

TAOS MILAGRO ROTARY MEETING

JUNE 27, 2018

7:20 AM-8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

Following the Presidential call to order, **Savannah Holden** was introduced to the members. Savannah was a former Belgium International Exchange participant. Her experience included the creation of a Women's Shelter in Uganda.

Lauren McAllister, a 2018 Youth Exchange Student, was introduced and shared that she would be heading for Germany in the next school year.

Jan Smith was introduced to the group as the guest speaker highlighting the SOMOS Organization.

PRESENTATION:

Jan Smith began her presentation by sharing the fact that the Rotary was most meaningful to her as she was a former Rotary Exchange Student and her brother was a Rotary President. As an organization, SOMOS had moved 5 times but recently, through the generosity of a Colorado resident, SOMOS was mentioned in a Will which enabled the purchase of permanent property. SOMOS is currently conducting a campaign to pay off the remaining mortgage. Of the \$330,000 due, SOMOS has, thus far, raised \$230,000 of that total. Walk-in donations are accepted on Friday from 10:00-4:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. Donations may also be mailed to PO Box 225 in Taos.



Jan presented a historical perspective of the organization founded in 1983. Included in their developments and accomplishments are:

- ❖ 1994 Established the Young Writer's Program
- ❖ Literary Society of Taos
- ❖ Anthology Publication – Choke Cherries
- ❖ First Book Publications
– Story Recipes & Story
Wheels



Ms. Smith also mentioned that the organization has drawn many noted literary individuals to our community including a Pulitzer Prize and a Poet Laurette winner. Jan asked that members mark their calendars to attend one or more of the following:

- 2nd Annual Writer’s Conference; **July 13-15, 2018**
- New Building Opening Celebration; **August 19th, 5:30 in the parking lot off Martyrs Lane.** There will be food and a reading by Ms. Morris-First Poet Laurette of Taos.
- Annual Story Teller Festival; **October 12-13, 2018**



It was also mentioned th.at November will be designated as Prose Month highlighting a theme of “Homeword”. New Mexico School of Arts is conducting classes for 6-9th graders. A special thank you to the Little Free Library- Jan praised the project as FANTASTIC!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Bruce announced that the Boy’s RYLA camp is looking for male Counselors held July 15th at Manzano Mountain Retreat in the East Mountains near Mountainaire. Counselors need not be Rotarians. Contact Eric Schoen @ Eric.Schoen@usw.salvationarmy.org or Shane Lemon @ shanelemon@aol.com.
2. Strategic Planning will be Saturday, June 29th, at 405 Valverde Commons. Breakfast will be provided and money collected for a Pizza Lunch.
3. July 4th **NO MEETING. Next Meeting is July 11th.**
4. July 29th, Amigo Bravos.
5. Kathryn is sending out a list (via Bruce) of last year’s member vendor contacts for the Chili Challenge silent auction donation. Please indicate if you are willing to contact those individuals again and/or add new establishments for contact. Please respond to Kathryn before the next meeting.
6. **Jim Mitchell. asked that those members who have not received or picked up their Chile Challenge Ticket envelope please see him ASAP.**
7. Yale shared he attended the International Peace Conference in Toronto last week and noted it was a very positive experience. This year’s theme was Positive Peace vs Absence of War.
8. Andy requested that anyone knowing of an eligible incoming senior female student who would like to attend the Ryla Girls Student Camp from July 21-28th should contact him.
9. Alix announced that the Taos Land Trust is gathering at Rio Fernando Park on **Sunday at 2:00** to discuss the Master Plan. Location is **410 La Posta Road**. There will be food and an opportunity for community input.

GOOD NEWS:

- ✚ Andy was grateful that he had an opportunity to be Dolly today. Also, Jim M would not receive a “kiss” from Andy.
- ✚ Gary was happy to announce that Lillian was doing well but hard to keep away from the computer.
- ✚ Alix expressed thanks for Tenure.
- ✚ Jim M announced he attempted to attend NY Rotary but got lost and ended up in the opposite direction of the meeting.
- ✚ George contributed that there was a newly installed Board of Directors for the Himalayan Stove Project effective 8/28/18.
- ✚ Bruce thanked the membership for a great year and sent “Best Wishes” to Lucille for the coming year.
- ✚ Lucille extended her appreciation and thanks to Bruce for his past year’s work and contributions.
- ✚ Prudy thanked Jan for directing the awesome work accomplished by SOMOS.

GOOD NEWS RAFFLE: Won by Marci.

Next Meeting: **JULY 11TH, 2018**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Mulvaney