



SAVVY NOTES

Building Foundations for a Stronger Future

FEBRUARY 2008

2007-2008 SAVA OFFICERS

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A Message from our President

Strong: a great word to meditate on as we wind down on the SAVA year. Our membership continues to grow so a special welcome to all of our new members – we're so glad you decided to join us! Together, we really do become stronger. I've also learned a lot from you at our monthly meetings. A prime example is our most recent meeting, February 14, 2008. Covering "best practices", members shared information on such topics as volunteer recruitment, application processes, and recognition. While our jobs may vary, I picked up some great information on recruitment procedures.



SAVA President,
Leticia Cantu

Our newsletter this year is chock-full of information for you. Our Membership Drive is coming to an end and winners will be selected soon. We've got two wonderful prizes: one is a free admission to our Annual Training Workshop and the other is a free Membership to SAVA for the 2008-2009

year. It's not too late to get involved. Contact Membership Coordinator Ilsa Garcia for more information.

And speaking of our Annual Training: we have an esteemed panel of speakers for you and I'm sure you won't want to miss it. See below for more information and to Save the Date!

Remember that I am always here for you. One of the best parts of my job as a Volunteer Coordinator is knowing that I have a team of support behind me... YOU!

Do you feel stronger? I certainly do! See you at the next meeting!

SAVE THE DATE!

SAVA Annual Training Workshop—March 25

8:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the United Way at 700 S. Alamo. Confirmed speakers: **Manuel Pelaez, legal counsel for Toyota**, will speak on laws affecting

volunteer management and **Dr. Patrick McDaniel, director of human resources for Communities in Schools**, will speak on human resources issues for volunteer managers.

The third session will show

us how to deal with difficult people. Mark your calendars and watch for more details via e-mail.

Hard Hat Happenings: Court Ordered Volunteers



In response to requests for information about court ordered volunteers performing community service, the October meeting addressed this issue. A panel of experts graciously agreed to share their wisdom and experience on the subject with SAVA. The panel consisted of **Ralph Almaguer**, Supervisor, Community Service Restitution Program, Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, **Dean Fickenscher**,

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Program, and **Alicia Trujillo**, Manager, Youth Restitution Program, City of San Antonio Juvenile Municipal Courts.

The panel answered questions about procedures for placing restitution volunteers; monitoring responsibilities for volunteers; types of offenses committed and hours assessed for each; procedures for agencies to receive monetary donations

instead of volunteer hours; and agency responsibilities once contacted by a restitution volunteer.

The meeting was hosted by the Community Relations Department of the San Antonio State School in the volunteer pavilion. After the meeting Nancy Mifflin conducted a brief tour of the Developmental Center for attendees who wanted to see more of the school's operation.



Dean Fickenscher, Alicia Trujillo and Ralph Almaguer

Top Down Communications: Governor's Conference Synopsis

The Family Service Association was the venue for the November meeting which was hosted by Kristy Walston. The subject was a synopsis of the many workshops presented at the Governor's Leadership Conference in Galveston.

Henri Eaton, Ilsa Garcia and Nancy Mifflin discussed the contents of the workshops they attended at the conference and shared handouts with all who attended the meeting.

Some of the topics discussed were: Writing a One-Pager: Getting Your Foot Out of Your Mouth and in the Front Door; Writing to

Win: Tips for Successful Proposals; Working with the Press and Obtaining Coverage; Mission Driven Project Planning and Public Relations: Genius from Steel Magnolias. Though the sometimes whimsical titles might lead one to think differently, each workshop was full of solid, common-sense information to help those of us who wear many hats work smarter, not harder.

As is our custom, Kristy conducted a tour of the building for those who were able to stay.



Ilsa Garcia, Henri Eaton, Nancy Mifflin and Esther Cantu



Kristy Walston introduces the program and presenters.

Membership Drive Drawing to a Close

The winners of the membership drive incentives will be announced at the March SAVA meeting. Remember, the incentives are:

The member who brings the most guests to SAVA meetings wins one Free Admittance to a SAVA **Workshop**.

- The member who brings the most memberships

throughout the year to SAVA will receive a **Free One Year Membership**.

Membership is open to any person with volunteer management responsibilities or interests.

