

(!--IMAGE images/4.29.10/red-hat5385.jpg IMAGE-->



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

You walk into a restaurant and see a bunch of ladies in purple clothing and red hats. What is going on?

That happened recently at Enders Lake Golf Course. The Red Hat Society had struck again.

The Imperial group, or the Red Hot Mamas, and the Wauneta group, or the Fun Ladies, met to enjoy a Mexican meal and fellowship. There was a lot of laughter.

The Wauneta group was organized in February, 2004. It currently has about 12 members and meets three to four times a year, or “When we think of something that causes us to meet,” according to one member, such as attending a play in Denver.

The Imperial group was organized by Shirley Reeder in September, 2004, and has about 30 members.

It meets the first Saturday of every month for breakfast, and once a month for another visit.

Events have included a trip to Colorado Springs to the Wagon Wheel Ranch, a pancake breakfast at Enders Church of the Brethren, lunch at the Imperial Community Center, the Haythorn Ranch near Arthur, Front Street in Ogalalla, Kearney for the Ice Capades, a winery and Fort Collins for a play.

How does one join the Red Hat Society? “Wear a red hat and show up,” according to the ladies. Dues are \$3 per year, which go toward registering with the national organization.

According to the national web site, the Red Hat Society is the largest international social organization for women, dedicated to making the world a better place for members by actively promoting and supporting fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment and fitness for each individual.

There are as many different kinds of chapters as there are women in the society. The leader is called Queen.

By maintaining a thriving social networking community, and offering a variety of services and group experiences, the Red Hat Society supports members to get the most out of life.

And, local members are enthusiastic about that goal.

Shirley Gardner of Imperial said, “I get to interact with other women, and just have fun. We enjoy each other’s company. It’s nothing you have to do but can if you want.”

Jean Kirwan of Imperial said, “It’s just fun, and fellowship with the rest of the girls, getting out and doing something.” She enjoys her girls’ night out.