



General Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2017

McCracken House, University of the Incarnate Word (Hosted by Margaret Garcia)

Attendees

Diana Fuentes, Martha Tijerina, Yolanda Arellano, Elva Cope, Angelica Garza, Tony Quesada, Ximena Alvarez, Sergio Chapa, Margaret Garcia, Elaine Ayala, Manuel Figueroa, Joey Palacios, Tessa Benavides, Nikiza Goga

The meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Welcome

Margaret Garcia welcomed the members and talked about the history of the McCracken House. Margaret talked about the Medical School and a recent article the Express-News. Lou Agnese was named president emeritus and is doing well.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

Minutes

Didi first, Martha second. Minutes approved.

Membership Update

It was reported that we now have 40 members, not including the few who bought memberships just before the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding updating the website to indicate what kind of membership you are buying. We also discussed how buying a ticket to the gala automatically renews your membership. We need to implement a system for updating the membership database for people who buy tickets to the gala.

Elaine mentioned that sometimes she doesn't get all the emails. Tessa and Joey explained that we just implemented a new email account with MailChimp. The new email address for the association is saahj@sahispanicjournalists.net. Sergio said he can change the email address that a member wants to receive emails at. The board discussed the possibility of switching to a paid service such as Constant Contact. Angelica said that Constant Contact may have a free trial.

Joey said that he, Sergio, Angelica and Tony should meet to determine how to proceed.

The members discussed promoting membership by letting people know that they can get a free Fiesta medal.

Treasurer's Report

\$7,884.29 in operating account

\$7,000 expense to CPA

Jim Tsakopolous was an adviser during our taxes

Most recent deposit was from the book sale

\$130,829.55 in foundation account

There have been no new expenses from that account

\$5,000 from Silver Eagle

Still have \$5,000 receivable from Express-News and Univision. Also Aguillon & Associates was at the \$750 level.

Also paid \$300 to the Fiesta Commission to be able to put our medal in the Fiesta Store

Tax ID Status

A discussion was held regarding the reinstatement of our nonprofit tax status. It was suggested that the association's 990s be posted online.

Joey explained that our tax ID status was revoked on May 16, 2016. It has been retroactively reinstated.

Tessa explained that the association now has a general ledger and invoicing system.

Margaret said she would like to see the responsibility for filing taxes codified in the bylaws.

Joey briefed the members that we are considered an inactive organization with the Texas Secretary of State's office, since 2007. Didi said we should have been filing forms with stating that we are still an active organization. Margaret said she would contact a person she knows at the Comptroller's Office to find out what we need to do. Joey suggested forming an ad hoc committee to handle this, with Margaret, Didi, himself and Tessa.

Tessa recommended having a governance committee delineated in the bylaws.

Joey set a deadline of March 31 to start the process on reinstating active status with the state.

Elva said she is familiar with the term inactive as it pertains to paying sales tax.

Gala Update

Elaine reported that Moana Ramirez had been contacted by Jorge Ramos' assistant Andres Echevari regarding the gala. It sounded hopeful, and it didn't indicate that he wouldn't accept an award. Elaine said he may not be available on July 15 but that he may be amenable to coming at

some other time. We know that it's difficult to get people's attention during the gala. Elaine mentioned some people who may not be available on July 15.

Didi said we should move forward and hustle to move toward the July 15 date.

Elaine suggested waiting a week to allow her, Tessa and Angelica to ask the hotel about changing the date.

Tessa said we have already paid \$5,000 to hold the date, and that we're obligated to pay \$19,800.

Martha suggested that we ask Jorge Ramos to send a video message.

The membership agreed to give the gala committee until March 31 to explore changing the date.

Tessa talked about the gala subcommittees that need help, including the raffle committee, swag bag committee and the advertising committee.

Joey suggested a gala committee meeting at 7:30 am on Monday, April 3, at Rosella's Coffee.

We will have a general membership meeting at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, April 18, during the Fiesta Medal Swap at Aguillon & Associates. The Fiesta Medal Swap will begin at 6 pm.

Elaine asked that we notify all members of the gala committee meeting.

Scholarship update

Ximena briefed the members that the application was released online and that the area has been expanded to the eight-county area. She explained that we have added requirements to ensure that the students are enrolled.

Joey suggested that we have a date set for extending the deadline. Evaluate on April 21. Tessa suggested checking on May 1.

Fiesta Medals

Joey briefed the members that our medal is at the store for \$10 or \$8 for members to buy. Members will get a free medal for renewing their memberships. We have 150 at the Fiesta store and will take 150 at Pin Pandemonium. We bought 700 medals at \$1.95 each. We will allocate some medals for gal sponsors. We will sell last year's medal for \$5. We will give away last year's medal at the gala.

Sergio said that Pin Pandemonium is Thursday, April 20. Angelica needs to pay the Pin Pandemonium fee of \$35 by March 31.

Debate

We have a date for a mayoral debate at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, April 6. The event is being spearheaded by the TAMUSA Student Government Association.

Joey will talk to Gary to assess the actual status. The membership took no action beyond that.

Website

Sergio announced that we have a new website. Sergio said he needs to form a website committee. He would like a person to run the job bank. Margaret said she would handle that. We discussed creating a Snapchat geofilter for the gala and Pin Pandemonium. Nikiza said she will look into that.

Member Announcements

Elaine mentioned a workshop for journalists covering law enforcement. The workshop is in Austin, co-sponsored by University of Texas at Austin. On April 14-15. They will cover hotel costs and mileage.

Sergio announced a free workshop for nonprofits to communicate with media on Tuesday, March 28, 9-11:30 am at the Whitley Theological Center.

Joey announced that TPR's pledge drive is April 7-14.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:39 pm.
