

Arkansas Partners of the Americas
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Jan. 15, 2005
Russellville, Arkansas

Board President Susan Heily called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Present were:

Officers and Board Members:

President Susan Heily

Vice President Steven M. Neuse

Regional Vice Presidents:

Central Arkansas -- Carol Corning

Northwest Arkansas – Thomas Green

Secretary -Louise Montgomery

Treasurer Wayne Swegle

Past President Thecia Taylor

Director at Large Ed Hawkins

Director at Large LeAnn Robertson

Director at Large Joe Waldrum

Executive Director Bob Frans

Program Committee Chairs::

Agriculture – John Goodwin

Culture – JoAnn Kaminsky

Democratic Initiative –

Direcciones Editor – Bob Frans

Education and Professional

Development – Sera Streiff-Vena

Environment –

Health and Wellness – Thecia Taylor

Public Relations and Partnership

Development – Bill Millager

Sports –

Women and Families –

Ad Hoc 2005 Convention Committee Members:

George Vena and Thecia Taylor

Visitors: Caroline Kinsey, Don

Thurman, Kay Kraeft

1. Minutes from the annual meeting (Oct. 9, 2004, in Fayetteville) were moved to approval by Steven M. Neuse, seconded by Ed Hawkins. One change was requested later in the meeting on p. 3 and approved.

2. Treasurer's report: Swegle reported a bank balance on Dec. 31, 2004 of \$4,416.25, with expenditures over the last quarter of \$4,396.25 covering, among other things, \$800 for the Vice President's trip to the international meeting, dinner for Bolivian students and lodging for visitor Jorge Ybarnegaray in Fayetteville. A copy of the financial report is included with paper copies of the minutes as Appendix A. It was noted that the chapter had not been billed for the cocktail party honoring Lauren Wheeler at the International Convention in Guatemala which was **a promo for the 2005 convention in Little Rock**. On a motion by Taylor, seconded by Millager, Swegle's report was accepted.

3. Trip reports:

Caroline Kinsey reported having just returned from Bolivia, where she was greeted by Tim Thompson, the leader of the Belles Artes Institute orchestra that she went to help with training of horn players. Although Kinsey doesn't speak Spanish, she noted that she could communicate nevertheless with motivated youngsters and a couple of men who play in the local army band. Her work with the band was recognized in a feature story in *El Deber*, the leading Santa Cruz

newspaper, by Partners member Carmen Saldana on Oct. 27, 2004.

Thurman inquired about whether the orchestra needed violins and said he had a box of violins and a lute. Kinsey said youngsters in the Andes make their own instruments, but she indicated that any instruments would be welcome.

Kaminsky reported on her second trip to work with young people at NUR with whom she'd created puppets last year. NUR is involved with youngsters in a leadership and community-building effort. At a school she visited, students were learning and practicing dynamic interaction. She led a workshop on making murals and the NUR youngsters led a session attended by 65 youngsters on integration/disintegration and on making healthy decisions at Puerto Abierto. "I was amazed at their ideas and depth," Kaminsky said. She said she has a good working relationship with the youngsters, one of whom said she wants to name a baby after Kaminsky.

Heily brought up the annual meeting minutes and said an error needed to be corrected (this was reflected in the first item of this report). The change involved whether Ed Hawkins' term had expired; Frans said he was elected to a two-year term, 2003-2005. Hawkins said: "I'd like to resign, but I still want to help. My plate's so full, so if you can find someone (to take my place), I'd appreciate it."

The changes were approved.

Trip report of Steven M. Neuse: In his oral remarks, Neuse said he was happy to have had "three other able companions in Bolivia, Bob (Frans), Wayne (Swegle) and my wife, Jeanine," and at the international convention in Guatemala, a total of eight companions. "We all share in this report," he said. Swegle teased that Neuse had become "a star of the small screen (TV) in Bolivia; he appeared in a TV segment on crime in Bolivia titled "El Cuento del Tio."

Neuse attended the Partners Leadership conference, "a great two days!" he noted, before going to Eastern Bolivia. He said he "came out happy and less confused about funding and where we have to go looking for funding." He said he also learned that projects need to show "sustainability - something you can follow up, continuation with the project."

