I have so much to share with you! I just returned from Oregon’s convention in Klamath Falls, June 10-13. I learned so much and met such wonderful garden clubbers. We saw Gaye Stewart bring her successful term of office to a close and members warmly welcome Tanja Swanson to Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs’ (OSFGC) highest office. Instead of introducing her Executive Committee, Tanja had each introduce themselves and present their goals for the coming two years in one or two sentences – it was a clever way to get to know each officer and their duties. The convention lodge was full and we stayed in town at a sister hotel – every convention room (including ours in town) had a small vase of fresh flowers – every room !!!!! How thoughtful AND appropriate for garden clubbers!

One of my two special projects is ***“Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region!”*** Each state was challenged to install or refurbish two Blue Star Markers each year of this term. OSFGC has already installed one marker and has the second scheduled for September. OSFGC passed a motion to refurbish a third marker - looks like we’ll have to up the challenge. Oregon was the first to dedicate a marker this term, then Idaho a week or so later and now Alaska has one going in next week – I guess I set my expectations too low – so we’re upping the ante……***Oregon – can you install or refurbish four markers each year?***

The distribution of awards was new and different to me and I hope you will ask Gaye Stewart (2017-19 President) or Tanja Swanson (2019-21 President) how OSFGC presents their awards – maybe something for your state to try.

Each new club member was sent a letter of welcome from the state Membership Chairman (1st Vice-President / President-Elect) – does your state welcome each and every new member? Maybe that would be overwhelming to California’s membership chairman but all club presidents, district directors and most state membership chairmen could draft a boiler-plate note to be sent to new members. If we want them to get involved – they need to feel welcome!

OSFGC’s fundraising was so fun! They offer Wish-to-Win (raffle), Treasure Chest drawings, and the OSFGC Mall – all unqualified successes – I personally tried to make it the highest grossing ever (at least it would seem so from my checkbook!)

OSFGC hosted an international speaker from The Netherlands – Teun Klumpers who spoke on seeing the beauty in the ordinary. One evening’s entertainment was the Gardening Bee – an electronic gardening/floral design trivia game with four teams of three members competing. One gift basket went to the team with the most correct answers. A second gift basket full of goodies was for the best costume. My traveling companion Gail Vanderhorst and I together with Gay Austin, NGC President, joined forces in patriotic attire hastily acquired at the local Dollar Tree store as “Team BEE-lieve in the Red, White and Blue” – I didn’t want to sway the judges or anything but I MIGHT have let slip that I am on the committee that selects NGC scholarships that Oregon might hope to win – and guess what, Team BEE-lieve in the Red, White and Blue won for Best Costume!

I strongly encourage state presidents and, in particular, state vice-presidents to attend state conventions in neighboring states – there’s a lot of knowledge to share and benefit from – take advantage of it!