



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE CHAPTER
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN
IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Meeting: November 12, 2015 (Monthly Meeting)
Time: 5:30PM
Location: Pecan Campus, Building F, Room 102

In attendance: Alejandra Arredondo, Alicia Gomez, Claudia Mercado, Cynthia A. Blanco, Estela Cantu, Irene Zavala, Irma Sierra, Karina Cantu, Lee Grimes, Marcela Gonzalez, Mary Gonzalez, Maria Elena King, Merari Vasquez, Monica Perez, and Norma Jimenez.

Official meeting called to order at 5:36pm.

Welcome and Overview

Alicia welcomed all members and thanked everyone for attending. Alicia informed the group that for this particular meeting, we would be using Blackboard Collaborate, so that members who cannot physically attend the meeting could stream the meeting using this tool.

Professional Development

Alicia informed the members that Professional Development is critical and due to lack of funds, our group needs to be more creative. She has reached out to Lee Grimes, who was willing to provide ideas.

Strengths Finder

Lee suggested that the members start off with the training for Strengths Finder (book), so that the members can build confidence and know each other's strengths and improve weaknesses so that we can work on our own strengths before we help others. She also explained that once the opportunities for improvement are identified other supporting trainings on more specific trainings may follow. Lee will consult with Dr. Petrosian, Interim Vice for Academic Affairs, to ensure that OPOD can purchase the books necessary to conduct the assessment. Although she didn't see any issues since most AAWCC members are South Texas College employees.

This is a **3-hour training** and will require special permission from supervisors to attend ~~this training~~ on the morning of **December 14th from 8am to 11am**. An e-mail will be sent with sufficient time to make special arrangements in the office, if necessary. Due to time constraints, it may be beneficial to the members to take the assessment on their own time. Lee will send out an e-mail with instructions to take the assessment. If necessary, the Office of Professional and Organizational Development will be available for those who need to take the 30-minute assessment and may not have a computer at home. Once the assessment has been taken, members will e-mail Lee the results, so that this is ready for the December 14th training.

Estela Cantu wanted to know if AAWCC student members were able to take the assessment and how they would obtain the books. This is something that Alicia and Lee will look into. Lee explained the cost of the book is affordable and Alicia volunteered to pay for those two books from her pocket.

Other opportunities for professional development for AAWCC members include connections with professionals in the community.

Food Educator

Alejandra Arredondo stated that she spoke with Leby Salinas who was willing to do a session free of charge. Mrs. Salinas is a professional Food Educator who presents on reflections from her troubles with health issues from past to present and educates people of healthy habits. She also has a connection with a Life Coach who may be able to provide another session free of charge. Alejandra and Alicia will follow up with these individuals.

AAWCC Items

Alicia mentioned that an order of new pins and scarves will be placed and will try to issue those out to new members at the next meeting. Alicia informed the members that they have the option to order t-shirts/ polos (recommended), so that this can be worn during events and fundraisers. These are approximately \$22.00 per shirt.

Monica Perez informed the members of the Graduation Sash that can be worn during Graduation. She has followed-up with Tony at The PR Store Chicago to inquire about sashes. As per the vendor, if the order can be placed the following day, November 13th, then these sashes will be ready for the December graduation. Monica will collect the names of those individuals interested and will request separate invoices for each member. Individuals who are interested in sashes are: Alicia Gomez, Claudia Mercado, Marcela Gonzalez, Esmeralda Adame, Norma Jimenez, and Cindy Blanco.

Fundraising Activities and Community Service

Alicia informed the members of 3 upcoming events that we should attend/participate in: Turkey Trot, Holiday Bazaar, and Parent-to-College event.

Turkey Trot

Monica Alaniz spoke with Brenda Ayala, who stated that the Kinesiology department will be hosting the 10th Annual Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 21st. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, handling canned foods, and t-shirt and water distribution. Any member who is willing to volunteer can sign their name on the Volunteer Sign-Up sheet.

Holiday Bazaar

This year's Bazaar will be held on Thursday, December 3rd. Alicia informed the members that we will sell crafts, arts, and jewelry. Estela Cantu mentioned that Karina Cantu's family owns a family store, allowing them access to various items that we can purchase to create various items for sale. Norma Jimenez mentioned to the members that we need people to commit to creating the various items to sell. Cindy Blanco mentioned to setup a Pinterest board, so that we can all share ideas. Alicia thought it would be a good idea to get together to come up with ideas and perhaps work on putting some of the items together that may be a little time consuming for one member to do by themselves.

Members asked if we were going to advertise the Bazaar. It was suggested to create flyers and post them on bathroom stalls and on the big screens located in various buildings where there's high student traffic.

The deadline for craft ideas is Thursday, November 19th by 5pm. On Friday, November 20th, Monica will e-mail all ideas submitted to members. The bazaar will take place in Building H, first floor, atrium.

Parent-to-College Event

The Parent-to-College event will take place on December 16th at the Cooper Center beginning at 8:00am. McAllen ISD reached out to STC, so that we could work closely in bringing in parents (primarily female, total of 60) to STC and showcase the various opportunities that are available. These sessions will be held in Spanish. Alicia asked if Cindy Blanco could talk to Larry to for assistance. Alicia will speak with Lori Treviño from Continuing Education to request their assistance as well.

Aside from the above mentioned, Alicia presented the idea of having a Pancake Breakfast inviting family and friends in which, the AAWCC members will serve pancakes. Mary Elizondo will check with Eli Nguma on policy.

Webpage

Alicia informed the members that Alex Kolahdouz will be assisting the chapter in creating a webpage that features the registration form, calendar of events, and community service events/opportunities. This is still in the production stage and hopes to showcase the webpage at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

The professional development training scheduled for December 14th will take the place of next monthly meeting. Training location to be Determined.