

Las Candalistas General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023
9:30 Meeting- PV Peninsula Library

Meeting called to order at 9:31 a.m.

Call to Order and Welcome - President(s) Debbie Sampson and Laura Henson-Broussard
Debbie gave a warm welcome and hoped everyone had a great holiday time. Happy New year from herself and Laura. Lots going on this year:

- Two Philanthropies are here to speak about their organization.
- Reminder that Doris Brigham's memorial is this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's by the Sea. Rori and Marge brought it to their attention that Val will be providing flowers for the tables. Raised a toast to Doris at the holiday party for her 50 years of service.
- Huge thank you to our Boutique Leaders, Lisa and Susan and to everybody that contributed to it and spent money.
- So happy to have a team step up at the last minute and organized our Jams and Jellies. Loyal customers were grateful too.
- AR Workshop gathering in December as part of our small fundraisers. Thank you to Lorri for organizing. It was a lot of fun.

Guest Speaker from Toberman - Cathy Caesar, Development Manager

- Toberman was founded in 1903 and is the longest running social services organization. Interesting history in how they got started. Toberman Neighborhood Center was founded on the order of Abraham Lincoln.
- Their Mission - Building vibrant communities while addressing the services of families in LA County, San Pedro, Harbor City, and Harbor Gateway.
- Las Candalistas donates to their food pantry.
- Services provided to the community but aren't limited to:
 - Helps out with special needs and job training.
 - Partners with Haven that helps with tax filing for free which helped put a million dollars back into their pockets.
 - Helps with Immigration status.
 - After school child care
 - Tutoring enrichment program
 - Had a space at their location for a playground and it was vandalized and destroyed. Received a donation to build it.
 - Spring and Summer camps offered at no cost.
 - Assist High Schoolers with FAFSA, resume building, etc.
 - Gang prevention and intervention. Gangs start approaching children at age 10. They have 2 age groups they help, 10-15 and 16-24.
 - Staff provide Safe Passage where they stand out on the streets where the kids walk to and from school to make sure they aren't approached and safe.
 - 715 children and teens received holiday gifts at their annual Breakfast with Santa.
 - 83% of their income goes to program expenses.

- Annual Events:
 - I have a Dream - Children are invited to write an essay on their dream and they try to fulfill that dream.
 - Easter Baskets
 - Spring Donor Appreciation
 - Graduation - K thru College - Offer scholarships
 - Back to School - 300-350 backpacks are handed out
 - Parade of Trees - Volunteers decorate 4 ft trees that are donated and raffled off
 - Breakfast with Santa
- Thrift shop is open on Fridays, 10-12. Staff members trade off volunteering to work. Looking for staffing. Writing a grant to get a full time position to work in the store. Still accepting donations, clothing, small household appliances and items. Don't need furniture at this time. \$5 Fridays!!!
- KCI Computer company is donating 30 computers.

While our next speaker was getting ready, Debbie announced that 3 people have expressed interest in becoming potential members. The question was brought up as to when they can join. We have invited them to attend meetings and other events we have. Susan French attended today's meeting.

Debbie asked Carolyn Pohlner to stand up as she joined in October and was unable to make November's meeting. Carolyn has already thrown herself into our organization by baking lemon bars for the boutique and working at the Sweet Shoppe. Carolyn loves to cook and bake.

Guest Speaker from Momentum (Pediatric Therapy Network) - Tena Yatroussis, Sr. Director of Development

- Provided background on the merger between Momentum and Pediatric Therapy Network. Momentum started 75 years ago when 6 families that had children with cerebral palsy were seeking alternative services instead of being institutionalized so their children could grow and get more empowered with their limitations. In 2021, they merged with PTN to help them grow with Momentum's resources.
- Their purpose is Empowering Potential through Innovation.
- Service 5 counties in California, 6,500 children, adults and families
- Offer independent living services.
- 170+ people living in 22 homes.
- 170+ people participating in county based programming.
- 160+ have homes in 11 different living situations.
- Helps needs at a child's early stage in life, starting from the womb, which gets them ready by preschool. They have a lot of success stories.
- They have a mobile hygiene station that can be booked for special needs attending an event where they can clean up, use the restroom, etc. This is the first vehicle in the country that offers this service.
- Had many accomplishments during the pandemic.

- In 2022, Camp Escapades had 60 campers experience their inclusive sensor camp. They are currently working on this year's event.
- 86 cents for every dollar goes directly into their programs.

Chairman of the Board- Laura Webb

Welcome and Happy New Year!

It's time to put together our Nominating Committee which consists of the BOD's, 2 members at large and 2 current Officers to help put together our 2023-2024 slate of Officers. Committee will be formed in early February.

Will be sending out an email to the Officers asking what their intentions are for next year. If members are interested in becoming an officer, let the BOD know.

Introduced the Board of Directors. Will be electing two new BOD's in March. If you would like to serve on the Board, let Laura know. It's a wonderful experience and a great way to learn about Las Candalistas. The position is open to Active, Associates, Sustainers and non-members.

Recording Secretary - Lorri Mino

The minutes of the November General Meeting were approved.

Spring Event - Lynda Black, Laura Henson-Broussard, Debbie Sampson, Karen Stockbridge and Randi Young

Randi - April 29th is the big event at the Cabrillo Museum. We hope you are all getting excited. We have booked the band, the auctioneer and Chef Dora.

Lynda - Chairing the sponsorship program. We have several different tiers for this event. Need help with getting companies that would be good sponsors and in turn will receive benefits from us. Need a few people to send out emails they have identified as local sponsors. Showed the new donor/sponsorship slide that was sent out in the January Newsletter.

