

Ladies of the Lake (Dec. 2016)

By Barbara Galvin

The holidays are here! There is no better way to celebrate than eating with friends, so the Ladies of the Lake met on December 7, 2016, at Lake Bracken Country Club to have their annual Christmas Party.

The treat of the party was not only not having to cook, but also not having to shovel. With breezy winds, but no snow, the weather was not even a topic for discussion.

Lake Bracken Country Club provided the ladies with menus so we selected whatever sounded good. The menu favorites were Club House Chicken, Barbeque Chicken, Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich, Chicken Wrap, Blackened Chicken and some traditional meals-- Bacon-Lettuce-Tomato Sandwich, but accompanied by homemade chips. The most unique request was potato skins. Everyone enjoyed her selection and the sweet potato fries were another hit.

The Christmas Party hostesses, Barbara Jonckheere and Lonnie Woodring, with the assistance of Barb Dunlap, outdid the bakery shop with delicious homemade cookies, brownies and candies. Even the dessert table's decorations were enticing; modern figurines with exceptionally long limbs graced the lovely arrangements of tiered plates and beautiful tasty treats. Barbara was the owner of the unique figurines. The Ladies tried to sample each type of cookie... a difficult job, but they tried! Everyone raved about the very traditional Chocolate Chip Cookies. The next special was a brownie shaped like a Christmas tree and decorated as such.

Each table was decorated with a traditional red poinsettia, which would later be given away. Each place setting included a handmade Christmas tree ornament. The wooden tree was crafted by Hank Dunlap, whose wife, Barb Dunlap, hosted the Christmas party. Hank created green trees decorated with checkered ribbon, berries, and acorns, which Barb helped spruce up. Thank you, Hank and Barb.

Once desserts were sampled, the fun began at another special table, the Gift Table. This is the place where all the Christmas stockings the ladies were asked to bring were placed in gaily decorated bags and boxes. Names were drawn from a box by Lonnie Woodring, who announced the name. That lady was asked to come forward to select one of the packages. The gift was immediately opened so everyone could see the present. The reason for not waiting for Christmas Day was the ladies were participating in "Hold Up," a game of "stealing" another person's gift in exchange for your own gift.

Suppose you are thinking--what a perfect solution to receiving a gift you are not really liking. Wrong!

Sharon Butler demonstrated the flaws in the game's rules not once, not twice, but three times. Sharon selected her own gift, and opened it to find "Naughty" and "Nice" socks. She was pleased, but not for long, because Mariana Schrader had her eye on the socks. She stole them from Sharon. Poetic justice-- Gloria Miller stole the socks from Mariana. Mariana then took "revenge" by stealing the second choice of socks Sharon had. Sharon dutifully selected still another package. She no sooner opened it and there was Joy Bledsoe, another "stealer," who snatched the socks! Ladies, please.

The next Christmas gift giving section was much tamer. No stealing allowed, instead Lonnie Woodring drew names from a box. When the names were announced, twelve red poinsettias had been given away. The lucky winners were: Gail Maher, Bev Ver Steeg, Laura Jennings, Carleen

Adams, Darlyne Ackers, Barb Dunlap, Gloria Bewley, Barbara Galvin, Gloria Miller, Denise Thomas, Sharon Butler, and Patty Sloan.

A note to those of you who may believe in luck. One of the tables had ALL winners. They were Gail Maher, Darlyne Ackers, Barb Galvin, and Bev Ver Steeg. These ladies also car-pooled. Such a lucky bunch!

What is the measure of a truly successful gathering? The ladies who orchestrated this Christmas Party volunteered for December 2017. The Annual Christmas Party will be hosted by Barb Dunlap, Barb Jonckheere, and Lonnie Woodring. Way to go, ladies! Thank you.

The Ladies of the Lake enjoying themselves with a delicious luncheon, scrumptious desserts and funny games were: Judy Brown, Gloria Bewley, Pansy Sloan, Elizabeth Hiel, Patty Sloan, Pat Bricker, Gloria Miller, Carlene Adams, Bev Ver Steeg, Laura Jennings, Sharon Butler, Patty Anderson, Mariana Schrader, Lonnie Woodring, Joy Bledsoe, Judy Jones, Denise Thomas, Peggy Garrett McGrew, Pam Gaskill, Barbara Galvin, Sandy Morrow, Jane Stevens, Barb Dunlap, Gail Maher, Barbara Jonckheere, Darlyne Ackers.

A cheer for the Lake Bracken Country Club also! Our waitress was not only efficient but also pleasant. She even volunteered to take a group photo. All 26 Ladies of the Lake will be anticipating the cover photo for the new directory. We did smile!

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Remember the Ladies of the Lake will meet for Brown Bag Lunches in January and February, 2017. If you can handle the weather, join us.