**San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Director’s Meeting**

Institute of Texan Cultures

March 4, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Yvonne Katz, Stacey Isenberg, Sarah Becher, Rebecca Hughes, Nicole Ross, Dr. Susan Blackwood, Dr. Sandra Neubert, Tammy Calton, Adrienne Cox, Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, Ilene Devlin, Angelica Docog, Belinda Gavallos, Amy Gonzalez, Zina Guerra, Mona Helmy, Lori Johnson, Diane Polanco, Debra Reece, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, Cindy Taylor, Kristen Villarreal, and Kristi Wyatt

Board Members Absent: Casey Annunzio, Asia Ciaravino, Francy Leal, Francesca Rattray, Juanita Sepulveda, and Reilly Smolinsky

**Pledge**

All board members recited the pledge.

**Secretary’s Report**

The February 4, 2019, minutes were submitted by e-mail to the board members.

ACTION: Sarah Becher moved and Zina Guerra seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No treasurer’s report was presented.

ACTION: No action

**Committee Reports**

* **Communications**

Rebecca Hughes stated that the committee had discussed strategies to energize members in the area of communications. A survey will be distributed in March asking questions of the membership, especially about social media input. The committee wants to encourage posts, photos, and tags at SAWCC events to promote the organization.

The deadline for information concerning the April Transformational Leadership program is March 8. The Smart Women Series and Bloomberg registrations open this week. The invitation for the Fiesta Mixer will be available by early next week. The photo of the check being given to our Charity of Choice has been posted.

Kristen Villarreal announced that SAWCC has 2,173 Facebook likes; 1,017 Instagram followers; 308 LinkedIn connections; and 3,608 Twitter followers.

* **Smart Women Series**

Diane Polanco reported that the February 28 event speaker Ester Cardenas from Loss of Life Advocates was fantastic. For March 27, the topic is “Smart Women Know How to Use Social Media for Networking and Marketing” with Melissa Aguirre. The event will be held at the Girl Scouts headquarters.

The series is always looking for location sponsors. The location sponsors do not have to provide the luncheon, but that is an option.

* **Transformational Leadership Development Series**

Lori Johnson Leal stated that two sessions have already been held. The February event was outstanding on ethical leadership and received many positive comments from attendees.

On March 21, Gloria Paloma of the Region 20 Education Service Center will speak on “Critical Conversations” to grow teams. The Spotlight Speaker will be Erika Prosper Nirenberg.

The Old Francisco Steakhouse does not have an elevator. The only room available for the hours and size of crowd for the SAWCC series is on the second floor. The event location needs to have a catered breakfast, hold at least 50 people, and be available from 8:00 a.m.–noon. Other locations will be examined for the 2020 series.

* **Bloomberg Business Program**

Sarah Becher reported that the Bloomberg dates are on the website. Topics include critical communication, leadership skills, technology in the workplace, and more. The cost is $185 for the entire series, and Sarah encouraged board members to have their staff and others attend.

* **Golf Tournament**

Cindy Taylor stated that the committee met on March 13 at Frost Bank. To date, $17,420 in sponsorships has been committed. Of the 36 golf teams needed, 16 have been filled, with a sellout expected. The committee projects to make a profit this year. Goodie bag items may be brought to the April 1 board meeting. Bag stuffing will be May 9 at the home of Dr. Katz.

Dr. Katz noted that all board members are required to field one golf team. Individual players are $140 each, with a team costing $560.

* **Gala**

Dr. Susan Blackwood thanked Debra Reece for becoming the SAWCC Foundation executive director. The 2018 Gala netted $77,306 from 550 registrants. Out-of-pocket costs were $85 per person. The Gala registration fees for individuals and tables may have to be raised.

The first Gala Committee meeting will be June 19, with a goal of 600 people attending the 2019 Gala. Valero will have ongoing construction, so committee members will examine the area for better entrances.

The honorees selection process worked well. In 2018, a large pool of excellent people was available.

Dr. Katz noted that all board members are required to buy a table, or two members share a table cost.

* **POWERhour! Luncheons**

Barbie Scharf Zeldes announced that Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman will be the speaker on June 12. The committee is working on the October event.

