

VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB

Board Meeting minutes
November 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Michele Mosher at approximately 6:30 pm.

In attendance: Sheila Delany, Sanda Spiegel, Mary Hammer, Dusty Gipson, Vince Waskell, Hilary Stanley, Donna Ziel, Beth Benjamin, Nancy Macy, Michele Mosher.

Guests: Ann Lopez, PhD, Roberta McPherson, Susan Heinlein

Ann Lopez introduced herself and distributed material about her organization and her recent book, Farmworker Families. She explained the work of her organization in Southern California as well as in Mexico. She distributed photos of farm workers in West Central Mexico. She then cited several instances of discrimination experienced by friends and a family member in Santa Cruz County.

Dr. Lopez discussed evidence that her research has produced which dispels myths about how much farmworkers contribute to society vs. how much they receive in social services (they contribute more than they use). The evidence is that less than one-half of poor people access services for which they may be eligible. Farmworkers get sicker the longer they work in the fields because the work exposes them to dangerous materials and they normally have poor diets.

Dr. Lopez spoke about how she believes No Child Left Behind as implemented in local schools does not serve Latinos well. She cited the high school drop out rate, depression, cigarette smoking and national suicide rates. Dr. Lopez urged us to support the creation of broader awareness about all of these problems. She proposed the developing dual organizations (in U.S. and in Mexico) to address some of the issues faced by farmworkers.

Roberta McPherson spoke about the work of the SLVUSD Equity Committee. She will contact Ann Lopez to discuss a possible partnership with her organization. It was moved and seconded to purchase enough of Dr. Lopez' books to place one in each of the SLV and Scotts Valley libraries. The motion passed unanimously. Dusty will check with the libraries to determine which ones already have a copy of the book.

Mayan Sale. Roberta reported that items for the sale are here and that the prices have gone up. She distributed a sign-up sheet for people to work the day of the sale.

Redwood Mountain Faire reprise. Nancy M. and Vince reported on their meeting with a representative of Roaring Camp. Roaring Camp is very enthusiastic about holding such an event and would like it to be in early summer (6/6/09). Julie Hendriks and Anna Leiby are key leaders of the event. VWC would be in charge of community booths, delegating parking (and other) responsibilities, as well as music. Roaring Camp would provide food and non-alcoholic

beverages. The next meeting with Roaring Camp will include the development of a realistic budget and more details of the event.

Membership Data Manager. Beth reported that Bobbi Faulk has been chosen to be the Membership Data Manager, replacing Shirlee Byrd. Her salary will be \$25.00 per hour. Vince offered to try to get a UCSC site license price for Filemaker Pro. Michele said we need to develop a contract with Bobbi regarding her salary, confidentiality of information, etc. Contact person on Board will be the President-elect, who will receive information from Bobbi and report to Board. Beth agreed to write the contract and authorize Bobbi to buy Filemaker Pro. It was agreed to disband the Membership Committee and fold its work into the normal activities of existing committees.

Board Positions. Michele reported that we need to identify a new President-elect and a Budget Officer.

CD Scholarship transfer. Sheila reported on the interest rate on a \$25,000 CD. Hilary said that \$1500, or so, could go into a new CE, leaving a balance in the Scholarship Fund of approximately \$1000.

RC report. Nancy M. talked about CPR training for Recycling Centers staff. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the safety report. The forecast for the Recycling budget indicates a significant reduction in income. Jo Kenny is working on a revision of the evaluation instrument for the Recycling Centers Director and employees which includes elements of their respective job descriptions.

Holiday Party. The Board agreed to hold an abbreviated business meeting followed by a pot luck holiday party at Vince's home on Dec. 9 at 5:45 pm.

Hammer Marcum date. Nancy reported that the Senior Center at Highlands Park has been reserved for the Hammer Marcum event for May 3, 2009.

General Membership meeting date. Nancy reported that the Senior Center at Highlands Park has been reserved for the annual General Membership meeting for February 22, 2009.

Board Nominations. The nomination form has been mailed.

Bulb Sale. Beth reported that six bags of daffodils were not initially sold (2 -3 have now been sold). Some amaryllis will be sold at the Mayan Sale. She reported a net profit of \$1000.

CHP Traffic meeting. A meeting has been requested with VWC representatives by Capt. Christine Manriquez of the Highway Patrol to discuss traffic issues in the Valley. Michele, Nancy M., Donna and Mary volunteered to participate. Issues identified are: congestion at the intersection of SLE and Highway 9, hairpin turn on Highway 9 after California Drive needs new gravel.

Halloween in BC. Nancy M. reported that Hilary did a great job of recruiting 15 people to

help. There were fewer people this year and traffic was better. The CHP left at 6:30 pm. at Beth's station. The BC Business Association covered the cost of overtime for CHP officers.

Hilary stated that if the CHP is not present to ensure safety, we (VWC) should not be involved.

Tableware. Hilary reported that she has ordered additional plates and silverware and has paid Ledyard.

Women's Issues. Sheila asked that the VWC President send a letter to the legislature to pass. Sheila offered to write the letter

Education Committee. Donna reported that the Education Committee met with SLVUSD Superintendent Julie Haff to ask her support for our initiative to provide help to SLV schools.

She gave us some ideas and recommended that we meet with the Principals of the High School and the Middle School to hear directly from them as to their needs. Donna will arrange those meeting. It was moved (Donna) and seconded (Sanda) to approve, in concept, the application to the Mihalik Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County to support the second annual Ready for School Program. Dusty will forward the thank-you notes she has received from teachers to Susan and Drew Mihalik.

Environment Committee grant application. The Board discussed Nancy M.'s idea about applying for a grant to fund a research project on affordable housing in the Valley. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ziel, Corresponding Secretary