It's not too late to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat by bringing guests to the Feb-

ruary and March meeting. **Let's DO IT!!!**



Future Meeting Topics

Mar. 13- Tools of the Trade: Resources and Referrals

Mar. 25- SAVA Annual Training Workshop

Apr. 10- Excellence by Design: Volunteer Appreciation

May 8- Making the Big Boss

Happy: Corporate Volunteer Panel

June 12- Annual Meeting at Ruta Maya



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: SAVA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR



*Who will be the next
SAVA Volunteer
Coordinator
of the Year?
It could be YOU!*

Each year the San Antonio Volunteer Administrators (SAVA) honor an outstanding Volunteer Coordinator who is selected by a panel of judges. As you know, Volunteer Coordinators are the people who do a lot of "behind the scenes" work and always work hard to make sure your staff of volunteers is well-served.

We need your help to identify the most outstanding volunteer coordinator in SAVA. While there are many outstanding coordinators in the various non-

profit agencies, military bases, churches and other organizations using volunteers, **we want to honor a person nominated by his/her employer, who is also a current SAVA member.** If your nominee performs other duties in addition to Volunteer Coordinator or has a different title, but performs as a Volunteer Coordinator, this meets the criteria.

The winner will be honored at the SAVA Annual Meeting on June 12, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. at Maya's. The winning nominee and his/her nomi-

nator will be informed and invited to attend as guests.

If you need additional information or have questions or need an application form, **please call Esther Cantu at 352-7099.** We are hoping you will participate in making this event a huge success. **Nominations are due to the Volunteer Center by April 30, 2008.**

2007-2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Exchange /Resource Committee

Chair, Jane Shafer
F.A.C.T. Program, S.A.P.D.

Hospitality Committee

Chair, Suzanne Reily
Children's Association for Maximum Potential

Membership Committee

Chair, Ilsa Garcia
Communities in Schools

Public Relations Committee

Chair, Nancy Mifflin
San Antonio State School

Mentoring Committee

Chair, Barbara Irlas
South Texas Blood and Tissue Center

Program Committee

Chair, Kristy Walston
Family Service Association

Bosses' Luncheon

SAVA's annual Bosses' Luncheon was held at **KB Home at 4800 Fredericksburg Rd. on December 13.** Cathy Teague, director for marketing and public relations for KB Home spoke to the membership about **KB T.L.C.**, KB Home's volunteer corps (Teamwork-Leadership-Community) and the company's philosophy of volunteerism and giving back to the community.

Members and their bosses enjoyed a fabulous salad, pan seared breast of chicken baked in an olive tapenade crust with roasted pomodoro

sauce and Israeli couscous, fresh baked rolls and warm apple and candied walnut cobbler with a brandied cinnamon anglaise sauce. Catering services were provided by Spice of Life.

Upholding a long-standing tradition, SAVA members brought gifts for a member agency and this year, the seniors who make the San Antonio State School their home were chosen to receive those gifts.

The community relations department of SASS and their boss, Irene Chavez, gratefully received the gifts so generously provided by SAVA members.

All the bosses received a gift of holiday treats and an ornament in keeping with our building theme, "Building Foundations for a Stronger Future."



Preparations underway at the site of the Bosses' Luncheon at KB Home, 4800 Fredericksburg Rd.



Members and bosses enjoy their lunch.



Melissa Schulz, SAVA vice president, presents a thank you gift to speaker, Kathy Teague.



Irene Chavez and Nancy Mifflin Speak about the San Antonio State School

VIEWS FROM A SCAFFOLD: Internships and Externships

The first meeting of the New Year was held at the United Way. The membership and guests heard a panel of experts from local universities speak about the intern and practicum programs at their schools. **Vevelyn Peterson** from Our Lady of the Lake University, **Dr. Robert Gee** from the University of Texas at San Antonio and **Dr. Richard Reed** from Trinity University discussed the requirements for intern projects at their institutions and gave concrete suggestions for projects that agencies could ask interns to complete.

All the panelists were happy to answer questions and emphasized the valuable skills a student or a group of students could bring to projects involving statistics or analysis of data.



The panel of experts convenes.



Vevelyn
Peterson



Dr. Robert Gee



Dr. Richard Reed