



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas

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Winter 2006 (No. 44)

President's Message

I just have a couple of things to report for this issue. As you will read in another report from Bob or Bettie Lu, the three of us participated in a two-day conference on the Partner's Justice Program in La Paz the first week in March. We had a good chance to dialogue with our counterparts in Santa Cruz and Trinidad and to reach some significant cooperative agreements. The only other report is that I am closing in on appointing a new chair for the health committee. Can't say much more now, but if this comes through I think our ability to get health programs back on track will be greatly enhanced. More later —

Steven M. Neuse

Dues are Due!

That's about all that needs to be said. If you have not paid yet for 2006, send a check to Bob Frans (address above) for \$20 individual, \$30 family or \$10 student. If you do not know whether you have paid, call him at 443-5403 to find out.

Partner honored

We are pleased to announce that Board member and Education and Professional Development Chair **Margaret Clark** will receive a prestigious honor from the University of Arkansas. On April 28 she will be one of 10 black alumni to receive the Silas

Hunt Legacy Award. Congratulations, Margaret!

Trip to Bolivia

As noted above, **Steven Neuse**, **Bettie Lu Lancaster**, and **Bob Frans** traveled to La Paz from March 1 to March 9. The primary purpose of the trip was to participate in discussions concerning the justice project, headquartered in La Paz, for all the partnerships in Bolivia and Arkansas. Representatives were present from Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Oruro, Trinidad, North Carolina, Pando and Riberalta. In addition to an analysis and progress report on the justice project, Arkansas and East Bolivia representatives spent time in defining and clarifying their present and future relationships. To this end a brief document was drawn up and signed by participants from their respective areas, agreeing that:

1. The independent chapters of Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando will have the authority to communicate and work directly with the Arkansas partnership.
2. Santa Cruz and Beni will work together in the reactivation of the Pando chapter.
3. Matt Clausen will help the new Beni and Pando chapters to establish the desired working relationship with Santa Cruz.
4. The chapters in East Bolivia have the ability to establish new sub-chapters according to the provisions of their bylaws.
5. Each chapter in East Bolivia is responsible for its own chapter dues.
6. The East Bolivia chapters will communicate with each other about chapter activities and will meet together at least once a year.

7. The East Bolivia chapters pledge to develop joint programs which will work to the benefit of all East Bolivia.

8. When the new structure is realized the East Bolivia and Arkansas chapters will develop a letter of understanding regarding relationships among the chapters

The above agreement was signed by **Steven Neuse**, **Bob Frans**, and **Bettie Lu Lancaster** of the Arkansas partnership, **Jorge Ibarregaray** and **Modesto Saldaña** of the Santa Cruz partnership, **Roxana Rivero Chávez** and **Vilma Alarcón Balcazar** of the Trinidad, Beni partnership, and **Matthew Clausen** of the Washington office. In addition **Elizabeth Bowles** of La Paz, but representing Riberalta, and **Fernando Mariscal**, of Cobija, joined briefly in the discussions.

These meetings and this agreement will be of great importance to both Arkansas and East Bolivia, defining once and for all the parameters of the relationship between Arkansas and the groups of East Bolivia.

Although the Arkansas representatives originally planned to travel to either Riberalta or Cobija they did not because of excessive rains and flooding in those areas. Instead they elected to do a little sight-seeing, with one day trips to the Yungas and the delightful little village of Coroico and then another day to the Altiplano, Lake Titicaca and Copacabana.

Up-date on the Convention

It has been suggested that we include in this issue an up-date on the Convention held in Little Rock last November. Accordingly, we present here a few “blurbs” by people responsible for various aspects of the convention, along with some pictures of people and places.

Steven Neuse’s report on the Arkansas/Bolivia panel

According to everyone I spoke with who attended the pre-conference panel, the event was a great success. (A caveat: I put it together, but kudos really go to the excellent performance of the panel members). The panel was in two parts. **Jeannie Whayne** and **Bob Cochran** of the UA Fayetteville provided insightful sketches on Arkansas’ historical

and cultural background. **Roby Robertson** rounded out the Arkansas focus with a good discussion of the politics of the Natural State. Then **Margaret Scranton** of UALR and **Ingrid Arinez** (a Boliviana) of UA Arkansas talked about the current political situation in Bolivia and US-Bolivian relationships.

In the second part, **Elizabeth Bowles** of La Paz and **Harold Isevich** and **Jorge Ybarregaray** of Santa Cruz discussed the state of the ‘Citizens Workshop for justice Program’ in Bolivia.

I hope we get the same level of excellence at the conference in Belize next year!

Le Ann Robertson on volunteers

The volunteers that helped in my area were the Y-Teens, a group of Middle School girls from Pulaski Heights Middle School. We had six girls that helped put together name tags, registration and welcome packets for the convention.

Thecia Taylor on the opening reception

Thecia, co-chair for planning the convention, was also mistress of ceremonies for the reception. She introduced **Skip Rutherford**, who gave a brief history of the Presidential Library and the Clinton School of Public Service. He then introduced former Senator **David Pryor** who now is Director of the school. (Late note: Senator Pryor has retired from the School).

Senator Pryor directed his remarks first to the Presidential Center and School of Public Service. He then congratulated the assembled Partners of the Americas on their volunteer efforts. He is no stranger to the volunteer forces and, on a daily basis, acknowledges those who work with and around him.

