2021-22 General Meeting Minutes

*First Junior Woman’s Club*

***Outreach Center of West Houston***

***March 1, 2022 / 8:30 AM***

2021-22 Executive Board

Darcy Martin Gagnon, President | Debbie Green, 1st VP Programs | Laura Stevenson, Wendy Covington, Jennifer Hall, & Sharidan Lippold, 2nd VPs Ways & Means | Kathy Douglass, 3rd VP Membership | Summer Burke, 4th VP Philanthropy | Shelley Hatcher, Treasurer | Amy Hines, Recording Secretary | Joci Moss, Technology Secretary | Tamma Howell, Parliamentarian | Christy Johnson, Sustainer Liaison | Kaci Guy, Juniorette Liaison | Cathy Blundell, Work Crew Liaison

**President: Darcy Gagnon** called the meeting to order at 8:37 am.

* Darcy thanked everyone for coming to the last meeting of the year and informed the members present that Dana Weatherly/FJWC was named Volunteer of the Year by Blessings in a Backpack.
* Jorge Quiñones, the Director of The Outreach Center of West Houston, spoke about the following:
	+ The Outreach Center of West Houston is in the process of applying for a grant from the Junior League of Houston that would provide the funds for them to double the size of the building.
	+ There is a food give-away every 3rd Saturday of each month at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church. Last Saturday, they gave away enough food to feed 1500 people. Each family was given two 8-pound hams, chicken, and other substantial food items.
	+ There will be a Casino Night fundraiser on Thursday, March 31st at Houston Racquet Club benefitting The Outreach Center of West Houston. Please try to attend if you are available that night.

**Approval of the General Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2022: Joci Moss for Amy Hines**

* Joci asked for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion to approve from Tamma Howell. The motion was seconded by Dana Weatherly.

**Juniorettes/Work Crew: Kaci Guy (Cathy Blundell was not in attendance)**

* The Valentine’s Day party at Family Point on February 11th was fabulous with great volunteers. The FPR kids had a great time. Thank you!
* On Saturday, March 5th, our annual FJWC Trash Bash will take place at 9 am. Everyone (adults and students) should meet up at the Torchbearer’s Entrance (all the way south on Yorkchester where it dead-ends into the bayou.) Bring gloves and wear close-toed shoes/clothes you don’t care about. There is no sign-up, just come. Plan on spending about 2 hours cleaning up trash.
* On Sunday, March 6th, the Juniorettes will have a meeting at The Refuge at 3 pm. They will stuff Easter eggs for BCE’s kindergarten classes and discuss the Juniorette Officer positions for those applying to be on the Board next year. Officer applications will be online this year and will be due by April 15th at 5 pm.
* Work Crew Officer applications are also online this year and are also due by April 15th at 5 pm.
* There will be a carwash fundraiser to earn money for BCE’s playground equipment on Saturday, March 26th from 8 am – 1 pm at Stratford.
* The Spring Celebration, a party for all with seniors being recognized, will take place on Sunday, May 1st. FJWC Scholarship winners will be announced at this event. Venue and time are TBD.

**2022 FJWC Senior Scholarships: Amy Miller, Special Projects/Scholarship Committee Chair**

* The FJWC Scholarship for senior FJWC members opened on March 1st at 8:30 am and will close on Tuesday, April 12th at 5 pm. The scholarship is online for the first time this year. No late applications will be accepted. There will be no exceptions.
* Seniors applying for the scholarship must have completed the minimum 12 hours of service for the year to be considered. The question was raised if it was OK to log hours after the application is submitted as long as the minimum 12 hours are logged by April 12th. The answer was no, the applicant’s hours must have been logged at the time the application is submitted (April 12th or earlier).

**Proposed Bylaw Changes: Tamma Howell, Steering Committee Chair**

* Tamma discussed the two major Bylaw changes being proposed:
	+ Getting rid of the Provisional year and having members be active, able to volunteer, and get involved right away. The Provisional year has caused much confusion in recent years and was deemed to be outdated.
	+ Adding a requirement that Professionals attend 3 General Meetings yearly, with some meetings being held in the evenings. The idea is to keep Professionals better-informed and more involved in FJWC business throughout the year.
	+ For a more complete review of all the Bylaw changes, visit <http://fjwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FJWC-Marked-Up-Bylaws-Mar-2022.pdf>. Please vote on these changes by March 31st here: <https://firstjuniors.wufoo.com/forms/q17aet9k0icvzwf/>

**2022-23 Executive Board Nominations: Kerry Moore, Nominating Committee Chair**

Kerry presented the slate of nominees:

* Darcy Martin Gagnon, President
* Debbie Green, 1st VP Programs
* Sharidan Lippold & Wendy Covington, 2nd VPs Ways & Means
* Kathy Douglass, 3rd VP Membership
* Summer Burke, 4th VP Philanthropy
* Shelley Hatcher, Treasurer
* Amy Hines, Recording Secretary
* Kirstin Lomonte, Technology Secretary
* Melinda Hickey, Sustainer Liaison
* Tamma Howell, Parliamentarian
* Juniorette and Work Crew Liaisons are the moms of the student Presidents, TBD

There will be a survey monkey in late March to vote in these nominees. Be on the lookout for this survey in email, on the website, and on Facebook.

**Membership: Darcy Martin Gagnon for Kathy Douglass**

* Darcy reminded members and Provisionals to keep logging their volunteer hours/visits, as the hours deadline (April 30th) is quickly approaching.
* Any questions regarding membership should be directed to Kathy.
* The Spring Luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 12th at the Junior League. When the invite goes out, please make sure you will be there if you RSVP yes. Please update the RSVP if your plans change or find a replacement to attend. We want to avoid losing money that could benefit our charities due to no-shows.

**Auction: Laura Stevenson**

* The Auction will take place Thursday, April 7th from 6:30 – 8 pm at Nottingham Forest Club.
* The dues you paid at the beginning of the year allow you to bring 2 guests. Please consider inviting friends who you think would like to join FJWC and/or enjoy shopping and spending money for a good cause.
* Sustainers are welcome to attend the Auction.
* Food and drinks are provided.
* There will be new games and raffles this year, such as a chance to win a free membership for next year. It will be lots of fun!
* Examples of items that will be auctioned include parties, diamonds, purses, and spa days. Please contact Laura if you have anything you are willing to donate (a weekend get-away, free services, etc.)
* Previews highlighting some of our Auction items will be coming out over the next month, so take note.
* The Auction Committee assignments are still in progress. If you did not get assigned to a committee and/or did not receive a SignUp Genius email from Sharidan Lippold, please contact her to let her know.

**Treasurer: Shelley Hatcher**

* Shelley reported that we raised $1900 toward BCE’s playground equipment fund. Thank you for all your donations!

**Philanthropy: Summer Burke**

* Summer reported that Jenny Koithan, SBISD Sister School Liaison, received a heart-felt thank you letter from BCE’s principal for the 27 Thanksgiving bags the Work Crew Board assembled for BCE. We are making a difference!
* The winning member who was drawn for logging all required hours for the year was Amy Miller. She won a small bottle of chardonnay.
* Thank you to all the Houston Symphony volunteers. The student concerts went well.

**Programming: Debbie Green**

* Debbie introduced our guest speaker, Darcie Champagne Wells, who gave an informative presentation about how CanCare is making a difference in the lives of those who have cancer. If you know anyone struggling with a cancer diagnosis, please let CanCare help.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.