



# THE CRESCENT NEWS

2009 — Issue #8

1 October 2009

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

TOM GOETZINGER

On Thursday, September 17, 2009 The Crescent Society held its quarterly meeting. The meeting was held at the Sportsman's Club where everyone enjoyed the famous Sportsman's buffet luncheon.

There were 26 folks in attendance, some of whom we have not seen in a very long time. Thanks you for your attendance and we hope you all had a great time and enjoyed the food and companionship.

For those of you who have access to the Crescent Society on the Internet, you will also have access to the directory of current and past members. Since we need to keep this information private, we make the information available only to current members. Accordingly, the password has been changed. If you are a member and did not receive the new password, please notify us so we can correct this.

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## EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA

Sometime in the past we published a commentary on the educational system in this country and some recommended steps to fix the major problems. This commentary is a follow up to demonstrate the civic literacy, or lack thereof, in the State of Oklahoma.

Just last month, a firm known as Strategic Vision was commissioned to gauge the civic literacy of Oklahoma's Government High Schools (Public High Schools). The firm is nationally recognized and conducts surveys with a recognized accuracy of plus/minus 3%.

Students were given 10 questions drawn from the data bank of questions prepared for those seeking United States Citizenship. The candidates seeking citizenship must correctly answer 6 questions of the 10 to qualify for citizenship to this country. According to Immigration Services, these candidates successfully pass this test at a rate of 92% on the first try.

Oklahoma's high school students did not fare quite as well. In fact, our students passed this citizenship test at a rate of 2.8%. Let me assure you, that is NOT a misprint! Only 2.8% of Oklahoma High School Students passed this citizenship test!

Only 28% of the students were able to identify the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Only 26% knew that the first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. Only 29% knew that the president is in charge of the executive branch of government. And only 23 % knew that George Washington was our first president.

To think we spend \$100,000 per student for this education! Does anyone think we are getting our money's worth? Now read the first two quotes of Thomas Jefferson on page 4 of this newsletter.

### Officers & Directors July 2008—June 2009

#### Elected Officers:

President	Bill Henson
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Pat Goetzinger
Treasurer	Bob Hickey

#### Appointed Directors:

Membership	Dave Ernst
Publications	Tom Goetzinger

#### Standing Committees:

Historian	Marty Blazy
Caring	Edith Hughes

## REACTION TO THE SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE

In the previous issue of the Crescent Society news (September 2009) we published articles on what we consider to be the two most important issues of our time ... Cap & Trade and Health Care reform. We urged all members of the Society to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge them to defeat both bills as presently under discussion in Congress.

We received more feedback to this newsletter than for any other newsletter published. In fact we received 8 phone calls and/or e mails. Only one letter (e-mail) was negative expressing disappointment that the newsletter had become so political and one sided. We will comment on that later, but first, please remember that we have consistently asked our members for input to the newsletter. Anyone in the Society can feel free to write an article for publication. We receive very, very few articles. A recent example of an article was the bowling league information submitted by Lois Riggan. Lois has submitted another valuable piece of information for this issue. See below.

Now for the political aspect. We are inclined to disagree with the assertion that the articles published in the September issue were political, since the results of the pending legislation for both Cap & Trade and Health Care Reform will impact people of all political persuasions.

Look first at the Cap & Trade issue. The president of the United States has stated: "My Cap & Trade proposal will necessarily cause electric-

ity rates to skyrocket." The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has monetized *skyrocket* and declared the legislation will cause an increase in electric bills of 83%! Further, increases in costs for heating oil, natural gas and gasoline are expected to increase by more than 50% under this legislation.

It would be safe to venture that for anyone reading this newsletter this will amount to an annual increase of more than \$2,500 for annual energy consumption. Since energy is an indispensable commodity in all industrial activities, we would expect major increases in costs (inflation) for all goods and services we consume. This includes Democrats, Republicans, Independents, or any other political persuasion. The purpose of this Cap & Trade proposal is to dramatically increase the fossil fuel energy costs for all Americans with the goal of reducing consumption....and it uses the term "carbon credit" instead of the correct word "taxation" to achieve this goal.

We can't imagine any senior citizens who would be willing to spend that much additional money for virtually nothing. Climatologist Chip Knappenberger says the bill would moderate temperatures by only hundredths of a degree in 2050 and no more than two-tenths of a degree at the end of the century. Even EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson concurred, recently saying, "I believe the central parts of the [EPA] chart are that U.S. action alone will not

impact world CO2 levels."

But equally as important to us seniors is the proposed Health Care initiative. In his recent address to a joint session of Congress, President Obama said there are no death panels in the plan, and anyone who says differently is lying. Bloomberg has quoted Tom Daschle: "Daschle says health care reform will not be pain-free. Seniors should be more accepting of the conditions that come with old age instead of treating them." You remember Daschle ... former Senate Majority Leader, first choice of President Obama to become Secretary of Health and Human Services, and current health care advisor to the president.

Now listen to President Obama talking to a group of Rabbis. "I am going to need your help" in getting health care reform passed. "We are God's partners in matters of life and death" he added. Once again, the decisions Obama and Daschle make regarding senior citizen health care, including life and death decisions, will impact Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and those of all other political persuasions.

Don't think these comments by Daschle and Obama imply "death panels?" Fine, then call them what you will, but the message should be quite clear to all senior citizens: Expect less health care!

