

NACBA – Alamo Chapter
Minutes of May 10, 2012
11:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, New Braunfels

Officers Attending: Dave Thomas, President and Butch Gerfers, Treasurer.

Members Attending: Karan Clark; Debbie McKissick; Dale Hendrix; Sharon Hardie; and Francesca Watson.

Others Attending: Lanelle Rudolph and Rick Gonzales.

President Dave opened with prayer and a welcome.

Report/Action Items:

1. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Butch moved to approve minutes as presented; Sharon seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. The Financial report for April was presented by Butch Gerfers, and a copy is appended to these minutes for reference. We received \$50.00 from membership dues, made 2 \$500.00 donations, and paid \$45 for web hosting. We finished the month with \$317.79 in checking and \$901.85 in savings for a total of \$1219.64. Francesca moved to accept the Financial Report as presented; Sharon seconded. The Financial Report was unanimously approved.
3. Dave discussed making a contribution to a charitable organization. Butch recommended not letting checking or savings balances drop below \$500, leaving \$1,000 was recommended to be contributed. After discussion about various options, Francesca made a motion that \$500 be donated to the Strong Foundation and \$500 to CASA (Child Advocates San Antonio); Sharon seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. Dave announced that the current officers of the Alamo Chapter had agreed to stand for re-election, with the exception of Hermy Rudloff, who would not be seeking re-election as Secretary. Francesca had agreed to be nominated for that position. After discussion, Butch moved for nominations to be closed; Sharon seconded. The slate of officers was approved by acclamation.

Program: The Reverend Dr. Brad McLean of First Baptist Church, New Braunfels was introduced, presenting the topic “Character Matters.”

“Character” is an interesting word in our culture – one can have character, or be a character. Character is defined as the aggregates of features and traits that form the nature or substance of a particular thing. In ministry, and especially in roles related to finances, having character makes a long-lasting impact on relationships.

Acts 5 illustrates character’s importance. Ananias and Sapphira wanted recognition for their actions and contributions – so often, we think that to get ahead, we have to stand out or be unique. But there is a right way and a wrong way to stand out. Are we going to allow God to raise us up in a healthy, godly way? In their case, they chose to be recognized for more than they had actually done. The contribution they made was not in itself a bad thing – the problem was that they misrepresented the gift. For what reason? To be seen as more generous or more important than they would have otherwise. As Peter points out to them, the land was theirs, the proceeds from the sale of that land was theirs, and the gift was theirs to make or not

make as they chose. Lying about the amount was only to make themselves look better.

Character is a choice we make. There are lots of things we cannot choose, but we can choose to do the right or the wrong thing as opportunities are presented to us. We can choose to either tear down or build up our character. It breeds lasting influence in the lives of others; what people see in our lives will either draw people to us or push them away. And character overcomes successes or failures. Strong character prevents us from being too proud when we succeed or too discouraged when we fail. Neither success nor failure should define our lives; the foundation on which we build our lives should be the defining point for our characters.

Christ's character working in us allows us to make character-building choices. Character matters.

Upcoming Events:

- NACBA National Conference, Houston July 10-14, 2012

Next Meeting: Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at Genesis Full Life Fellowship Church. The topic will be a legislative update for churches, presented by attorney Andy Tairwy.

The meeting was closed with prayer after a time of sharing joys and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca West Watson
Acting Secretary