

San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce
Board of Director's Meeting
Port San Antonio
July 8, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Stacey Isenberg, Dr. Yvonne Katz, Sarah Becher, Dr. Susan Blackwood, Dr. Sandra Neubert, Tammy Calton, Adrienne Cox, Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, Angelica Docog, Ilene Devlin, Belinda Gavallos, Amy Gonzalez, Diane Polanco, Lori Johnson Leal, and Francesca Rattray

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

Board Members Absent: Casey Annunzio, Asia Ciaravino, Zina Guerra, Mona Helmy, Francy Leal, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, Juanita Sepulveda, Reilly Smolinsky, Cindy Taylor, Kristen Villarreal, and Kristi Wyatt

Pledge

All board members recited the pledge.

Secretary's Report

The June 3, 2019, minutes were submitted by e-mail to board members. Kristen Villarreal submitted one revision under Communications. Sarah Beecher added one revision under Bloomberg Business Program.

ACTION: Sarah Becher moved and Dr. Susan Blackwood seconded a motion to accept the minutes as revised, which passed.

Treasurer's Report

Stacey Isenberg introduced Susan Valdez of ADKF, who had conducted a review of the SAWCC and SAWCCF accounting records. The Combined Reviewed Financial Statements report, dated December 31, 2018, was distributed. Ms. Valdez discussed highlights of the report, which was a review only, not an audit.

Dr. Katz thanked Nicole Ross for tracking the Chamber and Foundation financial systems so well.

Isenberg noted that she had compared the federal 990 form to the combined report, and all areas matched.

ACTION: Adrienne Cox moved and Dr. Blackwood seconded a motion to approve the combined financial report along with the 990 tax return for the Chamber. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

- **Communications**
Rebecca Hughes reported that the Foundation website was launched today, with more changes still coming. The website is SAWCCFoundation.org. A new payment process

will be available in about two days. Also, the Smart Women Series details are due August 2 for publication on the SAWCC website.

Kristen Villarreal submitted a written report, which Hughes read. The SAWCC Facebook had 2,341 likes (up 53); Instagram had 1,039 followers (up 11); Twitter had 3,615 followers (down 3); and LinkedIn had 353 followers (up 15). Facebook event pages created for TLD Spotlight featured Cecilia Herrera and the 2019 Spring New Member Mixer, and the June POWERhour! Luncheon event was posted in May. Golf photos have been posted via Constant Contact by Hughes. A custom July 4th message was also created.

- **Smart Women Series**

Diane Polanco stated that Casey Annunzio has resigned as co-chair of the Smart Women Series and from the SAWCC board. Polanco is seeking a new co-chair, as well as locations, food sponsors, and speakers for 2019–2020. A discussion was held about possible replacements.

- **Transformational Leadership Development Series**

Lori Johnson Leal reported that Leadership attendees graduated June 20. Becky Spieth and Cecilia Herrera were speakers, plus Sen. Angela Paxton was a guest and speaker. The participants had been surveyed midway through the series and again at the end. The facilitators will analyze the survey results and plan for the 2020 series.

Dr. Katz expressed pride in the facilitator team.

Hughes has sent a second survey reminder and will post photos of the graduates on the SAWCC website.

- **Bloomberg Business Program**

Sarah Becher stated that for the June 25 meeting, the speakers were Gen. Laura Lenderman and Betty Burke, who gave a good presentation. Participants also liked the personal assessment and will receive a survey at the end of the program.

- **Golf Tournament**

Debra Reece noted the Golf Tournament for 2020 will be the day after Easter, Monday, April 13, at the Sonterra Country Club.

- **POWERhour! Luncheons**

No report.

- **Mixer**

Amy Gonzalez stated the fall mixer will be held at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant on September 18, probably from 5:30–7:30 p.m. The SAWCC will partner with Women & Wine for the event. Maggiano's has given the room at no charge and will provide some food. Entry to the event will be free.

A discussion was held on collecting items for various causes. It was decided to ask for back-to-school supplies for the Family Violence Center, toiletries for Haven for Hope, and wine corks for Specs (that sells them by the pound and donates the proceeds to cancer research).

- **Membership**

Belinda Gavallos and Becher attended the UTSA HUB Vendor Fair on June 27–28. Gavallos has pending meetings with a number of corporations to ask for SAWCC membership. She also gave away one individual membership at the event and talked with several nonprofits. On October 13, Gavallos has a conference scheduled with a representative from Wyndham Gardens. Lisa Ayers, a former SAWCC board member, will be returning to the board as director of Membership.

- **Community Involvement**

No report.

