



**Spring 2016 Meeting and Luncheon Minutes**  
**Saturday, April 16, 2016**  
**La Sala Room**  
**Josefina's**  
**11:30-1:30 pm**

**Present:** Betty Brooks, Charlotte Matthews, Clara Lindemann, Connie Kratzer, Deb Franzoy, Debi Lutz, Dinah Jentgen, Dolores Ellis, Esther Devall, Gloria Kindig, Gloria Ortiz, Jessica Ulmer, Joyce Lentz, Judy Larson, Judy Lujan, Kimberly Miller, Linda Schultz, Marge Peterson, Nancy Siddens, Nancy Warner, Noreen Lehmann, Olga Conter, Pam Jeffries, Sandy Abernathy, Susan DeMar, Barthy Byrd (speaker), Andrea Sandoval and guest (scholarship), Christina Bernal and guest (scholarship), Marisol Rodriguez and guest (scholarship)

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Susan DeMar, President
- **Guest Speaker: Barthy Byrd**, Former Journalist and Professor, gave a spirited speech of how school changed her life. In the past, if you got a bachelor's degree you would get a job. It is much more difficult now she says. People are also getting in debt now. She was lucky as her parents paid for her bachelors. Her parents made it clear for her "it's not if you go to college but where." Dr. Byrd graduated in Journalism in 1971. In 1972 she was hired as an anchor/reporter at KDBC TV in El Paso, TX. She was the first woman news anchor in West Texas. Her anchoring and reporting talent took her to Albuquerque, Denver, New Orleans, Phoenix and Seattle. In 1977 she was hired as News Director for KRWG FM in Las Cruces. Along the way Barthy got a master's degree and in 1981 was hired as an Assistant Professor of Journalism and Speech in Northern Arizona. The university's provost told her they couldn't keep her unless she got her PhD. Her reply was "By that time, I'll be 40 years old!" His response: "You'll be 40 anyway." It took her 6 years to write her dissertation. Barthy mentioned that 75% of people who start a PhD do not finish it. She got hers because she had no choice but she was happy she did it. Dr. Byrd worked at UTEP as an Associate Professor of Communication for 27 years. She recommends not letting your kids get way into debt when going to college. You need a balance she says. Whatever you do go to school and stay in school. Dr. Byrd has a PhD. in American Studies from the UNM, Masters in Speech from NMSU and Bachelors in Magazine Journalism from NMSU.

- **Presentation of Scholarships** – The following recipients were presented with \$500 scholarships:
  - **Christina Bernal** made a deal with her son who was a junior in high school that if he would stay in school Christina would go back to college. Her journey began in 2012 and she completed her Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate. When asked, “What made you go back to school” her reply was “Her three boys were her inspiration every single day.” Christina’s husband is a wildland firefighter and due to the nature of him having such a dangerous job, she knew she needed to go back to school in the event she would have to support their family. She is currently enrolled in her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the BSN Nursing program at NMSU. Her oldest son kept his part of the deal and he is still in school and they plan on graduating together in December of 2017. Her second son will also start courses at DACC in August of this year. Christina’s plans after graduation are to work at an area hospital on the medical/surgical or telemetry floor as an RN. Christina is the recipient of the Returning Student Scholarship from the NMSU Women’s Club.
  - **Andrea Sandoval** was born in Arizona to an agricultural field worker and a combat Vietnam Veteran. Andrea grew up with her family in Oceanside, CA. Andrea enlisted in the army in 1991. In 2003 she was assigned to the 316<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her service in Iraq gave her the experience that has helped her develop into the person she is today. Among many challenges Andrea faced including returning to NMSU while suffering from PTSD and readjusting and fitting in with the civilian world, Andrea became involved with helping other veterans, families of veterans of the community going through the same difficulties she did. She was elected a leader of the Student Veterans Association national organization that was successful in establishing a housing neighborhood for military and veterans in the family, establishing an honor society for veterans, and hosting many events that engaged the local community and homeless veterans in the Las Cruces Region. Her challenges did not stop there; in fall 2013 her studies were interrupted when she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Andrea is currently winning the fight and her goal is to graduate with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and pursue a Master’s degree in Communication. She will continue to help the United States Armed Forces Veterans and their families adjust to living in the civilian life. The challenges she has ahead of her will be significant but Andrea will succeed. Andrea is the recipient of the Carol Stathis, Ruth Blanch, and Virginia Jacques Scholarship from the NMSU Women's Club.
  - **Marisol Rodriguez** is a nurse, a comforter, a housekeeper, a driver, a teacher and a mother to her beautiful four month old son, Domenico Amadeus. She has endured a very different life than most high school seniors. Her challenge of being a young mother was one of the hardest situations she faced. The rude remarks of others and friends telling she’d ruined her life only encouraged Marisol to work

