

# Women Who Lead

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### February 13, 2025

“Inspiring and empowering women to affect change in our community.”

A meeting was held at Thirsty's -The Venue on February 13, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.

President Ruth Ruder called the meeting to order welcoming 53 members and 6 guests.

A motion to approve January minutes was made by Michelle Fairbank and seconded by Shelby Doty. Motion passed.

#### Announcements-

- Ruth announced that she was trying something new and had people sit at tables based on their favorite team. She stated that more networking was something that members have asked for so she will be trying to mix up where people sit so members sit by someone new each month.
- Ruth announced that Women Who Lead won the Helping Hand Award at this year's Chamber Banquet and read the Chamber Award speech for all attendees to hear.
- The Member Relations Committee gave away a \$10 Thirsty's Gift Card.
- Ruth announced a \$500 donation to the Hays Library Youth Advisory Board who used that money to make Winter Survival Kits that can be picked up at the Library at no charge.
- The Schmidt Foundation provided an incredible \$25,000 donation this year. They requested that \$10,000 goes to Women Who Feed, \$10,000 goes to Youth, and \$5,000 goes towards the community.
- Ruth requested that anyone with an idea for a project or knows someone who wants the Women Who Lead to look at their request, fill out the Project Request form found on the Women Who Lead website. This will allow for a more streamline process.
- Sophie from the Delta Zeta talked about two fundraisers they are doing: Dodge for a Cause on Feb 22 & Big Man on Campus 3/25.
- Members were reminded to pay their 2025 dues if they had not yet.

#### Old Business-

- Sunrise Park – A contract for dirt work for the ball fields at Sunrise Park is coming soon. Ruth stated that they are still working with Jeff Boyle at the City of Hays and will have some updates to share at the Power of the Purse event.
- Committee & Chair Update – Ruth stated she is sending out committee members listings to the chairs. Members should start to be contacted soon.
- Sponsor Update – Nancy let everyone know that Women Who Lead surpassed their sponsorship from last year. She thanked Joslyn and the sponsorship committee for their hard work.
- Bullying Project/Mental Health – TMP will hold an event for tackling mental health. This is a partnership with the City of Hays Youth Advisory Committee. Hays High will have their event in the spring and hope to make it an annual thing.
- Power of the Purse – Renee reminded everyone of the Power of the Purse event that will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are still available. There are lots of great purses available as well as a few more fundraiser surprises.
- Feeding Hays – Twenty food kits were put together for First Call for Help.

- Mental Health Committee – Michelle Fairbank let everyone know they are finishing up their self-soothing boxes and if you know any place that could benefit from them, let Michelle know.
- Scholarship Committee – Ruth reminded member that the Women Who Lead Scholarship is “live” on our website and taking applications. Anyone who resides in Ellis County and plan to attend any post-secondary education in Ellis County is eligible to apply. That includes Delta Zeta members.
- Camber Kids – Mary Karst stated they put together Valentine Bags for the children and staff of Camber. They were very appreciated of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Thirsty’s – The Venue at 5:15 p.m.