



## Spring, 2015 Meeting and Luncheon Minutes

April 18, 2015 11:30 am-1:30 pm

The Sunset Grill

**Present:** Barbara Baron, Dolores Ellis, Connie Kratzer, Noreen Lehmann, Susie Samuel, Sharon Lalla, Lois Melton, Gloria Ortiz, Linda Schultz, Dorothy Bohn, Sherry Harris, Sandra Abernathy, Mary Henson and daughter, Olivia Acuna (scholarship), Tammy Benally and husband (scholarship), Debra Lutz, Harriet Brandstetter (speaker), Norice Lee, Maria Ornelas (scholarship), Clara Lindemann, Esther Devall, Dinah Jentgen, Susan DeMar, Pam Jeffries and daughter, Olga Conter

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Esther Devall, President
- **Guest Speaker Harriett Brandstetter: Succeeding in Business...and in Life!** Harriet Brandstetter gave a brief history about her life and career. She talked about attending Menaul Boarding School in Albuquerque and how she paid for her board and room by working in the laundry room all summer long from 4:00am to noon. She received a full scholarship to UNM but fell in love, got married and abandoned her schooling. She moved to Las Cruces so her husband could attend the Engineering College here at NMSU. Unfortunately her marriage dissolved and she found herself a single mom with 3 children. They moved back to Chamisal and took night classes at UNM while working 2 jobs to make ends meet. She later moved back to Las Cruces to finish her degree. After graduating from NMSU, she worked at La Clinica de Familia for 25 years with 20 as CEO. After leaving La Clinica she opened up a clinic from scratch in Durango, Colorado. She is currently working for Hidalgo Medical Services and is glad to be back in New Mexico. She talked about the wonderful support system she had all her life from family and friends to help in her accomplishments.

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- **Approval of 2014 Fall Meeting Minutes** - Olga Conter read the minutes from the Fall Business Meeting and Luncheon held on October 11, 2014 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Motion to approve minutes was made, seconded and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Pam Jeffries, treasurer, provided the treasurer's report. Beginning balance as of 4/18/15 was \$3,567.89, service charge of \$3.00, total debits - \$1,613.14, total credits - \$540.00, ending balance - \$2,491.75.
- **Interest Groups** – Claire Lindeman provided a report for the different interest groups.
- **Election of Officers** – Esther Devall stated she had enjoyed being President but it was time to elect new President. She asked for nominees for President. There were no nominations from the floor. She then presented Olga Conter as nominee for secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. Therefore, Olga Conter will stay in her role as secretary.
- **Presentation of Scholarships** - Esther Devall presented \$500 scholarships to the following recipients:
  - **Tammy Benally** grew up on the Navajo reservation near Farmington. She attended San Juan College and Dine College before transferring to NMSU. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education and will graduate in Fall, 2016. She is a member of the student association for education, serving on the committee for the Read Across America book drive and as a representative to the College of Education student organization council. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. After completing her bachelor's degree, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and then teach on the Navajo

reservation. Tammy is the recipient of the Returning Student Scholarship from the NMSU Women's Club.

- **Olivia Acuna** was born in Juarez and then moved to Chaparral as a child. She has 8 siblings, and is the first in her family to attend college. She took 15 years to raise a family after graduating from high school, and is the proud parent of 3 daughters. She attended DACC before transferring to NMSU. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education and will graduate in Spring, 2016. She volunteers at Chaparral Elementary. Olivia is the recipient of the Carol Stathis, Ruth Blanch, and Virginia Jacquez Scholarship from the NMSU Women's Club.
- **Maria Ornelas** has endured a very different life than most. She was in foster care as an infant and adopted at age 3 to a family of four; two girls and two boys. Her adoptive sister became ill and the family was not financially able to take care of her. Maria chose to drop out of school and help her adopted family. She cleaned houses until she was at the legal age to work at Walmart, La Tienda, Days Inn and Avon. Her adopted sister passed and a year later her adoptive father became very ill. He had a stroke and his medical condition declined quickly. Maria took it upon herself to learn about his condition and began assisting him round the clock with his medical needs. Again she put her schooling on hold to nurse her adoptive father up until the end. Through Maria's love and hardship she realized her passion for life and is currently pursuing a degree in nursing at the NMSU Carlsbad campus. Maria is also a single mother of 2 beautiful boys, Matthew age 6 and Maurice 22 months old. Maria says, "I am grateful for all that life throws at me because there's something that I get out of it. Life's hardships, diversity, etc. has allowed me to gain my boys, wisdom and the courage to do better." Maria is the recipient of the new Ruth Mary Webber Scholarship from the NMSU Women's Club.

- **Drawing for Talavera Pot** – Harriett Brandstetter drew the names for the raffle winner. Barbara Baron was the winner of the Talavera pot donated by Casa Bonita Imports. Funds raised from raffle go towards the scholarship fund.

Minutes submitted by Olga Conter, Secretary