 1 last minute cancellation. All said they were pleased with the crowds, considering the holiday fell on a Saturday. And I heard from 2 others interested in joining us next year. I had feared attendance would be down, and it appears it might have been. Also, the local newspaper had not printed anything for us, even though I had sent in the information. A follow up will be done next year. Even so, the Kidz Zone and the craft area were swamped. So perhaps there were just more kids, and therefore the handouts along the parade route fell way short. We had prepared at least 75 more than last year. Next year we will greatly increase that number.

The biggest excitement this year was the addition of pony rides, free to the kids. There was a constant stream of riders and the ride vendor was very pleased with our set up. They promised to return next year. Also, we found a better location for the nature center, and they told us it was perfect. The whole area still has more room, allowing us to add more crafters or vendors.

Our Silent Auction to benefit LACASA had a good mix of items with vigorous bidding on 2 of them. However, the total generated of \$190 (plus a donation box with an unknown to us amount) was quite a bit less than last year. Still, LACASA was very pleased.

Alchin's provides 3 trash bins but it is clear we need one more and hopefully they will donate that one, too. Also, we should provide a Porta-John at the check in area. Harris and Son donates the one that is set up in the craft area, and we pay for a hand wash system. We might have to pay for this extra one. Though it won't be maxed out, it is needed, just the same. Speaking of the check in area, things went smooth as silk with a new color coded system implemented by Brenda Meek. A volunteer request for a megaphone will help even more.

Monetary donations totaled \$900, down by \$500 from previous years. We thank Regal Scrap, Arrow Storage, Hunter's Ridge Golf, Armstrong Masonry and Lott Elevator for their continued support. We also received the usual prize donations from Howell Western Wear and the Fowlerville Fair Board. The rest were purchased gift cards. The committee stayed within budget.

Our volunteers will be with us again next year, barring unforeseen circumstances, but we could still use a few more. All in all, it was a good day in Cohoctah.