

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF
LEA COUNTY WOMEN'S NETWORK
May 20, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Lea County Women's Network was held on Thursday evening, May 20th at 6:30 pm, at the Black Gold Steak House at Zia Race Track.

Meeting was called to order by President, Cortney Whitley at 6:40 pm. Everyone was asked to turn off their cell phones.

Prayer was led by Sharon Clark and the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Cortney Whitley. Everyone was asked to sign the Sign-In sheet at their table.

The speakers were introduced by Mary Jane Ward: Paula Smith and Debra Hicks with MyPower a new non-profit organization in Hobbs hoping to reduce teen pregnancy, in part by empowering young women to make good decisions and look to the future. Paula showed a power point highlighting the facts. Lea County is #1 in NM and in the country related to teen births. The problem of teen pregnancy has improved in other areas of the state but not in Lea County. Lea County teens have double the rate of STDs of the rest of the state. This is an epidemic that is often unrecognized. The Maddox Foundation is funding a summer camp which will start this year. Debra Hicks talked about the recent graduation ceremony of the first group of girls. Parents were asked about their views of whether or not the program has helped their child. Parent comments were very positive regarding attitude, grades, and behaviors. There are plans to continue contact with these girls throughout their future years in school. Debra also talked about the 3-day, nonresidential, Quantum Learning camp this summer. August 9, 10, and 11 are the dates. The camp will cover 50% life skills and 50% academic skills.

The minutes of the previous month's meeting (April 16) were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Sharon Clark and seconded by Charlotte Clark. Motion carried.

Guests included: Dana Starr, Misty Doshier, Gretchen ~~Cotter~~ ^{Koethee}, D'Linda Jett, Marci Sosa, Irma Sharman, Olga Randolph, Angie Still, Leslie Blake, and Erica Betsch.

Officer Updates:

- President: Cortney Whitley reminded everyone to please respond to the email invite to accept or decline. Declining is just as important as accepting, she said.
- 1st VP (Membership/Banquet): Dee Dutton had no report.
- 2nd VP (Speakers/Programs) Mary Jane Ward announced the professional development meeting to be held in September on finances. She distributed a form on which each person is to rank order the specific topics for the professional development meeting.
- 3rd VP (Public Relations): Sheryl Reid announced that "networking is part of our name" and so she set up a networking table for members to place brochures, surveys, and other information.

- Website Coordinator: Lynda Lakin was absent, but Cortney reported that there are "gremlins in the system" that are being addressed. But everyone is encouraged to send items to Lynda for the newsletter, regardless of what it is.
- Student Mentor Director: Louise Hudson had no report.
- Scholarship Director: Corinne DiBlasi was absent but Cortney reminded everyone the scholarship deadline is June 1. At the present time, there are more scholarships to give than recipients.
- Electronic Communications: Charlotte Smith had no support.

Committee Chair Updates:

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- Finance: ~~Carol Crossland no report.~~
 - Guest Relations: Shirley Steinfath no report.
 - Health & Wellness: Louise Hudson had no report.
 - Fundraising: Mikal Fonseca was absent, but Cortney reported on the fundraising. 86 people attended. The goal of making \$5,000 to fund scholarships was exceeded by \$2,000. (Last year \$2500 was made.)
 - By-Laws: Sharon Clark had no report.
 - Professional Development: Luanne North was absent, but Mary Jane announced that Luanne is playing softball tonight for relay for life.

Jan announced her goal of helping women in domestic violence situations since her daughter was killed in such a situation. She announced a play about domestic violence on October 28 and 29 at the University of the Southwest. The players are coming from Arizona and the performance will run about \$6,500. Anyone willing to help sponsor is encouraged to help with a tax deductible contribution.

Old or New Business and Announcements:

- The next meeting will be the third Friday in June (June 18) at the regular time and place.

Door Prize Drawing:

Charlotte Smith won the door prize.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Signature on file

Cortney Whitley, President

Marianne Westbrook, Secretary