



General Membership April Meeting – 2017

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

## Aguillon & Associates

Host: Melissa Aguillon

### **Attendees**

Frances Henderson, Denise Blaz, Aldo Garza, Teno Villarreal, Adriann Corazzini, Steve Walker, James Benavides, Brianna Dimas, Melanie Mendez-Gonzales, Sergio Chapa, Nikiza Goga, Marisa Garza-Kitchen, Ximena Alvarez, Esther Foster, Melissa Aguillon, Angelica Garza, Diana (Didi) Fuentes, Elaine Ayala, Silvia Foster-Frau, Angela Downey, Tony Quesada and Joey Palacios

The meeting called to order at 7:30 a.m.

### **Welcome**

Melissa Aguillon welcomed the members and talked about her public relations and public affairs firm. Melissa introduced her staff. She talked about her and her husband's involvement in Fiesta.

### **Introductions**

Members introduced themselves.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the March 25, 2017, general membership meeting and the April 11, 2017, board meeting were presented for approval. Didi first, Angelica second. Minutes approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tessa Benavides was unable to attend, so President Joey Palacios presented the treasurer's report in her stead.

The balances of the accounts were as follows:

- Operations Account: \$5,977.56 (with a difference from the balance sheet of \$75 due to that day's deposit of membership checks).
- Foundation Account: \$131,355.06

The following expenses were noted:

- \$7,000 to the SAAHJ's CPA
- \$2,000 for Fiesta medals
- \$126 for meeting expenses

The following recent operating budget revenues were noted:

- About \$755 from membership dues
- Money deposited the recent book sale at the Express-News

There were about \$26,000 in receivables outstanding from last year's gala

There was a \$300 check that was never cashed by one of the entertainers from last year's gala.

## **Gala Update**

Elaine reported that CNN Senior White House Correspondent Jim Acosta agreed to accept the SAAHJ's Corazon de Oro award and that he is not charging an honorarium. The SAAHJ will pay for his hotel, ticket and car service. He will also deliver a short keynote.

Joey said the exact plans for Jim Acosta's itinerary for the event have not been set.

## **Membership Update**

Tony reported that more than 15 new members have signed up since the last meeting. Tony said that we hoped to do a membership campaign in which people record simple testimonials and email them to Tessa.

## **Fiesta Medals**

Joey discussed the cost of the SAAHJ's medals and that new members and renewing members will receive a medal for free.

Sergio briefed the members on the SAAHJ's plans to sell medals during Pin Pandemonium at Hemisfair. Nikiza said that she had set up a Snapchat geofilter.

## **Gala Update (continued)**

Elaine continued her report on the Gala. She started with the basics. The event is Saturday, July 15 at 6:30pm at the Grand Hyatt. There will be three honorees: John Gonzales, Henry Guerra Lifetime Achievement Awards; RAICES, the refugee project, Community Service Awards; and Jim Acosta, Corazon de Oro Award.

The invocation will be given by Imam Petullah Colak, director of the Islamic Institute of San Antonio. He is originally from Turkey. He does a lot of interfaith work.

Tables will run from \$1,500 to \$10,000.

Tickets are \$150 or \$100 for members (includes membership dues for the following year)

Phone Bank Dates: 11:30 am May 10 at Summer Moon Coffee House at Highway 281 and Mulberry. Joey said it takes about 30 or 40 minutes to make about 10 calls.

Angela said help is also needed on various committees: Media Committee, Scholarship Committee, Ad Sales Committee, Swag Bag Committee. Melanie is helping with the raffle, so we're looking for items to be donated. Joey gave a shout out to Whataburger for being one of the first to contribute to the Swag Bag

Joey mentioned the sponsors so far. At the silver level, which is \$2,500, we have University Health System, Kathy Hill and AARP. At the bronze level, which is \$1,500, we have Alamo Colleges and Whataburger.

Elaine said that all public information must be cleared through CNN.

Joey said that Jorge Ramos from Univision will be sending a video.

Other phone banks: 11 am June 15 at Summer Moon and 8:30 am May 31 at Summer Moon.

## **Scholarship Update**

Joey said that scholarship announcements have gone out. The deadline is May 5; it can be extended to May 12. The initial judging was set for May 13, but that will be moved if the deadline is extended.

Ximena said the initial video recording is set for June 9. She also mentioned that this is the first year that the scholarships have been extended to the eight-county MSA.

Joey said that the scholarship application can be downloaded from our website at [sahispanicjournalists.com/scholarships](http://sahispanicjournalists.com/scholarships). He asked everyone to distribute it to everyone that they know.

Sergio said the organizer of the Bexar County High School Film Festival agreed to send it to all the teachers — about 25 schools.

Joey said anyone from the San Antonio area or attending school in the San Antonio area qualifies. Undergraduate and graduate students are also eligible.

Ximena said we need eight judges. Judges are needed in different categories.

### **Website Update**

Sergio has overhauled our website.

Sergio said Margaret Garcia will be updating the job bank and that the website will be updated more often. Volunteers are needed. Wordpress experience is a plus, he said.

### **Board Elections**

Joey announced that at the May general meeting, the SAAHJ will start calling for board election. The elections will be in June. There are seven positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, At Large – Print, At Large – Broadcast, and At Large – Communications. There are three positions that will be open for certain: Treasurer (Tessa is stepping down), At Large – Broadcast (Ximena has been in the position for two years) and the vice president position will be vacant. Joey will most likely be running for president for a full term.

### **Member Announcements**

Ximena said she has received plenty of requests to be scholarship judges.

Adriann gave a shout out to Planet Sub, which provided food for the meeting.

Esther Foster mentioned medal sales for her bakery, with all the proceeds going to Animal Rescue.

Didi mentioned the Express-News fiesta medal contest. Elaine said that the Express-News will have a medal auction and sale from 10 am to 3 pm on April 20.

A drawing was held for door prizes. The winners were Sergio, Melanie and Ximena.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:21 pm.

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