

Kelly Hester Rules, but the Kids are the Real Winners at the Central Oregon Poker Tournament

Texas Hold'em event raises over \$7,000 for Kemple & The Dental Foundation of Oregon

The first female was crowned the champion on Saturday night September 12, 2015, at the Riverhouse in Bend as 40 players along with 7 volunteers, enjoyed a fun evening raising over \$7,000 to support the [Kemple Memorial Children's Dental Clinic](#) and [DFO](#) programs like the [Tooth Taxi](#).



The Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament, presented and hosted by [BnK Construction](#) and the Oregon Dental Association, was a joint fundraising event for the two dental charities that both work to serve children in Deschutes County and across Oregon. "With it being my first event as part of the DFO team, I was honored and privileged to see so many great dentists and dental students from OHSU's School of Dentistry out in support of such a worthy cause, children's oral health care and education," says Maurissa Fisher, The Dental Foundation of Oregon's Development Director.

The evening started at 4:00 p.m. with registration and a poker training table, sponsored by [Paltzer Wealth Management](#), where new players could learn the rules and seasoned players could practice their poker faces. Guests enjoyed delicious beverages donated by [Deschutes Brewery](#) and [Ascendente Winery](#), and dinner included pizza sponsored by [10 Barrel Brewing](#), Big Foot Beverages, salad, cheese and veggie trays and desserts.

The tournament officially began a little after 5:00 p.m. with our MC, Rick Shandy from BnK Construction thanking the generous sponsors and providing the rules of play. The next several hours found players shifting from sitting to standing as they ran out of poker chips, but kept their self-respect and sense of humor intact. By 10:00 p.m. the last eight players were at the final table and vying for a number of great prizes.

Top eight finishers all won prizes including a number of golf foursomes, restaurants and hotel gift certificates, theatre tickets and other fun prizes valued at over \$6,300. The look of surprise was priceless when each winner's prize package was read aloud, many valued well over \$1,000.

"Each chip played stacked up to a fine night of fun, with all players knowing they were giving to a good cause, improving the oral health of Oregon's children." said Suzanne Browning, Executive Director of the Kemple Memorial Children's Dental Clinic. "We are sincerely grateful for the generous community members who came to support us and, of course, to have a good time! Kemple Clinic is very fortunate to have the Dental Foundation of Oregon as a partner in this event."



And the Winners Were:



1st Place, Kelly Hester; 2nd Place, Dr. Thomas Rheuben; 3rd Place, Conor McNulty, who promptly turned around to donate his prize to the Kemple Clinic; 4th Place, Mark Hunt; 5th Place, TJ Tomjack; 6th Place, Beth Fitzgerald; 7th Place, Kenny Crow; 8th Place, Dr. Ilkyu Lee.

“We couldn’t have done this tournament without the support of BnK Construction, the Oregon Dental Association and the support of the Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center who let us use their space,” said Fisher. “Our thanks to them and all of the companies and individuals who were sponsors and donated prizes. A special tribute goes out to Bill Ludwig, former President of BnK Construction, who over the years has helped raised over \$77,000 in support of children’s oral health care. What a gift you have given.”

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Bill Ludwig, Cristi and Rick Shandy, Aaron Raasch
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Visit the [DFO Facebook](#) page to see photos from the tournament.

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