

Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic will be held in June

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The show will go on. The 2014 Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic Pageant will not be canceled this year, according to event coordinator Karon Weatherman.

Last week, Weatherman put out a plea asking for women age 60 and older to sign up for the annual contest or the pageant would have to be canceled due to lack of participation. At that point, not one Hopkins County lady had turned in an application to compete even though registration opened a few months ago.

Nancy Bolton, who competed in the county pageant a couple of years and in 2012 won Ms. Texas Senior Classic, offered her support too, encouraging others to come forward so the fun annual event showcasing the talents of senior ladies would once again continue.

She noted that often the same women participate each year, not necessarily with a goal of winning but just for the fun of it.

“They don’t care if they win or not — they just enjoy participation and the camaraderie, not to mention making life long friends,” Bolton said.

“It is not a beauty contest and you don’t have to have a spectacular talent. ... So what if you’re out of your comfort zone, participating will increase your self confidence. As Ms. Texas Senior, I had opportunities that I never would have experienced had it not been for my participation,” she said.

Both Weatherman and Bolton reached out to the qualified women they knew through email as well as word of mouth, and contacted media outlets about the possible cancellation.

Thursday, Weatherman happily reported that through everyone’s efforts enough women had committed involvement that the pageant won’t have to be canceled.

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“I had four ladies sign up this week. I am so excited that I will not have to cancel the pageant,” Weatherman said.

And, she notes that while enough women have signed up to forestall cancelation, there's still room for more contestants — the more the merrier is the contest philosophy.

To be eligible, Hopkins County women must simply be 60 or older. The contest features four phases:

- Evening gown — which despite its name simply requires a Sunday dress or nice outfit;
- Philosophy of life — a 50-word statement detailing the contestant's life philosophy, which is read during the evening gown contest, along with her brief biography
- Judge's interview — simply answering a random question pulled out of a hat or fishbowl and;
- Talent — this can be anything from singing, dancing and acting to reading poetry, reciting Bible scripture, showing personal artwork, telling jokes or a funny story, knittings, lip syncing to a song, decorating a cake on stage, making a flower arrangement or any other ability.

The pageant will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 7, at the Church of the Nazarene on League Street. The winner qualifies for the Ms. Texas Senior Classic Pageant.

Women age 60 and older can contact Karon Weatherman weekdays at 903-885-1661 or at the Senior Citizens Center, 150 Martin Luther King Drive, or mealaday@yahoo.com, to register or for more information.