even harder to succeed. She said, “Being a mother is learning about strengths I didn’t even know I had and dealing with fears I didn’t even know existed.” Marisol enrolled in NMSU in the Music program while expecting her baby. One of her professors told her “I’m not going to downgrade you because you are a young mother, I’m going to push you because now you have a bigger purpose in life.” Marisol said NMSU gave her the chance to be successful without being judged. She went into labor during her midterms but still managed to end her fall semester w/a 3.6 GPA. Marisol will graduate in the fall of 2019 with a degree in Music Education. Following that she would like to teach a high school choir. Marisol’s challenges have made her stronger and being a mom has encouraged her even more. Marisol said, “Being a mother is not about what you gave up to have a child but what you gained from having one. I will gain love, I will gain a degree, I will gain success, I will gain a future, and I will gain a beautiful life because I know I am strong enough to live it. Where there is success there is eternal happiness.” Marisol is the recipient of the Ruth Mary Webber Scholarship from the NMSU Women’s Club.

- **Business Meeting**

- **Approval of Minutes** – Olga Conter read the minutes from the Fall 2015 Meeting and Luncheon held on October 3, 2015 at The Las Cruces Convention Center. Motion to approve minutes was made, seconded and approved.
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Pam Jeffries, treasurer, provided the treasurer’s report. Expenses: D2 Designs (tablecloth) - \$162.99, Del Valle Printing (flyers) - \$116.00, Susan DeMar (badges for new officers) - \$15.00, scholarship contributions - \$875.00, membership fees - \$1000.00, ending balance - \$4,460.81.
- **Interest Group and Calendar Updates** – Deb Franzoy mentioned that Anne Carter was making a calendar listing all events and that the calendar was going to be available in the Women’s Club website. Deb also mentioned that next week was the April in Paris gourmet club dinner. Please rsvp Deb at [debfranz@nmsu.edu](mailto:debfranz@nmsu.edu) if you want to participate. Charlotte Mathews opened up her house for the Hawaii dinner. Dining out at noon has been cancelled for a period of time. Pictures for events can be found on the NMSU Women’s club website.
- **Election of New Officers**
  - **Vice President** – Susan DeMar presented Noreen Lehman as nominee for Vice President. As there were no nominations from the floor, Noreen was accepted as our next Vice President.
  - **Treasurer** - Susan proceeded to ask for nominees for treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Pam Jeffries will be treasurer until October when her term will be ending.

- **Raffle Drawing for Centerpieces & St. Clair's Wine Gift Basket** – Dinah Jentgen drew names for the raffle winners. Linda Schultz won but since she won last time she requested to draw again. Marge Peterson won the wine gift basket donated by St. Clair's. Winners of the 6 centerpieces were Susan DeMar, Gloria Ortiz, Pam Jeffries, Joyce Lentz, Nancy Siddens and Deb Franzoy. Funds raised from raffle go towards the scholarship fund.

Minutes submitted by Olga Conter, Secretary

<http://womensclub.nmsu.edu>