

8 August 2022 Monthly Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

Members present: Dawn Duncan, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Miguel Marquez, Dara Parker, Nancy Sharp, Carol Bartholomew, Jean Berlowitz, Linda Mandel, Amyliah Piña, Kathe Starke, Candis Stern. Guest, Nora Barraza, Mayor of Mesilla.

Dawn thanked Julie Basile, our volunteer graphic designer, who has often come through during tight deadlines and been gracious. Nancy said Julie was the first person who volunteered for our group.

Dawn also thanked Amyliah Piña, our student intern, whose last day is Wed., Aug. 10.

Dawn also introduced Dara Parker who has stepped forward to be a board member and secretary, and who has connections which should help us.

Nancy and Jaye Williams had suggested Dawn write sample letters of support so the letters can be attached to grant applications and to show support of our organization. Dawn has written them for Dr. Carol Calista, Mayor Ken Miyagahima, State Rep. Joanne Ferrary and will do so for the county commissioners.

Dawn has also been busy writing an official letter asking for donations for the silent auction, a donor acknowledgment letter and a liability waiver for volunteers at events. Dawn confirmed that we have received permission to show KEDI, a documentary about cats lovingly cared for by the community in Istanbul.

Dawn has had meetings in July with Mayor Miyagishima, Clint Tacker, director of Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV) and County Commission Lynn Ellis who is a ASCMV board members. There have been complaints on the social site, Nextdoor about the ASCMV, and Dawn said it was good to have openness so more can be accomplished positively. There's been an ad for Animal Services vet for a year, and maybe we can help getting them a vet.

Dawn has meet with Rep. Ferrary about getting rid or limiting the non-compete clause which prevents vets from working together in a consortium. Ferrary is also interested in getting funding for three \$25,000 scholarships to help veterinarians reduce their student debts.

Dawn has been interviewed by KVIA twice but they haven't been posted on the KVIA website.

Dawn thanked people who worked the National Night Out table—Miguel and Tony, Cherri and her husband, Jeff, Nancy and Amyliah. Julie also stopped by and helped. Dawn said we got some volunteers for our group out of the night.

Miguel thanked Julie for the 33 by 60 inch poster she designed.

Miguel reported that the website now has a banner to advertise the Sept. 18 fundraiser. Other action taken has been: adding Dara to the board members, adding Deborah and Timothy Watkins, on the Caring Kittens since they've donated a total \$150. Pet stories, done by Amyliah, have been added each Friday. The collage of drawings done by children at the National Night Out was added to our web page. The children drew their pets or pets they wished they had.

Miguel said we've collected \$11,920 from 44 donors, minus \$1,313 for administrative expenses (web, magnets, flyers, etc.), for a final balance of \$10,606.90. Donations are up \$3,050 from last month.

Dawn said if people want a pdf or jpeg of the flyer for folks to contact her. Magnets with QR codes for us and VetTriage were handed out at the National Night Out and will be given out at the fundraiser.

Fundraiser—Nancy said La Posta has donated their event room next door to the theatre and will provide chile con queso, salsa and chips. There will be a cash bar. Because of possible staffing issues La Posta can't do more food.

Nancy thanked Jean for agreeing to be coordinator for the silent auction. If people can't donate items or get donations, then they should at least try to volunteer to help people who are bidding on items or circulate in the theatre to help. If people don't contact her, Nancy will contact them. We should also let her know what businesses or people we have or will approach about donating items or services so they don't receive too many requests. So far eleven people have donated items. Nancy said we need three times as many donations.

Dawn hasn't heard from Albatross for rights to show the dog documentary "Best Friends." If we don't get permission for that then there are some film shorts from the 1930s which we'd need to get permission from Warner Brothers. The shorts, however, feature trained animals in costume, which might be objectionable to some people.

Nancy said if anyone wants to volunteer and has items to contact her at:
nancysharp@zianet.com

Call to action—Contact business and get items or gift baskets, sign up for fundraiser. The money from the fundraiser will be used to help recruit vets to the area.

Nancy is keeping a master list of donations: So far items include a handturned maple wood bowl, a handmade pottery platter, a wrought iron vine design wine holder, art work, jewelry, watches, a hand tailored shirt in a dog design, t-shirt from Spotted Dog, the first series of the new *All Creatures Great and Small* DVD, and other assorted items.

Jean asked about an interview with KTAL. (Miguel said the KTAL interview from March 9 is on our web page). Dawn said she would like to do another with someone from VetTriage or with Rep.

Ferary about non-compete clauses (the latter Cherri suggested). Jean said she has a connection with Leora Zeitlin at KRWG and that we should be on the community calendar and have Leora give us a plug or two. Jean also recommended doing a public service announcement at the Golden Oldies station at 104.5. Dara said we could reach out to KRWG TV.

Dawn reminded members that when she sends emails she lists board members emails but blind copies everyone else because of security issues. If someone wants to get ahold of someone else, she'll contact the person for permission and connect the two. There are about eighty members in the organization.

Dara suggested maybe we could do an on-line auction the same time as the silent auction, but it was decided that would be too difficult. Instead, items left over will be put on our web site, we'll have photos, and either the highest bid in 48 hours will win or we'll have a set price for the person to bid, according to Dawn.

Nancy said we don't want to spend money for a company to run an on-line auction. We can do the above.

Dawn will speak before the film and in between the film and film shorts during the fundraiser.

You can view a recording of the Zoom meeting here:

