

Mujeres en Cambio
Annual General Assembly
Minutes
October 19, 2022

Attendees:

Executive Committee

Don Caldwell, President

Daniel Medina, Treasurer

Nancy Row, Secretary

Stephen Bresolin, Member at Large,

Barbara Salazar, Member at Large, Scholarship Chair

Executive and Key Volunteers

Jo Cartwright, Co-Events Chair

Rhonda Lerner

Charlotte Bell, Rancheritas

Georgeann Johnson, Founder

Visitors

Edna Dickinson

Cynthia Claus

Kathleen Devine

Judith Boston

Absent

Maria Luisa Langenscheidt Obregon (Pakina), Vice President and Founder

Chris Yannitelli, Member at Large & events Chair

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm

Introductions, Don Caldwell

Don welcomed attendees and introduced Board and ExCom members. Guests were invited to introduce themselves.

Voting Members and Proxies, Stephen Bresolin

Stephen moved that we count the number of voting members currently in attendance as well as the proxies that we now have as establishing a quorum for this meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes, Nancy Row

Nancy asked for the approval of the minutes from last year's AGA. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and unanimously approved.

President's Report

Don reviewed highlights from Mujeres' 2021/22 year just completed as well as commitments and plans for the current year.

Don emphasized the importance of our dedicated volunteers to Mujeres en Cambio's continued success and called on those in attendance to help us recruit some more volunteers for key positions.

2021 was a very successful year in terms of funds raised. We were amply assisted in that by an angel donor who generously gifted us with a legacy of \$35,000 USD. Using the matching fund technique, we were able to finish the calendar year with more than twice what we usually collect. We must bear in mind that the likelihood of repeating such a success is not high and you will see that our planning in this respect is quite conservative. We plan to apply these windfall gains judiciously by expanding our program in a sustainable way with a keen eye on the results of our fundraising efforts in the coming years.

- Added 6 more girls to our program – remember each girl comes with a commitment for 10 years from Mujeres en Cambio.
- Formally established a reserve roughly equal to 70% of our annual expenses. This reserve is designed to handle the major commitments we have in the unlikely event of a major catastrophe.
- Agreed to invest any surplus funds in very conservative major Mexican bank term deposits until such time as we need them.
- Agreed to a 7% increase in the becas offered to our students to mitigate the inflationary pressures they are experiencing. This is the first increase in over five years resulting in approximately \$300 for Primary and Secundaria students and \$1325 for university students.
- Set aside a small amount of cash to help us move our planned database management upgrades to the next level and we have struck an ad hoc group to work on that project which has fallen behind our earlier expectations.

Mujeres has managed to keep its overhead very low at roughly 5% which means that most of our funds go directly into the pockets of girls and young women in our program.

Mujeres has again delivered close to \$90,000 USD into the rural SMA communities where we select students from over 60 poor rural villages in the municipality.

Using those funds, we helped to graduate 18 university girls, 22 high school girls and 22 junior high school girls in 2021.

On the initiative of our scholarship Chair assisted capably by our Treasurer and other key executive volunteers we delivered in-person lectures to most of our senior students on issues of career planning, sex education, family planning, and personal finance.

We have added students from another Community school, bringing to 8 the number of communities where we select students for our beca assistance.

We are looking into the possibility of offering donors the opportunity to support a specific girl so that they might follow students as they move through our program. This is something numerous donors have requested in recent years, and we believe it will appeal to existing and new donors alike.

We just held a very successful fundraiser luncheon in SMA – the first in-person fundraiser we have been able to hold in almost 3 years. This has helped to raise our profile in the SMA community from which we draw many of our donations.

I want to finish with a word about volunteers. We pride ourselves since inception as an all-volunteer charity. Without our dedicated executive volunteers Mujeres en Cambio does not exist. We have a great team currently working on behalf of our more than 170 girls. Not only do these people very generously give their time and treasure but they are extremely talented. They bring a wealth of expertise to our organization. We are very lucky to have them working on behalf of our donors and students alike.

We, of course, have many other volunteers that help with special events and programs, but we desperately need to recruit people for several key positions. Specifically, we are looking for one or two people to help with the burden of communications so important to our fundraising and outreach to our community. We also need two or three people to help us with grant research and application in the US, Canada, and Mexico. We also need to replace our Audit position as the current incumbent has returned to the US. Additionally, we need someone to handle the whole business of volunteer recruitment and management. If any of you know of anyone that might be interested in these interesting and fulfilling jobs, please be in touch.

Vice President's Report and Financial Report, Daniel Medina

Daniel explained several of the administrative issues faced by non-profits operating in Mexico.

Authorized Charity (Donataria Autoisada).

We have been able to get our lawyers to make the necessary changes to the Mujeres en Cambio Charter (ACTA) that are required by the Mexican Tax Authorities (SAT) to apply once again for Donataria Autoisada status, (now required by the Mexican tax authorities). We are now waiting for the SAT to review our revised ACTA. It will take at least 3 more months to finish the process and have authorization from the SAT.

Signatures in Banks.

We have also been able to start the process of updating the bank signatures. This is a process fraught with the Banks legal obligations. in the Banks of the signatures to the bank. In case of

Banorte, our ACTA is still being reviewed by their lawyers. We hope to finish this process in about a month.

Financial.

It was decided to implement a 7% increase due to inflation for the becas for the period from September 2022 to August 2023.

We have given scholarships in the value of 1,304,000 MXN to date in 2022.

The meeting was referred to our Annual Report for a full and transparent report on our current financial situation.

Scholarship Report, Barbara Salazar

Mujeres en Cambio continues impacting the lives of young girls, from low-income communities around San Miguel de Allende. We have expanded our efforts to another community. This school calendar year we have added La Cuadrilla with 4 new students. For year 2023 the scholarship team will be exploring the possibility of bringing new students from Palo Colorado community. The community of Palo Colorado has been identified as in extreme poverty.

As noted elsewhere, a 7% one-time increase was added to our scholarship distribution. Additionally, we held a very successful seminar on issues of sexual health, family planning, financial planning, and career development provided to the senior Secundaria & Preparatoria students during the beca distribution on September 6th.

During the academic year September 2021 to July 2022, we had 18 university graduates, 22 graduated from Secundaria and 22 graduated from Preparatoria.

Mujeres en Cambio currently has 174 active students. This number includes 27 new Secundaria students that were selected in July 2022. Of the 174, forty-seven students are in Secundaria, fifty-seven are Preparatoria and seventy are in university.

The area of improvement related to the scholarship distribution is the seventeen students that were no shows at the beca distribution in September. Barbara mentioned that from those 17, four students turned in their paperwork, one is on leave, and the other twelve have not responded to our calls and emails. The follow up plan is to communicate with the schools and the girls to get a status update as to any issues or support needs, and to determine whether they are planning to continue their participation in the Mujeres en Cambio program. The next visit to the schools has been tentatively programmed for January 18, 2023.

Right now, the management of the schools from where we are selecting our girls has decided to rotate the teachers and directors every year. This makes it more difficult for us to keep the

Mujeres en Cambio mission at the forefront. One opportunity we have identified is to pay more visits to the schools, both to Secundaria and Preparatoria.

We have tentatively set our calendar for the upcoming year as follows:

11/29 & 11/30 beca distribution

1/18/2023 school visits

1/24 & 1/25 beca distribution

1/25 Seminar for university students

4/11 & 4/12 beca distribution

7/25 & 7/26 or 7/18 & 7/19 beca distribution

In our visit to the schools, we will be sharing this calendar for their input. We will also discuss students that might be at risk of leaving the school along with other relevant topics.

Events Report, Jo Cartwright

Jo shared the events in support of Mujeres en Cambio during 2022.

A local store, Camino Silvestre, sponsored a presentation by the noted author Sandra Cisneros reading from her latest book, Martitia. on March 17. Proceeds of \$750 from the event were donated to Mujeres.

Painter Andrew Osta held a galley event in San Miguel and donated a giclee painting to Mujeres valued at between \$500 and \$600.

We organized a virtual event hosted by Patricia Merrill Marquez, Humor and Surprises in Mexican Culture and Culture. Thirty people attended, raising \$420.

A luncheon fundraiser was held at La Mansion de Montitlan on September 21. Lady Zen and Fil Formicola provided entertainment. We raised \$3,150 with 70 people attending.

Matters Requiring a Vote, Nancy Row

Nancy listed the members who were up for election.

These positions are up for a two-year term through 2024:

President, Don Caldwell

Auditor, Vacant

Member at Large, Barbara Salazar

Member at Large, Christine Yannitelli

A vacant position that expires in 2023

Treasurer, Daniel Medina

The following members will continue in their positions through the next year.

Vice President, Pakina Fernandez

Secretary, Nancy Row

Member at Large, Stephen Bresolin

There was a motion by Steve Bresolin to approve the slate in one vote. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Slate of officers as proposed was unanimously approved.

Other Business: none

The Next Annual General Assembly is proposed by October 12, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29