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**Santiago Women's Club
Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2024**

Attendance:

Sarah Britton, Ro Farinella, Alice Fecher, Kathy Freeman Herter, Sharon Grant, Sharon Grodzicki , Judy Hottovy, Martha Jones, Ginny Lessard, Liz Liard, Marty Machamer, Marilyn Peery, Jan Smith, Bert Sauls, Judy Tilton, Jane Wiseman , Debbie Wycoff.

The next Board meeting is planned for March 11, 2024 1:00 pm. Judy will send an e-blast advising whether there is a time change.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Issues - There is a current balance of \$1,584.46; no receipts were recorded from January's luncheon as lunch was held at the Orange Blossom Country Club where each member paid for their own meal, expenses charged totaled \$845.36.

Considering charging \$5 for the 50/50 to raise funds for entertainment; selling tickets at the tables did increase the number of tickets sold.

Membership Fees – Yearly fee of \$10.00 will be applied to cover the costs of charity contributions, entertainment, operating expenses, door prizes, or table decorations. Yearly fees will apply to all members, which also include participants of both the Santiago Book and Golf clubs as they would be considered as part of the Santiago Women's Club. \$5 membership will be collected at September's luncheon, but can be paid at any time. \$10 membership fee will then be applied next January. Separate records need to be kept for \$10 membership fees from \$20 luncheon payments. \$7 is the price for a new name tag.

Membership directory has been tabled until next month but it has been decided non-members will not continue to receive e-blasts. Between Sharon Grant and Judy Hottovy maintaining records for people paying member fees and tracking people that open e-mail blasts would enable Sharon and Judy to bring the club's directory up to date.

Golf: **Green** tees will play on March 16th
Gold tees will play on March 23rd.
Green tees will play on April 20th
Gold tees will play on April 27rd

Marty will be speaking with Pat Screamton with regard to future golf dates.

Book Fair Ro advises Rohan Rec Center specifies we can only have Village residents coming to the fair which would be a disadvantage by not having outside people. Currently we pay the Savannah Center \$75.00 for using their premises. As we agreed to donate funds derived from the book sales to charities, we will not be charged 20% of the proceeds. The question came up whether people who receive paychecks from working at elections should donate these funds to charities after the funds are turned over to the club.

It is expected we will receive 4000 to 5000 books (so far, most books were found to be in good condition) to sell at the book fair. One of the local churches would like any religious books we collect be given to them for their library. Considered using students to help with loading and unloading books but found using them has not been reliable. We currently have a reporter writing news articles for us about our book fair.

Charities In the past, we made contributions on behalf of the Sosa Kids but found Sosa has more than enough donations from several other sources which led to our decision of making donations to other smaller organizations such as the Weirsdale school where we collect for children's needs and help with poverty in that area. Haven House is where women find sanctuary from abusive spouses. Suggestions for charity contributions should be made before the charity committee meets after the book fair.

Boggy Creek is a camp for mostly terminally ill children where each child receives a bear and a blanket. There are about ten camps throughout the country using different names. Jane Wiseman will be travelling to Boggy Creek on the 21st. to stuff and sew bears (usually makes 600 bears). Five people plan to go but need sewers.

Entertainment - At April's luncheon we are scheduled to have a singer perform for us; Hula dancers are scheduled to perform at May 's luncheon. Considered having MaryEllen (MaryEllenComedy.com) but is still up in the air as she wants \$200 for a ½ hour performance. It was suggested we ask people to purchase a ticket to see her perform in a room we have set up for her performance to cover costs and other expenses. Occasionally, we can negotiate a lower price once we inform entertainers our club is a charitable organization. Judy will also be looking for new opportunities for our entertainment.

Newsletter - Currently, \$0.40 is the cost for a two-sided newsletter, which cost should be covered by the treasury. Currently we are allowed to make ½ page mailbox postings at five different mailbox locations to advertise the club. We could also use a person to advertise our club on Facebook. Will plan to place a notification in the newsletter of several chair positions available for organizing day trips, creating a scrap book, photographing club's events, cards of kindness to recognize important events, and gate decorations. Pictures of our activities, including information about Boggy Creek, should be included in our newsletter in addition to recognizing people who have distinguished themselves. Last recognition that appears on the website was back in 2014.

Members - Members should arrive early so they have time to socialize or buy tickets before the meeting starts at 11:30. Entertainment should start after lunch has finished, preferably for 30 minutes. People who want to attend a luncheon as a guest before committing to membership need to pay for the cost of lunch prior to the luncheon. To increase our membership, the attraction should be our lunch and entertainment. To have new members feel comfortable and come back for future luncheons, we should have greeters, encourage people to talk about themselves when they are being introduced, and announce new members in our newsletter.

Misc - Last month's basket was donated but future contributions for raffling need to be reimbursed. Succulent landscapes for raffling will be provided by Sharon G.

Confirmed Savannah Center has a sound system, or can set up a stage for us.

All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

Cold notes

Membership fees will be \$10.00 for everyone, which includes participants of both the book club and gold activities. There are 10 people in the golf club who should pay the \$10 membership fee. If they pay the \$10 membership they should be included as part of the Santiago Club and to continue receiving e-blasts. We get rooms for book club. Everyone must pay \$10 membership to be included in the Santiago Book Club and Golf Club.

Guests are to pay \$20.00 for their lunch.

