

# First Junior Woman's Club General Meeting Minutes March 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am.

**Meredith Lamberton** welcomed FJWC members and **Jorge Quinones**, director of the Outreach Community Center.

The Community Center meeting room was improved by a fresh coat of paint and the old carpet was removed. Jorge Quinones wanted to remind everyone of the Community Center's big fundraiser, *Casino Night*, coming up at Lakeside Country Club. The cost is \$99 per person. Jorge also wanted to let our members know that Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets weekly at the Community Center and is changing lives for the better.

## 1st VP Programs – Karen Alexander

Karen introduced via Skype our guest speaker, **Holly Bull**, of the Center for Interim Programs. This company is the oldest Gap Year Consultant Business. Gap time is typically the year before students go off to college. Usually the gap year goes toward things that the student is excited about. A benefit of taking a gap year is maturity and personal growth. In addition, taking a gap year makes the student much more financially aware of real-life expenses.

Everything a student does in the gap year goes on a resume. Another benefit of gap time is it gives the student a chance to rest. Taking a gap year gives a student more clarity on what they do or do not want to do with their life. After a gap year, students usually perform at higher levels and maintain a high GPA. One study out of Colorado indicated that gap-year students are more efficient and won't spend as much time in college (will graduate on time).

Who takes a gap year? Anyone interested in exploring. No experience is necessary. Do not force a gap year on anyone and do your research on the best gap-year programs. One important note: The student needs to first apply to a college, and then when accepted, needs to ask for a deferral so he/she can take a gap year.

There are different types of gap-year programs:

1. Group programs with 10-12 peers
2. Short skill-based programs
3. Urban internship – job placement
4. Work local as part of your gap year

In gap programs, you can come home for the holidays. Do colleges allow gap years to be taken after you start college? Yes, it would be classified as a leave of absence. How do you know where to send your kid? Attend a gap-year fair. Be sure to talk to a number of program directors so you are well-informed.

American Gap Association is a great resource. Gap-year counselors save you time and money. A gap year will give the student enrichment of experience and perspective. It will teach the student how to create the life they want and give them time to explore and get clarity. Cost? Airfare and travel are the main expenses. It depends on the program you choose. Costs can go up or down depending on the type of program.

## President – Meredith Lamberton

Debbie Green announced the Executive Board slate for 2017-18:

**President** – Meredith Lamberton

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs** – Francine Todes

**2<sup>nd</sup> VPs Ways and Means** – Karen Alexander, Melinda Hickey, and Terri Stroube

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Membership** – Rhonda King and Christy Johnson

**4<sup>th</sup> VP Philanthropy** – Diane Fishman

**Treasurer** – Kenze Beyer

**Recording Secretary** – Tamma Howell

**Technology Secretary** – Mindy Stephenson

**Parliamentarian** – Kim Wood

The membership will vote on the new Executive Board at the April General Meeting.

## Parliamentarian – Missy Shelton

Missy thanked the Steering Committee of **Meredith Lamberton, Mary Kerr, Kim Wood, Anne Hachtman, and Robin Howell** for all of their hard work on revising the FJWC Bylaws. The major changes to the Bylaws were:

- Created Jr. Work Crew to be in sync with the Jr. Juniores (JJs)
- Created an Interim Membership category
- Added Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack as a new FJWC charity
- Added information regarding earning service hours for making monetary donations
- Added information regarding imposing a fine of \$25 per delinquent service hour when members do not meet the minimum service hour requirements
- Reconfigured the Standing Committees

Missy asked all members to please review the proposed revised Bylaw changes and to send any concerns to Meredith or her. Active member **Joci Moss** will help review/edit the Bylaws to make sure that they are technically correct and easy to understand. Membership will vote on the approval of the revised Bylaws at the April General Meeting.

## 2nd VPs Ways and Means – Nancy Cofran and Rhonda King

Nancy and Rhonda thanked all the auction committee Chairs and volunteers. The auction brought in \$38,397 and *Paddles Up* for scholarships brought in \$7,525. We will be splitting \$36,000 among our charities this year. We had one centerpiece left from the auction, and Joci Moss won it in a contest.

## **Treasurer - Allison Moak**

FJWC current cash on-hand for is \$79,660.

## **Recording Secretary – Debbie Green**

The minutes from the November General Meeting were presented for approval. Nancy Cofran made the motion to accept the minutes as written, and the motion passed. The minutes from the January General Meeting were presented, and Robin Howell made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed.

## **4th VP Philanthropy – Diane Fishman**

Liaisons made the following reports:

**Ronald McDonald House** – Cindy McGinty. The ice cream social is March 26<sup>th</sup>. Need cash donations.

**CanCare** – Debbie Green. There is a Provisional group meeting on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

**JDRF** – Cindy Stein. There will be a tour for Provisionals at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation office on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am - 4 pm. The JDRF Gala is May 13<sup>th</sup>. This year, gift card donations will be taken until April 13<sup>th</sup>. You will receive service hour credits for every \$25 gift card you donate. They will also need help at the Gala itself.

## **JJ Liaisons – Joci Moss and Kaci Guy**

Check our website for JJ information.

## **Work Crew Liaison – Robin Howell**

Trash Bash at Terry Hershey Park is on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed for the Junior Class Garage Sale and the Big Day, which is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Waivers for the Big Day are in the main office at Stratford. Family Point Resources still needs help after school with homework and play time. The Work Crew Officer Application will be sent out shortly. Senior Celebration is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at The Well from 3-4:30 pm. Information was sent out to seniors regarding collecting pictures and information for the Senior Celebration. The FJWC Scholarship application is up on our website. Work Crew service hours need to be logged in by the end of April.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Green, Recording Secretary