

Animal Companions of Las Cruces
General Meeting
12 September 2022, ~5:30-6:00

Present: Dawn Duncan, Miguel Marquez, Nancy Sharp, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Judy Stuart, Kathe Starke, Judy Bosland, Julie Basile, Karen Woronoff, David Woronoff, Linda Mandel, Geri Wheelis

Dawn reviewed our mission and welcomed the group, especially new member Karen Woronoff.

Dawn shared an update on support and media. Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima provided one already, we expect one from Mesilla Mayor Nora Barraza, and are working on others. ACLC board members recorded two interviews: KTAL (Dawn and Nancy, live on August 31) and KRWG (Dawn, prerecorded on August 30 with partial airing on Morning Edition and All Things Considered today and full airing on Puentes this evening). Links will be emailed out and posted. Dawn also met with Kathe Sharp and Geri Wheelis, the founders of Animal Advocates for Change, on August 29. They are working on city ordinances to improve and better protect the lives of animals and are good partners for ACLC.

For the fundraiser on September 18, Dawn reminded everyone that we are working on social media to get donations and sell tickets and thanked all who have posted about it. We want to have enough attendees to bid on the silent auction items, so **the big push is to help sell tickets.**

Miguel said we have sold 45 tickets for a total of \$900 to date. We received \$1,045 in additional donations from ticket buyers through the Mesilla Valley Film Society. Regular donations through the Community Foundation of NM is \$10,562.02 for a total of \$11,607.02 as of today. Dawn said she continues to get calls from new supporters. Sam Serna donated \$100 and Jim Wilcox, a local artist, wanted to sponsor the event but since that opportunity has closed he donated \$150. We have spent some money on fees, which we have described in detail at other meetings. We keep our costs to a minimum. Dara got a poster printed for free, for example.

Nancy shared that we have \$800+ in event sponsorship. Vendor donations range the gamut from jewelry to art (pottery, crystal, etc.) to baskets of edible items, etc. Any items not sold at the event will still benefit ACLC and we will continue to figure out how best to sell them, including via an online auction after the event. Miguel and Dawn are meeting with Savannah from the Community Foundation on Thursday morning to learn how to put through the funds collected at the event. If we can't post items on our website, we can post and direct people to eBay. We will honor all that has been donated.

Dawn said the board will have an **extended board meeting on Thursday from 1-5 PM at Miguel and Tony's house** (4116 Capistrano Ave., 703-963-1017, park in driveway or on-street) to organize and prepare the auction items on Thursday. **Linda and Jean will also help and Julie will photograph the items.** Additional volunteers are not needed that day due to space limitations. A photographer from the *Stroll Sonoma Ranch* newsletter may come, so **those attending should wear ACLC shirts.** Linda asked if we need cellophane or straw stuffing for gift baskets, and Nancy indicated that we have completed baskets so we don't need a lot, but it couldn't hurt to **bring some ribbon for decorations** though.

Dawn said we will number each item so Miguel can track items and selling prices more easily, and Miguel has already started numbering. Numbers will be written on back of the placard. Julie will take one shot of each item with the number and one without to use as the sales shot.

Nancy said that the following individuals will help with the auction at the fundraiser: Linda, Karen and David, Nancy Dion, and Jean Berlowitz who has done a stellar job of tracking donated items in a spreadsheet. Liz will help at the ticket table when people arrive. **We could use a couple more**

volunteers to help with the auction. Judy volunteered to come around 4:30/4:45 and Linda will help from 4:30-7.

Linda asked how guests attending with tickets purchased by someone else but arriving separately should check in. Dawn instructed Linda and others in that situation to provide Liz Reed with the names since she will have the check in list.

Linda asked if we should have name tags and pens for guests as an easy way for people to introduce themselves, and **offered to pick them up**. Nancy suggested and all agreed to have them at the check-in table. We agreed that would be a good idea, and **Linda will provide some**. Those working will be in ACLC t-shirts, which were paid for by a donation from a patron for that purpose. We have L and XL shirts left. Dawn said that **we need regular pens for the event. Linda has a ton of old office supplies and will bring pens on Thursday.**

Julie will bring her camera to the event and come a little before guests arrive at 5:30 to get situated to take pics of the crowd coming in. 4:30-5:30 will be nuts with setup.

Dawn and Nancy reviewed event sponsorships. La Posta is providing chips, salsa, queso, water and the event room at no cost. Elaine Martinez ("Turtle") from Ts'isteel Realty sponsoring 200 chicken taquitos, 2 per guest. **We need a sign not to take too many taquitos**. Michael Carvlin Real Estate is sponsoring the snack bar with popcorn and drinks. Guests may want to go to La Posta for an early dinner or the cash bar. **We want to thank La Posta for its sponsorship by patronizing them as much as we can.** Cherri mentioned that La Posta is remodeling its kitchen. **Nancy will double check everything.**

Call to Action: **Please get friends, family, and co-workers to buy tickets!** This is what's critical now. The maximum occupancy is 100 and we need to sell 55 more tickets.

Dawn shared that a community member died unexpectedly recently, affecting members of the temple like one of our major donors and Cherri. It is unfortunate that the memorial is the same time as the fundraiser, but it is important for Cherri and others to attend that. We wish them comfort and will have them in our thoughts that evening.

Dawn reiterated that after the event, we will think through how it went and can turn attention to other priorities like veterinarian recruitment and having DACC begin a vet tech program.

This coming week will be busy, so please send good thoughts for everyone's health.

The Community Foundation is ACLC's fiscal sponsor for its first two years, and its gala is in October. It will be at the Las Cruces Convention Center and is \$100 per ticket. Dawn and Julie will work the event as blackjack dealers and have the opportunity to talk about ACLC while they deal. Guests will put chips in the bucket of the nonprofit organization they would like their donation to go to.