

**The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2024, was called to Order by President Tomás Hernández at 7:32 P.M., at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33173.**

**In Attendance:** President Tomás Hernández, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jorge Feria, Treasurer Manny Garcia, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Immediate Past President Millie Garcia, and Board Members Benjamin Cardonne, Chico Goldsmith, George Harvey, Jean Hawa, Thomas Kosky, Ed Medina, Mike Penn, Paula Valentina Perez, Jorge Salazar, Ira Shapiro, and Bob Squier.

**Establish a Quorum:** President Tomás Hernández was able to establish a quorum with 16 members of the Board present.

**First Order of Business - Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Month:** President Tomás Hernández started by welcoming Benjamin Cardonne, George Harvey, Thomas Kosky, Jorge Salazar and Paula Valentina Perez as the new 2024 Board Members not before wishing every member a Happy New Year. Then he asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the December's board meeting; if so, and if there were no questions, comments, or corrections, would someone move to accept the minutes as posted. Jean Hawa made a motion to accept the minutes, Manny Garcia seconded it. Having no other discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

**Second Order of Business – Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Manny Garcia presented a reconciliation statement for December from the club's bank account, he reported that the biggest expense for the month was the Holiday Party. He added that with membership renewals coming in, new members, monthly expenses such as board meeting meals, coffee and dessert at the general meeting, storage rental fee and the printing and mailing of *Sidelights*, our treasury is sound.

**Third Order of Business – Membership Report:** Ed Medina informed us that we now have 220 families. He said that 73% of members have already renewed and that we now have 28 new Lifetime Members.

**General Membership Meeting (January 18, 2024):** Jorge Feria informed us that he is speaking to a restoration guy to be our January's speaker and will confirm this later next week.

**Holiday Party Report:** Millie Garcia reported that the party was fantastic, even with the weather being so bad we ended up having a good turnout with 86 registrations. Everyone seemed to enjoy the beautiful venue and the delicious food. Milly thanked the Feria's, Hernández's, and Padilla's for their part in organizing and decorating for the event. Millie added that the hotel manager Oscar Morales and Danielle Gault from the Catering Department, together with the staff had provided excellent service all through the event and had gone far beyond to provide a great service to our members. She also added that we should continue with the idea of having an evening holiday party.

Other comments include the following:

- Manny Garcia added that the weather conditions stopped some members from driving far.
- Ira Shapiro agreed that the hotel and the food were great, but he found it to be expensive for the number of people that participated.
- Ed Medina suggested that we should start looking for a venue earlier to give more time to advertise the event. Ed also suggested that next time we have Memory Lane to give only one ticket per person instead of two for those who participate by bringing their cars. Jorge Feria and Jorge Salazar agreed. Ed also added to have a giveaway of two memberships door prize at our next holiday party.
- Paula Valentina Perez suggested having the event tie-in with a kid toy drive, such as Toys for Tots.
- Tomás Hernández suggested having a welcoming table with a check list of every person who had registered and paid before proceeding to the event.

A tentative date, December 7<sup>th</sup>, was chosen for the 2024 Holiday Party as well as a four-person committee to organize the event. Al Padilla and Jorge Feria were nominated to chair the holiday party.

**Art Deco Classic Car Show (January 13-14, 2024):** Ira Shapiro said that:

- As of today, we have a total of 98 cars registered.
- He still needs more volunteers, requesting that volunteers should be at the site by 8:00 a.m. to help with the registration table and on both gates to guide cars to the show field.
- The Art Deco District will be providing a tent, four chairs and a table, but we should take our own tent, chairs, and a table as a backup.
- There are 11 trophies and one Best of Show trophy for Saturday as well as for Sunday. There will be no points judging, cars will be chosen by looks.
- Coffee and doughnuts will be provided for Saturday's volunteers and coffee and bagels will be provided for Sunday's volunteers.

Manny Garcia added that he has four walkie-talkie radios that he will bring to the show.

**Biltmore Way Classic Auto Show (March 3, 2024):** Tomás Hernández said that we need to figure out if we should continue having this AACA Judging Show in Coral Gables because of the high cost of this show. Manny Garcia handed out a printout of last year's expenses. Mike Penn suggested having a \$15 entrance fee per car that will help pay for expenses. Manny Garcia said that he is trying to make a deal with our existing sponsor Rubenstein Law but has not been able to get in contact with anyone there. Ed Medina added that he had a meeting with the City of Coral Gables commissioner who said they want to keep the show as part of the entertainment to the Carnival on the Mile festival. Manny Garcia suggested inviting the commissioner as a guest of honor to give away the trophies. Ira Shapiro concluded by saying that we should be looking for a second sponsor to cover the cost of the show and, if not found, maybe we need to look for another date and venue.

It was suggested that Jean inquire if Fairchild had any available dates.

**Other Club Business:**

-Vizcaya Farm Village (date T.B.D.): Ira Shapiro informed us that as of now, tentative dates are February 11 or 28 and April 7, and will inform us as soon as he finds out. He also said that we already have the insurance certificate for the show and reminded us that there will be coffee and pastries included. Ed Medina suggested having a \$5 per car registration fee.

-Jean Hawa shared with us the news that she received a letter from National stating that she is a recipient of a 2023 Master Editor Award for the *Sidelights* newsletter. The board was happy to hear the news and all together congratulated Jean for receiving such an honorable achievement.

**Sunshine Report:** Jean Hawa reported that her husband Maurice Hawa is doing ok. George Harvey is doing well after having surgery. Ralph Thiele is recuperating from a procedure.

**Adjournment:** With no further club business to discuss, President Tomás Hernández made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 P.M. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Submitted by Yovanna Hernández, Secretary