Neuse said that while he was in Santa Cruz he was unable to see Miguel Cortez, a longtime Partner in Santa Cruz.

Neuse said on the visit to Trinidad, one of three major cities in the Eastern Bolivia chapter, numerous people are interested in doing Partners projects. He said he asked anyone interested in working with Partners to send a short request

that he could send to Arkansas committees. Examples he cited were that Aida McKenny asked for an oboe player and a piano tuner. He said that Tim Thompson "promised instruments and hasn't followed up." In Trinidad, a nursing school needs help, and the Health chair in Santa Cruz, Dr. Mario Paz, health committee chair in Santa Cruz is interested in helping. Neuse suggested asking UA alumni in Bolivia to help. Trinidadians feel like "stepchildren" and are anxious to work on projects, he said. Neuse's formal report is attached to this document as Appendix B.

After a 10-minute break, Swegle made a brief report about his time on the antiplano.

Taylor said she did not go to Eastern Bolivia but in Antigua, Guatemala, she was awarded the Dumond Peck Hill Special 40th Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding service. She called the Saturday night cocktail party honoring the late Lauren Wheeler, an Arkansas Partners president and longtime member, a "rousing success." Information on the planned 2005 convention in Little Rock "got people excited," Taylor said. Neuse and George Vena, co-chair of planning with Taylor for the convention, handed out Arkansas gifts.

Vena: Of two videos presented at the convention, one featuring the founder of Partners, Jim Boren of Oklahoma, was most inspiring and would be a great membership recruiting tool. Boren is a former U.S. senator, and his cousin is president of the University of Oklahoma.

Subcommittee chairs for the Little Rock international convention are Kaminsky for Culture, Swegle for publicity and promotion; Tom Green for tours; and Le Ann Robertson for Marketplace, Thurman for tours outside Little Rock; Millager for the website, working with POA; and volunteers for airport welcoming. (The committee listing is Appendix C).

Vena said housing is needed Nov. 10-12, 2005, and all board members should serve as a subcommittee to meet that need.

On fundraising, Vena said some visits have been made and will be followed up. Vena asked the board to approve of his sponsorship plan that he crafted from the plan used by POA in Guatemala. The plan is attached to this document as Appendix D.

Kraeft asked what use would be made of money raised. Vena said the board wants defray the registration costs for all including the Bolivian visitors. USAID funding is not available, and the chapter needs to raise \$70,000-100,000 privately.

Washington POA is determining the "theme" of the convention and has suggested "Working in Partnership: Engaging the Private Sector." Washington POA will plan panels for the convention, he said. Speakers being considered are a welcome by the mayor of Little Rock; either Governor Mike Huckabee or Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller as the lunch keynote speaker; President Clinton for the Thursday evening reception and a panel for Friday morning. Taylor: For the pre-convention meeting in Fayetteville for incoming officers – 30 people -- Margaret Clark reserved the Methodist Retreat Center on Mt. Sequoyah. Others working with Clark include Neuse, Libby Wheeler and Mary Alice Serafini. Washington POA will take care of translators. Those at the pre-convention meeting will have a full two days of programming.

Heily: Mark Robertson's report (See Appendix F) on planning for Friday night: Mark has heard nothing regarding a grant to bring up Bolivian artisans. He is soliciting catering bids and working with the Visitors Bureau, which is committed to sponsoring the Friday night program.

Vena: The grant he's talking about – Don Thurman will talk about it next. It's a proposal that we'd hoped to get to bring up the Youth Orchestra. We later learned we couldn't be to do that.

Thurman: I've edited the proposal titled "Exchange Program between Bolivian and Arkansas craftsmen to revive the tradition of baroque instrument making in Bolivia sponsored by the Partners of the Americas." (See proposal in Appendix G). Bolivia is looking for the right woods to resonate properly to play music found in 6,000 pages of music in Santa Cruz (state).

Mark (Robertson) coordinates the project. We're asking for \$59,098 from aUSAID. POA won't support performances; this grant proposal grew out of our desire to bring up the orchestra. We wanted this (the artisan project) to be part of the international 2005 convention. We were asked to submit the proposal on behalf of Santa Cruz.