Once again, we sincerely welcome your comments

### Special Notice to Oklahomans

..... submitted by Lois Riggan

The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety will no longer mail notices regarding driver's license expiration. They have just implemented an e-mail notification system for notification.

Here is the link to sign up for the e-mail system which provides a reminder 45 days before your license expires. It is quite an ordeal to renew your license if you let it expire and this is a simple form to complete. It takes less than a minute to enroll.

<http://www.dps.state.ok.us/renewal>

## MEMBERSHIP DESK

DAVE ERNST

We have received about a dozen new memberships with our renewed drive in the past month. Thank you to all who have sent in their membership applications and dues.

Although membership applications are always welcome, we did update the Web Site with the

latest information available in the form of a new directory.

Recall we informed you earlier we would not publish a hard copy this year. Rather we updated you in a previous newsletter with changes we had at the time, and additional changes will be published here as always.

As stated on page 1 of this newsletter, the updated directory has been posted to the web site and a new password created and disseminated to all paid up members. We must keep this directory secure to prevent unintended use of the information by those not in the need to know.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Marty Blazy

The latest donation to the Archives is from Dorothy Boudreau and we are now the keepers of the "Official" Wives Club notebook. While many of the articles in the plant newspapers hailed the accomplishments of the men involved in the products built, this distaff view brings the achievements of the wives. So, it is a refreshing enlightenment of the activities of the women.

It begins with the GE wives Club agenda for 1964-1965 and continues through MPI 1977-1978. Condensing the fourteen years onto a sheet takes a lot of editing. A Sampling of meetings, speakers and events for the mid-sixties were: James Smith, "Narcotics & Alcohol Control;" U. S. Senatorial Candidates – Bud Wilkinson & Fred Harris; "Demonstration of Christmas Gift Wrapping & Ideas" by TV personality Pearl Beyers, "Christmas Tea" with entertainment by Colortone Choral group; Norman McCleod, Gen. Secy of YMCA "Discipline In The Home;" Fashion Show; Lee Smith of A.G. Edwards & Son, "The Influence Of The Stock Market;" Dottie Wisenburger, "Slides & Demonstration Of Floral Arrang-

ing;" the Installation Banquet with Jack Watkin of Dale Carnegie Association, "Human Relations."

Other guests and speakers included Dr. Thomas A. Vander-slice and Gov. Dewey Bartlett.

Their Constitution and By-laws state the object of the group – "The aims and purpose of the organization are to create a social group for women, organize its members into interest groups, be active in community services relating to civic, educational and recreational development, and to uphold the principles of good citizenship while remaining a non-partisan, non-profit and non-political organization."

To that end, they conducted their business in a "year" which ran from September to May with a diverse array of speakers, demonstrations, fashion shows and fund-raising events. Among the most well-attended and popular raisers of funds were the "Harold's Nights" usually held at Val Genes. Garage sales also raised funds. The notebook carries the minutes of the meetings, but in glancing through it, there was scant mention the receivers of the funds

other than Neighbor For Neighbors. An oversight, I'm sure, as they were proud of raising the money for charitable contributions.

Over the years, as the company association changed so did the name of the club, as, GE Honeywell and Magnetic Peripheral Wives Club of Oklahoma City. Membership was open to all wives of employees of the company and also spouses of retired or deceased employees.

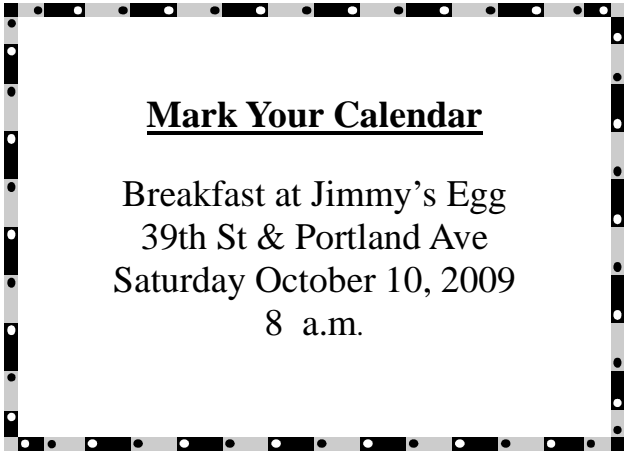
Members and officers are too numerous to list them all, but some Presidents were Sandy McFadden, Laurie Bucholtz, Judy Brockman, Mary Morrissey, Betty Steel, Joan Quatro and Vi Hinderliter.

Program chairmen included Eileen Ferguson, Rose Schroeder, Iris Flaminant, Barbara Ozinga, Helen Gitzendanner, Joan Watson, Loretta Bradbury, Doris Blazy, Dottie Christensen and Natalie Fitzpatrick.

Congratulations to a very successful organization of civic-minded women and their contributions to the community. Thanks, Dottie, for the notebook. It will join the other Wives Club scrapbooks in the Archives.

# THE CRESCENT SOCIETY

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## Quotable Quotes:

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be ..... Thomas Jefferson

Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty. .... Thomas Jefferson

How soon we forget history... Government is not reason. Government is not eloquence. It is force. And, like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. .... George Washington

I read about a woman who had 63 distinct personalities. Gee! It would take long enough just finding out how everyone was feeling in the morning, can you imagine trying to plan a vacation? ..... George Carlin