

Grapefruit Fundraiser Annual Recaps

2020

The Pendleton AAUW Branch proceeded to hold their only fundraiser of the year, despite all the COVID-19 issues. A few minor changes were made to protect both members and customers: all orders had to be prepaid so no money was exchanged on the day of pick-up; customers were required to stay in their vehicles, while members loaded their orders; and most significantly, members did not sort through all the boxes of fruit prior to delivery. Customers were asked to check their own orders and ask for replacement if any fruit were found to be unacceptable. Members did go through a smaller subset of boxes, for those customers who live out of the area.

The vendor raised prices again this year so the Branch finally increased our prices to \$23 for a 20-lb box and \$12 for a half box. Pickup took place on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at Hodgen Distributing (Budweiser) in Pendleton. Photos below show some traffic changes made to keep customers in their vehicles. Overall, this year was a big success and many of the changes will likely remain next year!



Traffic control measures taken due to COVID-19 concerns. Safety first!

2019

The annual grapefruit fundraiser culminated in the Saturday, Dec. 7th pick-up at Hodgen Distributing warehouse in Pendleton. During the 2019 fundraising campaign, Branch members sold a total of 690 boxes of the Texas sweet ruby red grapefruit. The cost of boxes was the same as in 2018: \$20 for a 20 lb box and \$10 for a half box, but after expenses, the overall total was about \$500 less than the previous year. Other local groups were also selling grapefruit this season – from Pendleton High School and the Walla Walla baseball team, which may have cut into overall totals a bit. Funds from grapefruit sales went to pay for the STEM bus over to La Grande, BMCC scholarships, and Equal Pay Day activities. Thanks to everyone who helped sell and distribute boxes – members and spouses alike!



2018

The 2018 annual (and only) fundraising event for the Pendleton Branch was a success. Members sold a total of 710 boxes of ruby red sweet Texas grapefruit. After all the sales plus \$105 in donations and minus the cost of the Altrusa Bazaar table, the final total made was about \$800 less than the previous year. The cost this year was \$20 for a 20 lb box and \$10 for half box. Pickup was again held at Hodgen Distributing warehouse in Pendleton off Westgate. They are just great to work with, and the space is really awesome! No one remembered to take photos this year, but several members came out to help with the sorting and then to help with the pick-up of the orders. Until next year!

2017



Grapefruit Crew at Hodgen Distributing Dec 2017

The 2017 Fundraising Event was another huge success, even with Hurricane Harvey causing problems for our supplier earlier in the year AND with last minute delivery problems from the vendor in Texas to Pendleton and other northwest drop-offs. With the delivery delayed until Sunday, the word went out to all the customers that the pick-up event would be on Tuesday, December 5th, from 2:00-6:00pm. Our Branch members showed up enforce on Monday afternoon to sort over 700 boxes and cull out any bad fruit. Once again, we found just one box of 'bad' grapefruit out of the entire order. Due to another glitch with the shipment process, the vendor gave us 50 extra boxes, above our order number. We were able to sell these extra boxes and add those dollars to the total amount raised. Overall, most of the customers were very nice about the delay and were just thrilled to once again get the wonderful product. By the end of the event, we sold 706 boxes this year.

This was the second year having the pickup event at Hodgen Distributing on Westgate, and they were especially accomodating to us considering the late delivery and having to work out of their facility one a weekday. We sincerely appreciate working with this great local company and letting us take over their space for a few days.

This is the only fundraiser event for the Branch. Please help us continue our support for local scholarships and STEM programs.

2015

Photos from December 2015 pickup event at PGG in Pendleton



Check In Table



Cooper getting a 'lift' from Paul Davis



2015 Customer Support (Box Haulers)

Sales for this year's annual fundraiser were about the same as last year: 644 boxes in 2015 compared to 639 boxes in 2014. For the 2013 fundraiser, the Branch sold 697 boxes which was just slightly fewer than the 715 boxes sold in 2012. Costs for each box continue to increase which impacts profit totals for the Branch. On average, the yearly profit is around \$4,000.

2014



Grapefruit Crew at PGG Dec. 2014

2013



Susan Doyle at the Altrusa Bazaar in November 2013



Boxes of unsorted fruit in PGG's back room.



Cold and snowy for pick-up day at Pendleton PGG warehouse.



2011

Sorting boxes on pick-up day in the back warehouse room at Pendleton PGG.





BACKGROUND ON FUNDRAISER

The sale of the Rio Star Texas Sweet Grapefruit first started in the Pendleton area by AFS (American Field Service) exchange program around 1983. This was a common way for those AFS chapters to make money to send their students overseas and to help bring students to the US. The AFS representative recommended it to the Pendleton area families and got them started – 50 boxes that first year. According to AFS member Julianne Sawyer, “it got to the point that we had more money than we needed and were not sending students. Also, there were just three of us running the chapter and selling fruit.”

The project involved just three ladies selling and organizing the sale and enlisting their husbands when the fruit was delivered. When one lady moved out of the area, the others decided it was time to make a change. Several area groups were interested in it as a fundraiser but since both ladies were also AAUW members, they offered the grapefruit sales to the Pendleton AAUW branch. And the rest is AAUW history. Julianne thinks that was in the mid-1990s but the records aren't clear.

Over the last few years, the Pendleton branch has used the grapefruit sale as their only fundraising event of the year. Members start taking orders and collecting money in mid-October. Boxes of grapefruit are delivered off the PGG loading dock, usually on the first Saturday of December. It's become an unofficial holiday season event for members and customers alike.