**Program Committee Notes, November 5, 2019**

**Attendees:**

Anne Bradner

Leanne Tormey

Colleen Kane

Claire Steinberg

Jen Prather

Maureen Gomez

Sonia Alcantarilla

Donna Jarecki

**Special Guest:**

Fabiola Montoya:  Citizenship Coordinator

Fabiola was invited to attend our meeting and passionately introduced us to the Citizenship program that she instructs and Carver provides.

This class is designed for those whom English is a second language and prepares them for the 100 question civics portion of the U.S. Citizenship exam, that includes American history and government.  The class also focuses on English language, reading, writing and the speaking portion of the exam

Fabiola describes her students as excited and eager but sheepish and apprehensive.  It is an unknown environment for them which is demanding and whose outcome will change not only their lives but their families.  The intimidation they feel comes from many angles but mostly, fear.  The fear of the unknown, of not being successful, of having to speak with an immigration officer and of the requirements of the class.  Fabiola has a way of alleviating those fears and guides them thru this process with a firm hand and lots of compassion.  Her priority is their success and Fabiola has had 3000 success stories.  There is a fire in her that is contagious, and Carver is lucky to have her and

Fabiola made sure to impress upon us that this process is a personal one and a complex and emotional one.  Upon entering the class, she asks her students what they are looking for in her class and the response is one that includes, but is not limited to, more opportunities to build a better future for themselves and their families.  Fabiola’s goal is one in the same, when asked why she does this, her response, to build brighter futures for her students.  It was very important for Fabiola to hear from us how important her work is, and how and very much Carver appreciates her and values all that she does for this program.

**Program logistics**:  The Citizenship program is an 8-week long course.  Each class has volunteers that assist Fabiola. Previous students come back to share their stories and speak to what their own journey looked like, including what fears they had and the lessons they learned.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday classes are from 6-8pm cost $60 and are taught in English.  There are currently 40 students enrolled.

Wednesday classes are from 6-8pm cost $50 and are taught in Spanish.   There are currently 14 students

Sunday is and additional class from 9-12, cost $100 and there are currently 12 students enrolled with the hopes of attracting more.

The class has a rolling admission. Fabiola advertises by handing out flyers and word of mouth.

**Testing:**  One must be 18yrs or older to take the test.  Those who are 65 years old and older only have to complete 20 of the 100 question assessment but are still requires to pass the English language, written, oral and writing portion of the test.  For those over 65, the test is given in one’s native language, again they must show competency in the English language, written, oral and in writing in order to pass the test, as well as, pass the 100 question assessment.

To qualify to take the test one must prove that they have paid taxes and have been finger printed, that the appropriate paperwork has been obtained through a lawyer and then the application is submitted to obtain a test date and interview. (takes several months to a year).  Costs associated with this process could be upwards to $2000.

It was a terrific presentation and very informative.  Thank you again, Fabiola.  If I have missed anything or have misspoke it is likely because I was so into the presentation.

**OTHER NEWS:**

We have a new MS CAP Director and Summer Director.  Welcome Alberto Arias.  The kids have already given their high five and he is a keeper!

Staffing at the elementary level CAP program is increasing!

Swim offerings are expanding!

Carver Market is preparing for the Holiday Season!

Music Studio-10K donation for Andrew's Studio is nearly complete.  Thank you, Lucy Rinaldi!

Teen Center is using the school days off to enhance the Scholar Experience!

More progress has been made in completing the OCFS applications!

Head Start classrooms are growing and the positive programming shifts to full day use!

The MS CAP program is looking to hire a Scholar Coach!