

San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce
Board of Director's Meeting
San Antonio College, Victory Center
August 5, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Stacey Isenberg, Dr. Yvonne Katz, Sarah Becher, Dr. Sandra Neubert, Lisa Ayers, Velma Bates, Asia Ciaravino, Ilene Devlin, Belinda Gavallos, Mona Helmy, Francy Leal, Cindy Taylor, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, and Kristen Villarreal

Also attending were Rebecca Hughes and Nicole Ross.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Susan Blackwood, Tammy Calton, Adrienne Cox, Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, Angelica Docog, Amy Gonzalez, Zina Guerra, Lori Johnson Leal, Diane Polanco, Francesca Rattray, Reilly Smolinsky, and Kristi Wyatt

Introductions

All board members introduced themselves to welcome one new member, Velma Bates, and one returning member, Lisa Ayers.

Pledge

All board members recited the pledge.

Secretary's Report

The July 8, 2019, minutes were submitted by e-mail to board members.

ACTION: Sarah Becher moved and Dr. Sandra Neubert seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which passed.

Treasurer's Report

Francy Leal will present the second quarter financial report at the September board meeting.

ACTION: None

Committee Reports

- **Communications**

Kristen Villarreal submitted the following data: SAWCC Facebook had 2,382 likes (up 41); Instagram had 1,048 followers (up 9); Twitter had 3,626 followers (up 11); and LinkedIn had 363 followers (up 10). Gala nominations are open, and more event pages will be added as needed.

Rebecca Hughes reported that various communications deadlines are coming soon. The New Member Mixer information is due August 9, and the Smart Women Series and Back to School Mixer will be publicized soon.

- **Smart Women Series**

Dr. Katz noted that the September 11 meeting at and hosted by the Institute of Texan Cultures will focus on Family Violence, with Marta Peláez speaking. Her son, City

Councilman Manny Peláez, has been asked to attend since family violence is his priority project.

- **Transformational Leadership Development Series**

Dr. Katz stated that the series has been completed. A Lessons Learned session will be held soon.

- **Bloomberg Business Program**

Sarah Becher stated the series has two more sessions.

Mona Helmy reported that Cici Smith and Sarah Helmy will speak at the next session.

A discussion was held on the need for more and active committee members. Ideas will be reviewed.

- **Golf Tournament**

Cindy Taylor is collecting the final sponsorship and team money that is overdue.

Dr. Katz noted that the 2020 Golf Tournament will be held at the Sonterra Country Club on the day after Easter, April 13. That is a change of date from previously reported to avoid conflicts with other tournaments. All SAWCC board members are responsible to field a golf team.

- **POWERhour! Luncheons**

Barbie Scharf-Zeldes stated that Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman presented a great session in June. On October 16, Stephanie Sheller, a consultant and coach, will approach the meeting by challenging the people attending to learn how to use four areas to empower themselves.

- **Mixers**

Rebecca Hughes noted the September 18 mixer at Maggiano's restaurant will be partnered with Women and Wine. Attendance is free, and people are asked to bring back-to-school supplies for schools and toiletries for Haven For Hope.

- **Membership**

Belinda Gavallos now has formal corporate presentation folders to show prospective members. She will use the digital versions for entities that prefer that format.

A Membership Brainstorming Pep Rally will be held on August 15, 6:00 p.m., at Grimaldi's at Quarry Village. A light supper will be available. The Membership Committee is seeking more active members to become involved as greeters, callers, and ambassadors for SAWCC.

On Thursday, September 26, a New/Renewing Member Mixer will be held. Location will be determined.

Gavallos will meet with the UIW provost to ask for the university to become a corporate member. She suggested the title of "community partner," rather than corporate member, be considered.

Dr. Katz reported that she and Debra Reece had met with Trinity University. Staff are ready for the university to become a corporate member.