* **Mixer**

Amy Gonzalez reported that the April 5 Fiesta Mixer will be held from 5:00–6:00 p.m. at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The ITC will supply the decorations, food, and drinks. The SAWCC will have a Fiesta hat contest. From 6:00–8:00, the ITC exhibit opens, so the SAWCC activities need to be completed by at least 5:30. The SAWCC can sell its Fiesta medals at the ITC opening. SAWCC members can park at the back of the building also. Rebecca Hughes is doing Constant Contact reminders.

* **Membership**

Belinda Gavallos noted the committee will know by the end of April if the SAWCC can have a free booth as a nonprofit for the San Antonio Manufacturers’ event. The committee is going to follow up with Biolife to encourage them to join the SAWCC. Each board member is asked to provide the Membership Committee with one name of a business or organization that she enjoys that might like to join the SAWCC.

Seven new members have joined. There are 11 pending renewals. Corporations up for renewal have been invoiced.

* **New Board Member Orientation**

Dr. Sandra Neubert announced that all of the new SAWCC Board members have completed the online New Board Member Orientation and Training. She presented all new members with a friendship bag of items as thank-you gifts.

She urged all committee chairs to encourage committee members to attend the SAWCC events. The goal is to keep up their interest in the committees and organization.

Rebecca Hughes stated that the business cards for new board members are on order. They will either be mailed or hand delivered when they arrive.

* **Charity of Choice**

A check has been presented to the 2018 Charity of Choice, Family Violence and Prevention Services from SAWCC and one from the Foundation.

* **Mentorship Program**
* Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk noted that on Saturday, March 9, the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women will hold an International Women’s Day Summit. Registration is available on the SAWCC website link to the Eventbrite page. The YWCA staff members have done a wonderful job with the event. Childcare is provided, and there is a free breakfast and lunch. Panels and information tables will cover a variety of topics, including health, family violence, SAFE program, entrepreneur sessions, and higher education. Sarah Becher will set up the SAWCC membership table.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Dr. Yvonne Katz reported that Nicole Ross, Rebecca Hughes, and Debra Reece all have offices at the SAWCC headquarters in Hemisfair Park. Nicole and Rebecca are SAWCC employees, and Debra works for the SAWCC Foundation. The office space costs $100 per month payable to the City of San Antonio. Anyone needing to go to the SAWCC office should call first to see if a free parking space is available.

Scholarship applications will be accepted in about two months when the process has been finalized. Dr. Katz is working with the Alamo Colleges Foundation to select potential applicants.

Dr. Katz attended the Business Journal’s Mentorship Monday. The SAWCC logo was on the brochure. For next year’s event, Dr. Katz will ask if the SAWCC also gets a table. Around 500 women attended and spoke to about 70 mentors. Dr. Katz worked with 12 women in seven-minute speed mentoring segments. She will have Belinda Gavallos contact the women about joining the SAWCC. Also, Dr. Katz is sending notes thanking the women for attending.

The Bexar County superintendents will meet this week. The 300 Years/30 Women booklet has been uploaded on YouTube as “SAWCC – Tribute to Women.” Music for the YouTube segment was performed by Soncia Hughes, Rebecca’s seventh-grade daughter.

The San Antonio Women’s Hall of Fame Gala will be held on Saturday, March 23. Cindy Taylor, Angelica Docog, and Adrienne Cox will be inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame.

On March 9, the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women will host the International Women’s Day Conference.

Dr. Katz, Dr. Blackwood, and Cindy Taylor met with John from Give Back Auctions. They presented him with a five-page document of issues relating to the Silent Auction at the 2018 SAWCC Gala. Their frank discussion listed problems, which met with little encouragement. The women reminded John that the SAWCC had planned on using Give Back Auctions for the 2019 Golf Tournament and Gala if the noted issues can be resolved satisfactorily. The committee is researching other local auction companies as future Silent Auction providers.

**Other Business**

Amy Gonzalez stated that ReWorks SA Commercial Recycling is working with the city of San Antonio to get businesses to recycle. ReWorks would be open to hosting an SAWCC board meeting if desired.

Angelica Docog will present a speech at the annual Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York City on March 8. She will use the SAWCC as a case study.

**Adjourned:** 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene W. Devlin, Secretary