

San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce
Board of Director's Meeting
Mamacita's Restaurant, I-10
June 3, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Stacey Isenberg, Dr. Yvonne Katz, Sarah Becher, Dr. Susan Blackwood, Dr. Sandra Neubert, Asia Ciaravino, Angelica Docog, Ilene Devlin, Belinda Gavallos, Amy Gonzalez, Mona Helmy, Francy Leal, Diane Polanco, Reilly Smolinsky, Cindy Taylor, and Kristen Villarreal

Also attending were Rebecca Hughes, Debra Reece, and Nicole Ross.

Board Members Absent: Casey Annunzio, Tammy Calton, Adrienne Cox, Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, Zina Guerra, Lori Johnson Leal, Francesca Rattray, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, Juanita Sepulveda, and Kristi Wyatt

Pledge

All board members recited the pledge.

Secretary's Report

The May 6, 2019, minutes were submitted by e-mail to board members. Kristen Villarreal submitted two revisions under Communications.

ACTION: Sarah Becher moved and Belinda Gavallos seconded a motion to accept the minutes as revised, which passed.

Treasurer's Report

Francy Leal stated a review by ADKF was underway, with an update expected to be provided to the board at the July meeting. Stacey Isenberg noted the review should be done by the end of this week.

ACTION: No action

Committee Reports

- **Communications**

Rebecca Hughes reported that the POWERhour! for June 12 has only 16 registered for Gen. Laura Lenderman's presentation. She urged everyone to notify their contacts about the meeting. For the New Member Mixer on June 6 at Mamacita's restaurant, only 9 are registered. Invitations have been sent to 33 new members and 6 members up for renewal. More members are urged to register. Several Communications Committee deadlines are coming soon, with the notice for Gala sponsorships being due Friday, June 7, with Gala registration opening on July 12.

Kristen Villarreal stated that the SAWCC Facebook had 2,288 likes (up 35); Instagram had 1,028 followers (the same); Twitter had 3,618 followers (down 8); and LinkedIn had 338 followers (up 4). Facebook notices are well-received by members.

- **Smart Women Series**

Diane Polanco stated that the May 19 event with Miara Shaw was standing room only. Miara was fantastic and engaging.

The SWS Committee will hold a planning meeting in mid-July. Speakers have already contacted Diane asking to be presenters in 2019–2020. She is looking for locations and food sponsors.

- **Transformational Leadership Development Series**

Angelica Docog reported that the May 19 meeting went very well. Attendees will graduate in June. The Leadership series had record attendance with engaged, complementary participants who had great camaraderie.

- **Bloomberg Business Program**

Sarah Becher stated that she and Kristi Wyatt were the speakers in May. For the June 25 meeting, the speakers are Gen. Laura Lenderman and Betty Burke.

Of the participants, 7 of 23 have done the personal assessment. Some company firewalls are blocking the third-party e-mail containing the assessment. There was discussion about requiring all SAWCC members to supply a personal e-mail for notices to avoid firewall issues.

- **Golf Tournament**

Cindy Taylor noted the Golf Tournament raised \$3,000 more than in 2018 and more than the 2019 budget had projected. Various sponsorships were sold out. The award ceremony was short and provided lessons for the 2020 event. Cindy thanked the board, volunteers, staff, and others for their assistance on the excellent event. The Golf Committee held an after-action meeting to compile notes for Debra Reece, who will take over leadership of the tournament for 2020.

The Golf Committee is recommending to the SAWCC Foundation that the \$3,000 budget line item from the Golf Tournament be given as a young woman's golf scholarship in the future. That would be good public relations and help raise more money for the tournament. Details could be worked out later.

To show her appreciation for various board and staff members' participation, Cindy presented paperweights to 7 people (Dr. Yvonne Katz, Stacey Isenberg, Sarah Becher, Angelica Docog, Belinda Gavallos, Rebecca Hughes, and Dr. Sandra Neubert). She gave a Most Valuable Player trophy to Diane Polanco and has a trophy for Lori Johnson Leal (to be presented later). She gave a 19th Hole Award of a gift basket to Rebecca Hughes.

Dr. Katz thanked Cindy for her hard work. She noted that Cindy joined the SAWCC seven years ago and helped establish the Golf Tournament and Gala.

- **POWERhour! Luncheons**

Rebecca Hughes noted that Gen. Lenderman has been contacted and is ready to present at the June 12 event. She will have a photographer with her. Also, the speaker for the October luncheon will be attending to see how the SAWCC function works.

- **Mixer**

Amy Gonzalez reported the committee met on May 31 to discuss the fall mixer at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant, where the 2018 event was held. Can We Talk or Women & Wine is being considered as a partner for the event.

The fall New Member Mixer will be September 18. A location is being sought.

Dr. Katz suggested Can We Talk could e-mail 66 women's groups about both events.

There was a brief discussion on possibly offering a small membership discount for those attending the mixers to encourage more membership.