The highlight of the evening was a video made by President **William J. Clinton**. The President directed his remark to the Partners of the Americas with whom he is more than familiar. (Both he and Mrs. Clinton have addressed our Annual Meetings when he was Governor of Arkansas). He made it clear that neither his Library nor countless other programs around the world could be accomplished without the help of volunteers. He wished us a very successful Convention and welcomed us to tour his Presidential Center

Cultural affairs

Jo Ann Kaminsky was responsible for the art exhibit of professional artists and at-risk youth from Arkansas and East Bolivia shown at the convention. Art work from Arkansas were collected from alternative high school classes in Fayetteville and a 5th grad class. Work by Bolivian children were by street children, attending a class led by artist **Charo Liendo**. The exhibition space also housed the performance of a youth orchestra from Ecuador. The impact of these projects was in creating educational opportunities as well as expanding world concepts. The youth whose work was shown experienced a boost in self esteem and felt they contributed to a greater world. Many people in Arkansas were able to see the diversity and beauty of the Bolivian countryside. The art works from the convention were also taken to Fayetteville and shown there for one month. Attendees at the convention in Little Rock and those viewing the works in Fayetteville were able to purchase individual pieces. As a result of the showing in Fayetteville many more people now know about Bolivia and about the Partners of the Americas

Board meeting

The Board met in Russellville on January 14, 2006. There were several items of interest but for the complete minutes, go to our website, www.uark/misc/partners - our thanks to **Bill Millager** for making them available, and to our Secretary, **Sera Vena** for her competent job in recording them.

The Maria Teresa Frans Scholarship fund was discussed. It was noted that the first year's award went to student **Ninon Gamarra**. Future donations to the fund are to be sent to the Treasurer (currently, **George Vena**) for eventual addition to the fund at the University. President Neuse appointed a committee to work on scholarship matters: Chair **Margaret Clark**, **Jorge Mendoza** and **Bob Frans**. It was suggested that we attempt to get names of students who have graduated from the University in past years so that we may maintain contact with them.

President Neuse brought up the idea of having a

University representative travel to Bolivia for recruitment purposes. **Lynn Mossesso**, Director of International Programs is available to do this once proper letters of invitation are obtained.

A wrap-up of the Convention was discussed, both the pre-planning conference in Fayetteville and the main conference in Little Rock. All agreed it was hard work, but worth it.

Other items discussed included possibilities for fund raising - several ideas were advanced. President Neuse mentioned the possibility of sponsoring a tourist trip to Bolivia and asked the Executive Director to look into it and to bring a report to the next Board meeting. **Jo Ann Kaminsky** discussed her work in cultural activities and the interest the Santa Cruz group has in establishing music exchanges. These ideas will be explored further and may involve aspects of the UCA Concert Choir.

A tabled motion from the last meeting was brought up and that was the archiving of Partners at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville. A motion was passed to allow the expenditure of \$1200 to do this job.

The next Board meeting will be April 15, 2006 in Russellville.

Last thoughts

This issue is a little brief, but in the interests of time, we wanted to get it out to you as soon as possible. Perhaps we will have a little more to present in the next issue. Our thanks go to **Wayne Swegle** and **Sera Vena** for providing the pictures on the following page, and to **Bill Millager** for his work in putting them in a suitable format with captions for this edition. They certainly enhance our remembrance of the convention, including its joys, feelings of a job well done, and oftentimes sheer exhaustion in getting it all done. **Thanks to all!**

Don't forget:

Dues!

Board meeting April 15

A few selected scenes from the
POA Convention
 Little Rock, Nov. 9-13, 2005



Thanks to
 Sera Streiff-Vena
 and
 Wayne Swegle

Rev. 1-3-06

Website: www.uark.edu/misc/partners/news.html
 BLOG: partners-intercom.blogspot.com



Members of the
 Energetic and
 Outstanding
 Brass Band
 from Ecuador

Distinguished Delegates, L to R: Malcolm Butler, Outgoing POA Board Chair
 Baldonado Napoleao (Brazil), Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey, Jorge Ibarregaray,
 Conference Co-chair George Vena, Arkansas POA Pres. Sue Heily



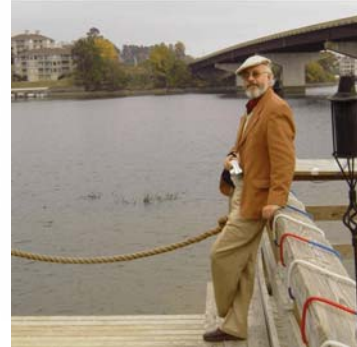
At the Clinton Center Reception: Lee Ann Robertson, Leah Wilkinson
 (long-time partner), Rose Crane (our fund-raising consultant), Sera Streiff-Vena



Arkansas POA President-elect Steven and Janine Neuse, with
 Executive Director Bob Frans and Director Diana Worthen



Convention Co-chair
 George Vena
 Reads
 Arkansas Traveler
 Proclamation



Jorge
 Ibarregaray,
 President,
 East Bolivia
 Partners

Kay Kraeft, Harold Isevich (Bolivia), and Co-chair Thecia Taylor

Bob Frans and Jorge Ibarregaray with Admiring Onlookers



Thecia Taylor
 with
 Former Senator
 David Pryor*
 at the Clinton Center
 Reception

* Dean, Clinton School
 of Public Policy

Four International Students from UCA,
 with Director of International Programs Jim Brosam



Kay Kraeft, Harold Isevich and POA VP-Elect Wayne Swegle



Kay Kraeft, Harold Isevich and POA VP-Elect Wayne Swegle



Clinton Foundation Director Skip Rutherford with
 Senator Pryor, Thecia Taylor, and George Vena

