

Come and see what Near & Farr Friends is all about....this program offers twice a month opportunities to gather, socialize and learn during the fall and winter months. Near & Farr Friends meet twice a month, with games on the first Thursday and speakers on the 3rd Thursday. All meetings are held at the Onekama Township Hall at 2:30pm. Near and Farr Friends Advisory Committee members are: Faye Backie, Dawn and Greg Bower, Bonnie Garbrecht, Chris and Mike Gravlin, Ted Lawrence, Kay Lubert and Mary Fairgrieve. This committee identifies games and speakers for each month, host the meetings, open and lock up the building each meeting day, among other duties. Suggestions for speakers are appreciated by the committee.

If you wish to join the Near & Farr Friends' email list to receive notices of the game days and speakers each month, send your email address to: nearandfarrfriends@gmail.com. Questions about the program or suggestions for program content can also be directed to this email address.

History: Near & Farr Friends, a program of the PLA, began in January 2016 as a way for locals and newcomers to meet. After meeting year 'round the first year, it was found that people were busy with guests during the summer so the program shifted to the off season months. Initially people met to play games, work puzzles and have time for conversation. In time, speakers of local interest were invited. Topics, ranging from the story of preserving Old Baldy for public use, to hiking the Appalachian trail, to the histories of Onekama summer camps, churches, early families and businesses, were offered several times a month. In the early years, the program was housed at the Farr Center. Then it moved to the Onekama Township Hall where it remains still. For four years Near & Farr Friends met weekly with many in attendance for these programs and game days.

All meetings stopped in March 2020. During the early years of the pandemic we kept connected by email with 'Covid Comfort food' recipes. All program attendees who were on the Near & Farr Friends' email list received weekly recipes all shared by fellow members. The daily need to prepare homemade meals during months of quarantine was a way to keep members engaged. There is a plan for the recipes to be shared on the PLA website for posterity.

In-person meetings finally resumed in September 2021 with weekly speakers and face masks required. Attendance is down at times when there is concern about an uptick in cases, however our numbers are rebuilding when covid infections are lower. Masks are now optional but are always welcome by those who wish to feel safe.

Come to a meeting and see if this program of the PLA is one you would enjoy! All are welcome and there is no fee to attend, however, donations are welcome to defray the cost of the program.

