

14August 2023 ACofLC Quarterly General Meeting

via Zoom

Present: Dawn Duncan, chair; Nancy Sharp, vice president; Miguel Márquez, treasurer; Cherri Hudson-Brown secretary; Linda Mandel, director. Guests: Carrie Greer; Terra V. Winter, CEO of Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico; Darla Matthew, Jennifer Bonalumi, Geri Wheelis. Absent: Julie Basile director.

Dawn went over our Mission Statement, which is how we begin every general meeting.

Special thanks were given to the following: for their work on educational videos---Dr. Sarah Walley, NMCO Creative Studios, NMSU and Julie Basile (and Dawn); for working at our table at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA) annual convention in Denver: Julie and Candis Stern (and Dawn). For her artistic donations and help with connecting with artists, Carrie Greer.

Educational videos are now on line on with topics of vaccines, spay and neuter, snake bites, obesity in pets, pets accidentally ingesting marijuana, and preventing heartworms. The videos can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@animalcompanions> .

The board held a retreat this spring and completed a **strategic plan**.

AMVA--We promoted Las Cruces and job openings at our veterinary practices. Dawn, Candis and Julie were there for five days. Many contacts were made; one resulted in a free ad in an acupuncture veterinary publication. Our group also learned that the non-compete clause in New Mexico is preventing some from setting up practices here; they can go to Texas instead.

Blue Moon Fundraiser---We need people to sign up for the Cornhole Tournament. The cost is \$80 for a two-person team, and we get 75 percent of the proceeds. If we get 30 teams, we will get 10 percent of the food and drink receipts from the Blue Moon for that time. We need help with people transporting items, watching items and other help. If you volunteer, you'll get a free Animal Companions of Las Cruces t-shirt. Contact Linda, who's in charge of volunteers (lindammandel@gmail.com). We will have "amazing art" and other donations. The values range from \$25 o \$4,200, according to Dawn.

Job Fairs---Dawn will participate via Zoom with the Texas A & M job fair the same day as the Blue Moon fundraiser. Dawn will attend jobs fairs at Iowa State University and the University of Florida-Gainesville. Other board members will go to the job fair at Midwestern University in Arizona.

KRWG---An interview with Emily Guerra and Dawn is posted on Guerra's show online, it's on KRWG, Puentes: <https://www.krwg.org/puentes/2023-08-14/animal-companions-of-las-cruces>

Nov. 3 Charity Golf Scramble Championships and Silent Auction at Picacho Hills Country Club--Mari Rodriquez and Lisa Pawlak are organizing this with proceeds being shared with us and **Cat's Meow**. Dawn

said there will need to be help with the silent auction items. Items that don't sell at The Blue Moon may be offered at the Golf Scramble Silent Auction.

Community Outreach on Social Media (Facebook and Nextdoor) ---Miguel reported that we have 182 members on Nextdoor and have been voted a neighborhood favorite for 2023. We have 720 members on our Facebook group and 177 followers on our Facebook page. We post pet stories, upcoming events, fundraisers and our monthly cleanup at Maag Park (which we're pausing until possibly September because of the weather).

Donations and Financials—We have collected year to date \$118, 896.69 in funds (including \$25,000 from the Carroll Petrie Foundation) with expenses \$17,005.43 and administration fees from CFSNM of \$3,041.65. Nancy pointed out that having 14 percent is low for expenses for a non-profit. Of the net fund balance of \$98,849.6, there is \$40,000 set aside for veterinary student debt relief scholarships.

Special Gathering in September for Supporters and Volunteers---We have tentative plans to honor volunteers and donors while encouraging volunteerism. There may be refreshments and small give aways. Details have yet to be worked out.

Urgent Call to Action---Get friends, family, co-workers to attend the Blue Moon Fundraiser, play Cornhole, donate to our cause and join us and think of ways to help.

New Business/Further Discussion---Animal Advocates for Change will have a work session with the Las Cruces City Council Oct. 10, according to Geri. Dawn said that our city ordinances need updating and AAFC and our goals align because we're trying to prevent pet emergencies. For example, animals that are not spayed and neutered have a much greater chance of being hit by vehicles or wandering away from their owners. Dawn said that Albuquerque has had a mandatory spay and neuter program for 15 years and experienced a drop in animals needing to be euthanized.

Terra said that two referral services are coming out in the county, and she will try to get animal help included in the services data bases so people can find help for their animals.