\$5 to be paid at September's luncheon, then \$10.00 membership charge due in January. \$5 can be added to the \$20.00 cost of luncheon.

All chairpersons are considered part of the board member. All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

\$5 membership can be paid at any time. What does the \$10 membership provide – charity contributions, entertainment, operating expenses, door prizes, table decorations.

Take a poll from members of the club of their thoughts about the \$10 membership fee was discouraged. Agreed - \$10 membership whether you like it or not.

Need physical cash for change at the book fair. Do not need \$400 available at the Book Fair so that people do not need to make a trip to the bank in the event cash runs short. Will be using 8 cashiers, up from 6 cashiers.

Judy H is tracking people that open e-mail blasts to update the club's directory as it is severely out of date. Membership directory has been tabled until next month.

Book Fair Ro advises feedback from Rohan Rec Center about having the Book Fair at their location. Rohan specified we can only have Village residents coming to the fair. However, we need outside people otherwise it will not be successful. Currently we pay the Savannah Center \$75.00 for using their premises. As we agreed to donate funds derived from the book sales to charities, we will not be charged 20% of the proceeds.

Hacienda used to provide dessert. Need to draw people in with food and entertainment. Why people do not like buffet – (it costs more than individual servings).

Do we need to donate funds we receive from the polls, people who work at the polls receive paychecks which are donated to the club. Do we need to give to charity?

We should charge \$5 for the 50/50 to raise funds for entertainment. \$120 was made last month. Walking around to tables did increase the amount of tickets sold.

Members should arrive early so they have time to socialize or buy tickets so the meeting may start at 11:30. Entertainment should start after lunch has finished. People find 45 minutes to listen to an entertainer is too long. Confirmed Savannah Center has a sound system, or can set up a stage for us. People who just want to attend a luncheon just to check it out is allowed – they need to pay for the cost of lunch.

Sosa speaker should attend on of our meetings. In the past we would buy sweat pants, shoes, shorts. Cash for kids for Sosa. Sosa gets funds from many other sources – as a result our contributions to them were reduced. Sosa has more than enough donations from several other sources which led to the decision of making donations to other organizations. Our members are very generous to charities that are smaller than Sosa. Weisdale School needs contributions – we collect for children's needs – our treasury organizes projects for the Weirdale school to help with poverty in that area. Haven house – where women find sanctuary from abusive spouses. Charity committee will meet after the book fair at

which time decisions can be made as to how the proceeds are to be distributed. Any suggestions should be made before the charity committee meets.

Expect to get 4000 to 500 books – we are receiving phone calls January was slow but it has picked up in February. We are receiving good quality books – church is starting a library and would like any religious books we collect. Considered using students to help with loading and unloading books but found using students for this purpose has not been reliable even though students receive credits for volunteering at the book fair.

Carol Day made scrap books for the club

Boggy Creek is a camp for mostly terminally ill children where each child receives a bear and a blanket. There are about ten camps throughout the country using different names. We need to make people aware of the Boggy Creek activities in our newsletter. Jane Wiseman usually has 600 bears stuffed and sewn up and will continue work on the bears until the end of March. Jane Wiseman will be travelling to Boggy Creek on the 21st. to stuff and sew bears. Five people plan to go but need sewers for the bears.

Sharon Grant re membership drive has to keep records for people paying \$10 membership fee . Names will be given to Judy H who will send e-blasts every month. Encourage people to talk about themselves when they are being introduced. Want to make people want to come back for future luncheons. Separate \$10 from \$20 cost of luncheons. \$7 is for new name tag. Need a FB person can advertise our Club. We had greeters who helped new members feel comfortable . We should welcome new members in our newsletter

Judy Looked at all entertainment for possible selections and then be able to add new opportunities.

Debbie to help with entertainment. Debbie posts on FB looking for entertainment. Very few people would do it for \$100. Will have Hula dancers for May 's luncheon. Need to send \$50 deposit. April – we have a singer who will perform for April's luncheon – also requires a \$50 deposit. Considering Having MaryEllen (MaryEllenComedy.com) is still up in the air as she wants \$200 Performance is for only ½ hour which makes the price excessive. Occasionally we can negotiate a lower price once we inform the entertainers the club is a charitable organization. It was suggested we ask people to purchase a ticket to see her perform in a room we have set up for her performance to cover the cost and use funds for expenses/other purposes.

The newsletter was three pages long due to it not being published for several years but next issue should be a shorter version. Currently, \$0.40 is the cost for a two-sided newsletter, which should be covered by the treasury. We are now allowed to make ½ page mailbox postings to advertise the club at five different mailbox locations.

*5675# is code for storage unit.

Last month's basket that was donated needs to be reimbursed in the future. Succulent landscapes will be donated by Sharon G.

We had 58 people at the last luncheon.

Judy H wants pictures of our activities for our newsletter We use mail chimp for sending out e-blasts. We are restricted in the amount

of e-mails that can be sent but we do not pay for using the system.

Publicity – person reporter – news articles written about us. Sent her a details for the book fair. Matty Cutler – takes care of charity events at the paper.

Chair openings – will put into newsletter that there are several positions available for someone to organize day trips, scrap book, photographer for club's events, cards of kindness to recognize an important event, gate decorations (previous gate decorations were lost & never recovered. Appears rules were changed) and someone to provide content for club's newsletter. We should update the recognition page on the website to acknowledge people who have distinguished themselves. The last time honors were given to members was during 2014.