Green: What are our sources of funds to bring up the orchestra? We need \$30,000.

Kraeft: The Arkansas Community Foundation might be interested in helping.

Old Business:

An on-going effort to involve Bolivian students in Arkansas Partners led to Neuse inviting the students to lunch with recent visitor Dr. Jorge Ybarnegaray and to a reception at Neuse's home. Some students came to both events, with more at the evening event.

Regional Vice Presidents' Reports:

Corning: Central Arkansas had a party at Thecia's house for Jorge Ybarnegaray and had a good turnout. Mark Robertson, George Vena and Don Thurman got the grant proposal put together and submitted.

Executive Director's Report

Frans suggested eliminating the Sports Committee because of non-participation by the chairman and lack of any activity in sports.. Some members, however, argued that keeping the committee in the program did no harm. Removing the chairman was discussed. Since standing committees are not part of the operating procedure by-laws, leaving the committee in the structure but removing the chairman is possible, members agreed. Frans said that chairs of committees are voting board members and that the quorum is determined by counting all people on the Board of Directors, including committee chairs.

Agriculture Committee Report:

John Goodwin stated: I agree on focusing agriculture activities on Beni (where Trinidad is located). I've had contact with Winrock. Winrock looks to more than Bolivia in Farmer to Farmer (a program POA had before last year, when Winrock won the bid from US AID). Winrock is interested in more than primitive agriculture. The person in charge of F-to-F, Greg Norman, I had in class. It seems that I have a Tomcat license to put anyone I want on the committee.

Culture Committee: I talked with Jorge when he was here and with Hermes in Bolivia about four projects. Aida McKenny wants Hank Kaminsky to include some teaching at Puerto Abierto when he comes to Bolivia. Hank's plan, ethnographic work, words, but he's not ready to go. Budhi Kling, my friend, we've talked about using art as healing with abused women. We've developed a book we want to translate and use with women and children, teaching people how to lead healing sessions. This is not a project for the immediate future.

I took beadwork of Eleanor Luck and showed it to Vaca, a potter and ceramic artist. His wife, Anna, may be interested. I haven't had feedback.

Nothing has been done about getting Ralph Nessen to do a fundraiser. Hermes and Ralph need to talk to him...I'm going in February to Africa.

Democratic Initiative Report:

Heily: Bettie Lu Lancaster was not up to travel; she had surgery, and I don't have a report.

Education

Sera Streiff-Vena: I've focused on some of the materials that George brought

back on the indigenous plants in Bolivia with the two international schools - an elementary and a middle. I'm working with the teachers. The community gardens will include some plants typical of Bolivia, but it's impossible to bring in plants. Mark will help. The garden club is working on plants in the community gardens and stepping stones with animals of Bolivia.

Streiff-Vena noted that her job at the University of Central Arkansas moved to the UCA international office and her director is interested in POA. He'd like to get Bolivian students and would like to help with international students at the convention.

Neuse: We visited Catholic University in Bolivia and the health people there want help with preparing things for presentation. Which committee might help, education or health?

Several members offered ideas.

Environment Committee report:

Heily: If anyone wants to chair the Environmental Committee, that would be great. (Mark Robertson's report is in Appendix F.)

Health and Wellness Report:

Taylor: Partners is interested in working with a children's hospital. Ybarnegaray is interested; I don't know about Dr Paz.

Public Relations/Partnership Development Report:

Millager: Little new... Bob has finished the fall *Direcciones*. The Annual Meeting minutes are online. See interesting profile in *Direcciones*.

Kraeft: I have two possible members interested in Partnership development. One's a historian, the other is a business student.

New Business:

Heily: Meeting dates - April 16 (Saturday) and July 16 (Saturday), and the Sunday morning at the convention in the Peabody.

Kraeft: Asked for space for her corporation, Songs Unlimited, at the POA convention and offered POA space at her May 2006 convention.

Next board meeting is April 16th 10 a.m. in Russellville at Italian Gardens Restaurant.

