



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association
119 Heiman, Ste. 300 | 78205
Tuesday, July 23, 2019 | 9:00 a.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Dinesh Rao, CHAIRMAN

IN ATTENDANCE: Jeffrey Chatham, Justin Holley, Dinesh Rao

STAFF: Liza Barratachea, Penny LaMaestra, Michelle Whitlow

- I. Rao called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rao motioned for approval of the previous meeting's minutes, Holley seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- II. Rao opened the meeting reporting that recently there has been lots of momentum in our industry on the education front thanks to several committee members and their efforts with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Workforce Commission. And now that we have some momentum, the challenge is to harness everything that is going on and to set some goals for our group and a direction for the Association. Barratachea reported that we had selected 3 recipients for SAHLA scholarships at the Pineapple Awards Gala and hope to grow the program more next year and find a way to host the recipients and their families at the awards.
- III. Rao ask Barratachea to update the committee on an externship program opportunity that SAHLA was recently approached with. Barratachea stated that she has been in communication with Workforce Solutions Alamo because they are hoping to create a sustainable externship program for teachers to come and learn about job opportunities for their students at hotels. Holley recently hosted 19 teachers for a day at one of his properties allowing them to shadow different departments. There were four school districts represented but the majority of teachers were from North East ISD. We would like to continue to work with programs like Workforce Solutions Alamo, H.E.A.T., SA Works, and the like to foster this kind of relationship between the school districts and our members to show the opportunities in the industry to students. This falls in line with our goal of connecting the threads in our community between agencies helping people find jobs and our members that need qualified candidates for open positions.
- IV. Rao briefly asked the committee if we would like to follow up on an initial discussion we had in the Spring to host another job fair in August to hire for the second half of the year. Our committee member who hosted the previous job fair has changed positions so we need to reach out to see if they had begun the process of reaching out to schools and participating hotels. Staff will follow up with the committee.
- V. Under new business, the committee discussed Chaudhry's ongoing efforts to clean up SOC Codes to allow for better representation of available jobs in hospitality with the State. Chaudhry has been meeting with the Department of Labor and a group of hoteliers to spearhead the effort. Additionally, we recently received word that Marriott has received permission to participate in our Wage/Benefit Survey this year. Thus, we will be working with Lobby Lights to get the new survey up and running in the next few weeks. There was quick mention of bringing a Short Course class to San Antonio through the University of Houston SA campus, but as THLA is in charge of the program, we would need to look into the feasibility. NXT LVL Youth Opportunity Center that connects 16-24 year olds that are unemployed and not in school to continuing education and entry level job opportunities is still getting their feet under them and we stand ready to assist when they are up and running. Lastly, Chairman Rao has been asked to serve on the CAST Lead advisory board for the development of the new school focused on hospitality and he will be updating the committee on their progress.
- VI. There being no further business, Rao adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Approved by:

Motion

Second