Karen - After talking with a number of members and Officers, our idea of incorporating some of our shops, doesn't exactly fit into our event. Those types of shops require members working which would take them away from dates, families and friends they invited to our event. We ended up nixing this idea. We will be incorporating money raising games from the auctioneer. A new interest finder has been updated and will be passed around.

Looking into Bartenders. Nanci Browning in charge of cashiering. Ambiance will be on a smaller scale as the venue already has ambiance. Showed us an example of a jellyfish with lights that will go on the trees.

Need the following Chairs:

- Organize workshops and bring together crafty people with ideas.

- Check in Manager
- Auction Manager - Coordinate Silent Auction and Live Auction items
- Jellyfish Jam Manager - Make mini jars of jelly as party favor

How can everyone get involved with less chairmanship? We will need your help in the Auction Challenge. Required by our standing rules, all actives are required to chair an event committee and Associates are required to work events, and since this event does not have enough chairmanships or jobs, securing auction prizes will be considered a way to fulfill your event responsibility/requirement. We need unique and creative items for our silent and live auction in the amount of \$100 or higher per member. Sign up for a category, set out to find donations and pull together a package. Work alone or with others. Experiences work great. In order to not have duplicated efforts or the same businesses contacted, Karen will coordinate the challenge. When you have an idea, get with her to make sure nobody else is already doing your idea.

Laura - To help get the word out, we will be sending out Constant Contact and a big push on Social Media. Like us on IG and FB and share our posts. Email Laura with a list of people that we can send emails to and also get their home address. Need their permission.

Adopt a Family - Kathy Black and Cathy Howard

A huge thank you from Debbie to Kathy, Cathy, Carla and everyone else that helped.

We received 5 families from Community's Childs. They only ask that we provide gifts to the children and we were able to give them everything on their list. We even provided the mother's with gift cards in the amount of \$250 and items left over from the boutique. With the remaining money, we once again filled the toy box with toys at SBHC.

Sunshine and Rain - Carla Smith and Susan Udewitz

Carla provided an update on Pat Hoffman. She's getting better and better and getting away from having to use the wheelchair. She's getting healthier in 2023. At this time, she doesn't need anything.

Monika Bauer provided an update on her grandson, Wolfy. He just celebrated his 5th birthday! He still has swelling in his brain. He gets MRI's every 3 months as not all the tumor was able to be removed and they are making sure there is no new growth. The spots that showed up on his spine are not growth which is great news. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

1st Vice Presidents - Philanthropy - Kathy Black and Cathy Howard

Charities scheduled to present at our next general meeting are Cancer Support and Family Promise.

3rd Vice Presidents - Membership- Susan Yamate & Randi Young

We currently have 136 members. Currently talking to 4 potential members, 3 from the website and 1 from the Boutique. Judy Armstrong provided them with a list of names she received as potential members from the Boutique and they will be contacting them.

Treasurer - Judy Armstrong

Provided us with the current budget numbers:

- Event Budget - \$61,363.12
- Members Budget - \$7,038.80
- Property Budget - \$610.37 (we've been buying equipment)

Holiday Boutique - Lisa Nesicolaci and Susan Yamate

Thanks to everyone who helped. Big thank you to Chairs which they didn't have last year. It was bigger and better and a great success. Made a little under \$14,000. Loved the space and parking was better. Were able to double the vendors. They were all happy and thought we were very professional. Lessons learned to apply next year if this continues to be an annual event.

New Business:

President's Updates - Laura Henson Broussard & Debbie Sampson

- The Superstar awards were presented to two teams. The first one going to Lisa Nesicolaci and Susan Yamate for organizing a successful Holiday Boutique. Thank you so much for everything. The second award went to Ann Goodhart, Janie Woodburn, Janie Hasselman and Laura Webb for stepping up this year to make over 500 jars of cranberry jalapeno. We were all so sad that this wasn't going to happen this year and this is what we're known for but they didn't let us down. They also made bean soup, chicken tortilla and scone mixes. Great job ladies.
- Still looking for the mysterious donor of \$250.

Small Fundraisers - Selina Hamilton

Debbie reported for Selina. We have had 3 small fundraisers, Pampered Chef, Bettolino's and AR Workshop. We are looking for more. Set up another restaurant night, Tupperware, Cabi, etc. Let Selina know if you have any idea.

Thrift - Jan Raymond and Donna Ciminera

Happy to hear that Toberman's Thrift shop is open on Fridays. If you brought donations in your cars, they will pick up after the meeting. They were able to fill 125 toiletry bags for the men and 279 bags for the women. Harbor still just wants food. Shawl and House of Hope are collecting thrift. We still need toiletries. Will only be collecting thrift every other month, toiletries every month. If you need to drop something off, drop off at Jan's house but let her know that you are. Toberman used our outreach bags at their Christmas party.

Book Club - Marlyn Franklin

Their January book is Demon Copperhead, a take on David Copperfield. Book Club will be at Marlyn's this month. Contact her if you are interested.

Bunco - Hollidae Brown and Paula Redmond

Bunco will be held on 1/18 at Lisa Nesicolaci's. Twelve players have been selected with 4 on standby.

Ralphs and Amazon - Cheryl Deppe

Karen Stockbridge reported for Cheryl. Ralphs, with only 55 members, has \$400 while Amazon has \$62.43. If you haven't signed up for any of these, please do. It's easy money and all of are shopping!!!

Dinner for 6 - Debbie Sampson

One group already had their dinner. It's not too late to join. Making new groups. Let Debbie know if you are interested. Dinners will be held February/March/April.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lorri Mino, Recording Secretary