**Gage County Council of Home Extension Clubs**

 **1115 West Scott PARTYLINE**

 **Beatrice NE 68310**

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Visit our website at [http://gage.unl.edu](http://gage.unl.edu/)

January 2016

Happy New Year!!
  I pray you all had a wonderful Christmas, and you're probably just as thankful as I am that we didn't get that "Goliath" of a storm they were predicting.  We spent lots of time with family and friends, as I hope was the case with everyone.
   I'm looking forward to our Winter Council Meeting on February 4th.  It will be nice to see everyone again.  Hopefully the weather will be good and we can have a good attendance--remember, everyone is welcome!!

Nancy Krueger

Council President

**Contact information**

Contact information for new President, Nancy Krueger, PO Box 66, Firth, NE 68358, (402)-239-1574, cnkrueger@juno.com.

**WINTER COUNCIL MEETING**

Reminder that the Winter Council Meeting is early this year--Easter is early, and Lent starts the middle of February, so we are having the Council Meeting the 4th of February at the Extension Office at 6:30 p.m.  The meal will again be catered by Elaine Schroeder at a cost of $7.00  Entertainment has been arranged by the Hi-Hopes Extension Club and Country Cousins are responsible for Decorations. For entertainment, we have Laurie Huls to give a presentation on her trip to the White House to decorate the Christmas Tree in 2014.  She has pictures and a book about the experience that she will share with us.

You will need to call the Extension Office with your reservations by February 1st at the latest!!

**Lesson**

     The lesson for February is Quick and Easy Meals for One or Two.  Becky Wenz and I will be giving the lesson.  We have lots of handouts, recipes, and plan to make some of the recipes for you to taste--so we are planning the lesson for Thursday afternoon, January 21st, at 5:00 at the Extension Office.  You won't have to eat supper after the lesson!!  Please call either Becky (402-580-4722) or me (402-239-1574) if you would like more of your members to come that evening for the lesson.  We would also appreciate knowing if your club is NOT planning to come for the lesson so we can plan our handouts and food accordingly.

**Bloodmobile**

     The next bloodmobile will be February 24th and 25th.  The Seldom Idle Neighbors are to bring 20 dozen cookies to the Holiday Inn Express.  Remember, HOMEMADE cookies are the best!!!

**Quote for the Month**

Life is like a camera...FOCUS on what's important; CAPTURE the good times; DEVELOP from the negatives;
and if things don't work out TAKE ANOTHER SHOT!  - Unknown

To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care. - Unknown

**Recipe Corner**

RECIPE:  (I made these for Christmas, and they are SOOOO easy, and super delicious!!)  Makes a lot, but they're so good, it may not be enough!!  Makes for great gifts!!

**Slow cooker Chocolate-covered Peanuts**
16 oz. unsalted peanuts
16 oz. salted cocktail peanuts
1 (12 oz. bag) semisweet chocolate chips
1 (12 oz. bag) milk chocolate chips
2 (10 oz. bags) peanut butter chips
2 (16-oz. packages) almond bark (broken into pieces) or candy melts (some recipes say chocolate almond bark, some vanilla--I used half of each)
  Layer all ingredients in order in 6-quart slow cooker.  Cover and cook on LOW for 2 hours.  (You may want to stir a few times during the 2 hours)  Remove lid and stir.  If not all the chocolate is melted, cover and cook for additional 30 minutes on low.  Let cool a little, then spoon, or use cookie scoop, onto parchment-lined baking sheets.  Allow to sit at room temperature until completely set, 1 to 2 hours.  The clusters can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.  They also freeze very well.