

Year End Recap for 2015 -2016

2015 – 2016 has been a great year for the Dallas County Aggie Moms' Club! We began in May with our Installation dinner at Aggie-owned Tupinamba Café with several brand new Club members in attendance. We were privileged to have Katie Latham, our District 2 Liaison, install the new officers. She conducted the ceremony in true Aggie fashion, reminding each officer of her duties and explaining each position using A&M terminology.

I chose "*All of Us Are Greater Than Any of Us*" as my theme to emphasize that the collective effort of a group can accomplish more than any single individual. I made an effort to meet with each officer in May and early June to review their plans of work for the upcoming year before a New Board Workshop in June. I compiled a new notebook for each officer and included a jump drive with scanned copies of all recent notebooks for that position along with electronic versions of all necessary forms and files. Each officer inherited a DCAM Gmail account corresponding to the office that she will pass on to her successor. We went more tech in other ways, too – an online directory and VolunteerSpot. The online directory saved us money, prevented us from asking the same sponsors for multiple events or activities and allowed members password protected access to information without having to carry around the book. The benefits of VolunteerSpot brought transparency and the latest information to more people than just the originator of the requesting email.

Our Howdy Party, a joint venture with Collin County, was a huge success with over 200 families participating. We were fortunate enough to have 'hometown' Yell Leaders and their attending family members added to the festivities. We also had a packed house at our New Moms Social. We changed the location of our General Meetings this year, partially because the Texas A&M AgriLife Center's Pavilion was scheduled for demolitions and partially to see if we could garner more attendance (we did). My goal for the Programs at our General Meetings was to provide one school-oriented program, one non-school but still Aggie-oriented and one purely social theme for each semester. We encouraged Aggie Dads to attend the Aggie-oriented programs and Chili Cook-off (January), and in February we invited past Presidents to attend to celebrate Mrs. Peoples and all of the others who have continued the Aggie Mom legacy since we were established in 1922. We kicked off the year with New Student and Family Programs (Student Life) and will end with the A&M Recruitment Center and a Moms' Panel to address questions for incoming freshman and transfer moms. In between, we welcomed the 12th Man Foundation to

talk about the new Kyle Field and planned sports venues, Rusty Burson to talk about Aggie Sports and the Traditions Council to remind of us of what makes A&M special. We also reintroduced the practice of inviting new graduates to the meeting following graduation so we can present them with gift and celebrate their accomplishment (January and May). Our fundraising efforts included Boutique sales at selected meetings, Aggie Mom Camp and the Winter Federation meeting (and upcoming Parents' Weekend) in addition to our Howdy Holiday Sale where we invited participation by other surrounding Aggie Moms Clubs. We sold SCRIP all year and held several shopping evenings with Rally House and Kendra Scott. The highlight was hosting the Singing Cadets in Concert at the Dallas City Performance Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Hunter '85

President 2015 – 2016, Dallas County Aggie Moms' Club

"All of Us Are Greater Than Any of Us"