

Grants in Oregon

By Tanja Swanson-OSFGC President

I didn't get much feedback from my inquiry to the District Directors about our use of grants. So I am looking at it in a different way.

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs **gives** grants to our Garden Clubs undertaking community projects. Oregon Roadside Council grants are one of the easiest type of small grants to obtain.

The Oregon Roadside Council was established in 1932 to lead the fight against proliferation of billboards and litter. After operating independently for many years, the Oregon Roadside Council was folded into OSFGC several years ago.

Marcia Kay Whitelock, chair of the Roadside Council, reports the group can provide funding for landscaping around Blue Star Markers, and awards grants of up to \$500 for other types of qualified projects. Members of the Roadside Council committee generally prefer to provide half of the cost of projects, but will sometimes cover more. Half of grant funds are awarded when the project starts, with the balance distributed when the project is complete.

Roadside Council grants can be used for a wide variety of projects. "Grants should be for something worthwhile and meaningful," according to Marcia Kay.

In my own District we have had some experience with other types of grants. The District completed a complicated application for a \$2,000 local tourism grant, and received \$400. Unfortunately, insurance requirements would have cost as much as the grant funds awarded, and so the District declined the grant.

The District also completed an application to the Oregon Cultural Trust, which was much simpler. The district received a grant of \$400, and only had to submit a report upon completion of the project.