- **Charity of Choice**

Rebecca Hughes stated that member voting on the 2019–2020 Charity of Choice received the most responses ever. Two organizations tied as the winners: San Antonio Threads and Girl Scouts of South Texas. Both will be announced at the Gala and will split the charity funds.

- **Mentorship Program**

Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, Dr. Katz, Reece, and Francesca Rattray went to Texas A&M to discuss the SAWCC Mentorship Program and SAWCC Foundation Scholarship Program. The scholarship recipients will be required to have an SAWCC mentor. Dayle-Van Buskirk asked that all board members prepare a business and personal bio for the committee to review for possible mentors. She has reviewed the website <https://www.insala.com/mentoring-programs.asp> as a sample of administering a mentorship program and training mentors. She also asked all board members to think of potential mentors, both within the SAWCC, their companies, and others.

Reece stated that they want the scholarship recipients to be mentored by people with similar life or business experiences.

Dr. Katz will contact the Texas A&M Foundation and the Texas A&M Alumni Association to see if any of their members would like to become mentors for the SAWCC Foundation Scholarship Program.

Hughes asked that board members send information on organizations doing mentorship programs to her to include on the SAWCC Foundation website.

Rattray noted that only five mentors are needed for the 2019 recipients. Support services and mentors are needed for the nontraditional women.

There was a brief discussion on how to get SAWCC members more involved with committees.

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 will be sought.

- **Gala**

Dr. Susan Blackwood noted that for the November 11 Gala, each board member must purchase a full or half table, and she sent around a signup sheet. Beer, wine, champagne, and a signature drink will be available at no charge. The committee is seeking donations for the alcoholic beverages and will distribute a flyer on what is needed. Each table will have two red and two white bottles of wine. Valet service will be provided, which added to the Gala expenses.

A chocolate and champagne event will be held at the end of the evening in place of a table dessert. At that time, ticket sales for the Take A Chance drawings will be emphasized to help raise \$7,000 for the Charity of Choice and \$12,000 for scholarships. The drawing winners will be announced at the chocolate party, but the people do not have to be present to win. Chocolate donations are needed.

The Spirit of Courage first choice person could not attend the 2019 Gala, but has committed to be the honoree for 2020. Two other plans are underway to find the 2019 honoree(s).

The honoree selection process starts today. Dr. Sandra Neubert heads the Honoree Selection Committee. Nominations will close August 11 promptly at midnight. Current SAWCC or SAWCC Foundation board members cannot nominate or be nominated for any award. Dr. Neubert distributed "Guidelines for Writing a Winning Nominator Letter" that clearly outlines the criteria by which the nominations will be scored. Nominees are sought from those early in their careers to those who have state, national, or international impact on women and children. A list of past honorees will be e-mailed to board members. The Selection Committee will decide under which category the nominees belong. The guidelines were reviewed in detail so board members could explain to nominators on what key points the submissions will be judged. Board members were encouraged to forward the guidelines to potential nominators.

Dr. Katz noted that some women may have great business experience but get low scores if they have no impact on women and children. She urged people to review the guidelines before submitting names.

Hughes stated that the Gala Sponsor Benefits are on the SAWCC Foundation website.

- **Scholarships**

Dr. Katz repeated that SAWCC mentors are needed for the SAWCC Foundation scholarship recipients. The Foundation will work through the Alamo Colleges Foundation, which will select the recipients. Dr. Katz distributed and discussed the

Scholarship Program handout details, which covered the requirements and process for nontraditional students. The handout will be posted on the SAWCC Foundation website. It will be possible to have a scholarship named to honor someone and to specify the field of study for that student. More details will follow.

Dr. Neubert mentioned that the Alamo Colleges Foundation selection process is totally blind, so no personal information will be seen. At the Gala, the five 2019 recipients and one guest each will be seated at one table. An idea being discussed is having a goodie bag for each recipient at the Gala. In 2020, there will be 10 recipients invited, so they will not be able to bring a guest to the Gala.

Reece noted that the applications are judged in April and September each year. The SAWCC Foundation will hold a mixer this fall for the 2019 recipients. They will be able to go to an Advocacy Center to obtain clothes for the Gala if needed. Anyone can donate women's clothes and jewelry to the Advocacy Centers, with one center at each Alamo Area College. The recipients will be recognized in the Gala program.

Dr. Katz stated that new members have joined the Foundation board: Dr. Blackwood, Francesco Rattray, Karen Dayle-Van Buskirk, and Sheila Due (executive director of the Alamo Colleges Foundation).

Other Business

Rattray sent around a signup sheet for the SAWCC table at the YWCA September 24 gala. The cost is \$100 per seat.

Adjourned: 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene W. Devlin, Secretary