- **Membership**

Belinda Gavallos reminded everyone of the June 6 New Member Mixer. Door prizes are needed, and she encouraged all to send out notices to their contacts about the event.

There are 8 new members, but a loss of 5 nonrenewing members. The SAWCC is getting good word of mouth coverage, and Belinda is contacting more potential members.

Discussion was held about NAWBO's current membership drive and whether the SAWCC could conduct such a drive. The Membership Committee will obtain details and submit a report to the board for the July meeting. Shirley Crandell, current NAWBO president, has indicated the group would like to do a joint mixer with the SAWCC.

The UTSA HUB Vendor Fair is June 27–28. The SAWCC could have a free table at the event. Belinda will follow up.

- **Community Involvement**

Dr. Sandra Neubert stated that the Committee Membership list has been revised and will be on the SAWCC website by June 5. She urged committee chairs to invite their members to events and to sit at the chairs' table to make the members feel special.

- **Charity of Choice**

Asia Ciaravino thanked Rebecca Hughes for her assistance in vetting the nonprofits. Asia provided a brief synopsis of each organization's proposed use of the \$10,000 award: San Antonio Threads would buy new clothes for children; Support Lending for Emotional Well-being (S.L.E.W., Inc.) would pay for mental health counseling, transportation to counseling, and cancer patient supplies; San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL) would expand its reading programs to more schools; Crosspoint Inc. needs infant and childcare supplies for pregnant women with opioid addiction; and Girl Scouts of South Texas

would expand its gamma sigma program on the west side and provide scholarship for girls to join the program. All are worthy nonprofits.

A discussion occurred on having an after-action report on how the money was spent by the winning group. That would provide good paperwork for any audit review. Also last year's winner could be introduced at SAWCC Foundation events. Another idea was to donate the school supplies from the September 19 New Member Mixer to one or two of the five groups.

Rebecca Hughes stated that the information about the five nonprofits will go out today via e-mail to board members. Board members will narrow the selection to three groups, and the general membership will vote on one nonprofit to be the winner for 2020.

- **Mentorship Program**
No report.

Executive Director's Report

- **Gala**
Dr. Susan Blackwood said the Gala Committee had discussed the need to recruit new committee members to train to take over the event in the future. The Gala will have valet parking, and all board members are required to purchase a half or full table. The costs are \$150/member individual ticket, \$175/nonmember ticket, and the table of 8 seats price is being determined. Gala funds go toward the Charity of Choice and the scholarship program. The Gala is projected to net \$65,000.

A new company is under final review to handle the Live and Silent auctions. There will be a "Donate for a Chance!" for two prizes. Tickets of \$50 each or 3 for \$100 can be purchased in advance or the night of the event, with all funds going toward the scholarship program. The Gala Committee will have the 2019 scholarship winners at the event.

Two plans are in process to select a Spirit of Courage honoree.

Beer, wine, champagne, and a signature drink will be available at no charge. The committee is seeking donations for the alcoholic beverages. Each table will have two red and two white bottles of wine.

Dr. Sandra Neubert has agreed to head the Honoree Selection Committee. Nominations will open July 8 and close August 11 promptly at midnight. Current SAWCC or SAWCC Foundation board members cannot nominate or be nominated for any award. The 2018 pool of nominees is being maintained and could be updated for resubmission for the 2019 Gala. The committee will have a prototype letter to seek the correct information about each nominee. The Selection Committee judges have been chosen and will meet on August 19 to decide on the final honorees.

Dr. Blackwood thanked Zina Guerra and Asia Ciaravino for assisting with the process to video the honorees. They will have a script with bullet points as guides in interviewing the honorees.

Dr. Katz thanked Dr. Neubert for taking on the selection process. She also thanked Ilene Devlin for agreeing to write the honorees' bios for the program.

- **Scholarships**

Dr. Katz noted that Dr. Neubert, Debra Reece, and she had met to work on the scholarship process. They will determine how much each scholarship will be, how long a time period, and GPA requirements, with a possible bonus for achieving a higher GPA during the course of the scholarship period.

Debra Reece stated the Alamo Colleges Foundation has a good process for scholarship selections. The SAWCC Foundation will select the winner(s) and provide the funds to the Alamo Colleges Foundation to distribute. June 13 is the first SAWCC Foundation meeting to finalize the process.

A brief discussion was held on other groups' processes. Dr. Blackwood noted that the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame has impressive tracking reports on its scholarship winners and distributes \$75,000. Dr. Katz stated the San Antonio Young Women's Leadership Academy also has a good scholarship process and significant funds. These processes could provide examples for the SAWCC Foundation guidelines.

- **Smithsonian Conference**

Dr. Katz participated with young women on the recent Women's Suffrage panel discussion as part of the National Youth Summit group of the Smithsonian. Dr. Katz represented the SAWCC and discussed women's suffrage. Students and their leaders from various high schools attended.

Other Business

Angelica Docog provided tickets to board members for the San Antonio Folklife Festival this coming weekend.

Adjourned: 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene W. Devlin, Secretary