- **Community Involvement**

Dr. Sandra Neubert encouraged all board members to attend the New/Renewing Member Mixer. New members enjoy meeting board members and being welcomed by them. Also, for the Smart Women Series, she urged committee chairs to invite committee members to attend. The free lunch is a benefit to members, and nonmembers can attend for only \$15.

Dr. Neubert also urged everyone to attend the September 18 mixer at Maggiano's. It is a chance to meet other women and to increase the SAWCC membership. Committee members should be invited to attend.

Sarah Becher added that the Back to School mixer is a good opportunity to increase the SAWCC membership. Board members should bring their business cards to distribute. Board members can talk one-on-one at the New/Renewing Member Mixer to get to know members better.

- **Charity of Choice**

Asia Ciaravino stated that the Girl Scouts of South Texas and SA Threads will split the SAWCCF Charity of Choice funds. The two winning organizations will be announced at the Gala. Both groups have indicated they will buy a table for the event. There was discussion about giving them a discounted price for their tables to preserve as much money for the nonprofits' needs as possible.

- **Mentorship Program**

Dr. Katz, Debra Reece, and the SAWCCF board members toured the SAC Advocacy Center. Each of the five Alamo Colleges campuses have an Advocacy Center to provide support, such as food, funds, clothes, and counseling, to needy students. The five Foundation scholarship winners can work through the center and will each have a mentor. A Constant Contact call for mentors has produced seven volunteers who will undergo training to become mentors. The goal is to have 10 volunteers trained so each of the five winners will have two mentors each. Then in 2020, 10 mentors will be needed for the 10 winners. A mentor does not have to be an SAWCC member.

Hughes stated that information on calling for mentor volunteers is on the SAWCC and SAWCCF websites.

Dr. Katz noted that Census Day in Texas higher education schools is when official roll is taken in classes. At that point, women will be selected as the SAWCCF scholarship winners.

Executive Director's Report

- **SAWCC Board Acceptance of Resignations**

Dr. Katz stated that Casey Annunzio and Juanita Sepulveda have resigned from the SAWCC board. Replacements have already been found in Lisa Ayers and Velma Bates.

- **Gala**

Dr. Katz passed around a signup sheet for board members to register for a full or half table and/or to be a sponsor at the Gala on November 9, 2019. The sponsor benefits have been adjusted and will be distributed calling for companies or individuals to become Gala sponsors. A Sin-sensation Chocolate and Bubbly after-party needs chocolate desserts donated. Valet services will be available at the Gala. Free wine, beer, and a signature drink will be available all evening. One bottle of white and one of red wine will be on each table. An auctioneer is being sought for the Live Auction. There will also be a Silent Auction. Board members are expected to sell raffle tickets at \$50 each or 3 for \$100, plus tickets will be sold at the Gala.

Nominations for Gala honorees close at 11:59 p.m. on August 11. SAWCC and SAWCCF board members cannot be nominated nor make nominations. Directions for writing nomination letters have been distributed and emphasize a woman's accomplishments in working for women, children, and the community. Asia Ciaravino and Zina Guerra will be coordinating the video taping of the honorees only.

The year 2019 is the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The SAWCCF is seeking women who were either in the military or worked in defense manufacturing during World War II for recognition, which is long overdue. Lila Cockrell will be one who is honored.

The WASP Museum in Sweetwater will loan the SAWCCF a 26 ft. display of photographs of women during the war. The only cost will be \$250 to ship the photographs, but the SAWCCF must find the panels on which to display the photos and the viewing location. Several sites are under discussion, including Stinson Field and the San Antonio International Airport.

- **Scholarships**

Dr. Katz repeated that the first five SAWCCF scholarship winners and one guest each will be seated at a special table for the Gala. If needed, they will be given evening clothes and get their hair styled through the Advocacy Centers' resources.

Dr. Neubert mentioned that the women may never have been to such a formal event as the Gala. They may need guidance on dress, hair, table etiquette, and so forth before the Gala.

Other Business

None.

Adjourned: 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene W. Devlin, Secretary