



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: November 13, 2012

Attendees:

Jose Valenciano
Esther Deleon
Beatrice Perez
Kenny Ketner

Jackie Salazar
Cristina McElwee
Peggy Espinoza (CASA)

Meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm.

- I. **Guest Speaker:** Ms. Peggy Espinoza of CASA was introduced. Peggy stated that CASA was a group of court appointed advocates assisting children in foster care. These children have already been removed from the home and volunteers to help these children are in great need. Volunteers go through an extensive prescreening, have references interviewed and have a 30 hour intensive training (½ in person and ½ online). Part of this training includes speaking to a judge, who gives you very specific expectations and when training is concluded, the volunteer is assigned to a case and a supervisor. A case will include all of the children in the family, not just one child. A supervisor is available to assist you, and has more actual work knowledge than you would have.

CASA was started in 1977 by a Seattle judge who felt children were not being represented as they should be. The program has spread and most of the states have at least one CASA program. CASA has been in Lubbock just over 19 years now. The vision is for every child in foster care to have an advocate. Last year there were 1,200 children in foster care in our area (this includes six counties) and 868 children were served. More than 400 were not assisted due to the lack of volunteers. This is an 18 month commitment and you can partner with someone also. Kids are usually in the system for at least that long, and sometimes longer. This would take anywhere from 10-15 hours per month, maybe 2-3 hours per week.

Out of the children in the foster care system, approximately 42% are Hispanic; however, only 8% of the volunteers are Hispanic. We need to break the cycle.

Peggy distributed CASA information and thanked the group.

- II. **Approval of Old Minutes:** Minutes were approved.

III. **Standard Business:**

- a. **Financial:** The Wells Fargo account has \$1,372.08 and the TTU account has \$2,310.
- b. **Events:** Debbie Rivera was unable to attend, but conveyed her thanks to the group for the nomination of Committee Chair. She will work very hard and has many ideas for the April Seminar. The membership should give any ideas for themes or questions to Esther. Ideas thus far include: Cultural Success and How to Achieve it: From Vision to Reality; World Wide Impressions of Success and its definition; What is Success and how is it measured?; Community Building from Delivery and Cooperation; One Student, One Graduate and the Domino Effect.



Latino/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association

- c. **Marketing:** Beck stated that the posters and flyers were received. Assistance is needed to distribute these across campus and the community. The Las Posadas event was also sent to TechAnnounce to be posted at two different times (once now and once closer to the event). The group thanked Beck for her hard work on this project.
- d. **Recruitment:** Jose stated that the New Employee Orientation went very well. It was attended by approximately 27 employees and every liked the posters. The Business Mercado we well attended also and we got to meet several companies and organizations who were interested in the LHFSa; we had 7-8 people new members. The television station *Telemundo* attended as well and expressed interest in having someone from our group do an interview.
- e. **Website:** The business Mercado pictures will be put on the website. We also need to contact the Lubbock Avalanche Journal about linking to their website.

IV. New Business:

- LHFSa polo shirts will be distributed, free of charge to all paid members.
- HAW meeting will take place tonight from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the Lubbock Women's Club.
- We still need assistance with coloring the Las Posadas posters. Also, everyone is asked to bring food for 10 people and/or drinks.

V. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 (Holiday Party) at the HSC