

The January meeting of AWIS Chicago at That Little Mexican Café in Evanston was called to order at 6:45PM on Jan. 22nd, 2007. The following individuals were present at the meeting: Heather Behanna (President), Silvia Novelli (VP Public Relations), Theresa Peterson (VP Programs), Beth Schubert (VP Membership), Joy Ramos (VP Service) and Sandy Pearce.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 18th, 2007 at Heather's home.

The first order of business was the idea of putting together a "Book Club". It could meet once every two months, or once a quarter. It was suggested that they be held in different locations throughout Chicago, to accommodate the most number of people. Suggestions for the first book included "Every Other Thursday" by Ellen Daniels or "Women Don't Ask" (by Babcock and Laschever). A target date for starting the book club is April, 2007. Announcements about the book club and formation of a message board will be started a few weeks prior to the start date. Discussions/open forum will be included in the message board. Heather will set one up on MSN.

On a side note, Theresa mentioned that she has an associate professor she'll interview and have posted on the website. She also knows other person who can talk about an alternative career in intellectual property.

The next order of business was discussing putting together a newsletter that will describe our recent fun events and advertise future plans. Beth said she can put one together, along with pics that Joy will e-mail her. Theresa's interview may also potentially be included. This newsletter can then be mailed out to the different AWIS members. The need for getting people's contact information was pointed out.

The third agenda item discussed was the upcoming ACS meeting where AWIS will co-sponsor the WCC (Women Chemists Committee) Open Meeting and Celebration of 80 Years of Women in Science. It will be held in the Columbus EF room in the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on Mar. 24th at 5PM. Heather was chosen by the group to participate in the panel discussion. She will give a 5-10 minute talk about AWIS and plans to talk to Holly and Neena Schwartz to get a perspective on the history of AWIS. AWIS will provide \$300 as its contribution and be listed as a sponsor. A poster and flyers about AWIS can be displayed and everyone agreed to get together on Feb. 18th at Heather's home to put it together. Beth will also finalize the newsletter that day and everyone can work on stuffing envelopes and mailing them out the next day. Heather will check with ACS and WCC whether a fee or registration is required to attend the meeting on March 24th.

The next item discussed was Holly's Navigating the Professoriate Program which intends to help new junior faculty become better professors. Heather distributed information about the program and its upcoming events. She will attend the first session on "The Art of Negotiating" to establish a connection with the resource speaker (Victoria Medvec from Kellogg) and hopefully plan something with her in the future for AWIS members. She also plans to attend another session on "Mentoring and Management Skills for Scientists" and use that experience to put together a similar workshop that will be co-organized with her adviser at the Center for Drug Discovery in the downtown NU campus.

The next order of business was gathering ideas for more social events in the spring. Theresa suggested going to a beauty spa at night where its BYOB and people can meet and have fun. She'll look into which places in Chicago are available. Participating in the Shamrock Shuffle (near St. Patrick's day?), Race for the Cure (Oct.) and Breast Cancer Walk (Mother's Day weekend), were also suggested.

Holding elections in June were discussed with the new officers officially taking over in September and with their term ending in June, 2008. This would allow for some overlap between exiting and new officers to help them transition into their positions.

Joy talked briefly about recent and upcoming service opportunities, and distributed a list of these events and how AWIS participated in them. She brought up the possibility of having an AWIS booth at the research exhibit area in Argonne's upcoming "Science Careers in Search of Women" on Mar. 8th. Everyone agreed that since the poster for ACS would be done by Feb. 18th, the same poster and flyers can be used at Argonne. She also brought up how one more senior AWIS member e-mailed her to say that she hopes service activities like these and the status of the Chicago chapter will be written up in AWIS magazine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.