

Welcome to

Arkansas- East Bolivia Partners of the Americas



Pres.: Susan Heily (2004-05)
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Past Pres. Thecia Taylor
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Exec. Dir.: Bob Frans
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History of Partners

- Partners of the Americas (POA) was established in 1964 as a person-to-person component of the Alliance for Progress.
- There are 60 partnerships, linking 45 states with 31 countries in South America, Central America and the Caribbean.
- The Arkansas-East Bolivia chapter was founded in 1965 – among the first.
- POA is the largest private international voluntary organization devoted to improving the quality of life in the Western Hemisphere.

Bolivia

(Compared with Arkansas)

- Area: (Th Sq Miles) 390 vs 53
- Pop. (M): 8.6 vs 2.7
- GDP (K\$ per cap.) 2.5 vs 25.1
- Pov. Rate (%): 70 vs 19



- Ethnic groups: Quechua 30%, mestizo 30%, Aymara 25%, white 15%
- Official languages: Spanish, Quechua, Aymara (CIA Factbook)



Political Thumbnail

Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon BOLIVAR, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and counter-coups.

Comparatively democratic civilian rule was established in the 1980s, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and drug production.

How Partners Runs

- In Arkansas, Regional VP's for Central (LR) and Northwest (Fvl – largely associated with UofA)
- In East Bolivia, Partnerships in Santa Cruz; Trinidad, Beni; and Cobija, Pando.
- North Carolina and Utah are partnered with Cochabamba and La Paz.
- Specialized action committees, North and South, design and “do” projects.
- E.g.: culture, health, agriculture, social, democratic initiatives, outreach, women and development.....

What Can You Do?

as a Partner

- Expand your global vision
- Learn about Bolivia and Bolivian people
- Make international friendships
- Make a difference: Share your expertise as a volunteer
- Join Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners
- Contact: Bob Frans, Exec. Dir.
rfrans@uark.edu, or

- Our website:
www.uark.edu/misc/partners



Three Arkansas Partners with Bolivianas after Walk for the Cure in Santa Cruz, Sep., 2001

Front center: Carmiña Saldaña, editor of ParaEllas

<http://www.el-deber.net/paraellas/885/paraellas.html>

Bolivian Students at UofA



2003 Graduates at Serafinis' Asado Read all about it at:

www.uark.edu/misc/partners/Direcc33_Spring03.html#asado

Collaboration: Partners Booth at HWOA's Cinco de Mayo Festival, Jones Center (Thanks to Libby Wheeler)



Accomplishments

- A strong stream of travelers (both directions) has been active in democratic initiatives, health, sports, social and cultural programs, etc.
- Agreement with UofA allows Bolivian students to pay in-state tuition. There are now over 80 enrolled.
- Current and past activities are chronicled in Bob Frans's quarterly publication, *Direcciones*. Archives at: www.uark.edu/misc/partners/news.html.
- Our chapter profile on the central Partners website: www.partners.net/know_us/partnership_profiles/Arkansas.htm .

Health Committee



- Chair is Thecia Taylor, right of center, below.

Clinic under construction at
Buena Vista, Santa Cruz

Education Committee

- Sera Vena is Chair of the Education Committee.
- Some years ago, Partners was able to arrange out-of-state tuition waivers to Bolivian students at the UofA. This has resulted in our having over 80 students currently enrolled.



- An example is architecture graduate Paula Saldaña. Read her profile at: www.uark.edu/misc/partners/Direcc31Spring2002.html#saldana

Culture Committee

- Jo Ann and Hank Kaminsky are new co-chairs.
- Jo Ann is an art therapist.
kjo_ann@hotmail.com
- Hank is a sculptor:
sculptor@kaminsky.com

Shown is Hank's
“Peace Fountain” sculpture
at Fayetteville Town Center.



Sports Committee

- Kyle Brunen presented and taught kinesiology skills to many appreciative groups in Bolivia.



Democratic Initiatives Committee

- **B**ettie Lu Lancaster is Chair. Grad student Ingrid Ariñez is a member.

- **B**olivian Justice Reform (CCP*) is a major project now underway.

* Code of Criminal Procedures

See CCP details and official report on Partners web page:

www.partners.net/what_we_do/citizen_participation/justice_sector_reform_bolivia.htm

See Yvan Cordova's article at:

www.uark.edu/misc/partners/Direc34_Summer03.html#essay

Agriculture Committee

- Fran Free has conducted a successful vermi-composting project to support urban family vegetable gardening.
- Photo: Agriculture Chair Don Dombek and Bolivian ex-Chapter President Miguel Cortez at the Fulbright Peace Fountain between Old Main and Vol Walker.



East Bolivia: New President, **Hermes Justiniano**

- Long involvement with environmental issues: see map.
- 300 km Cuiaba Pipeline Project interacts with Chiquitano Forest Initiative.



The Future

- New leadership and initiatives, both North and South
- Leadership development initiative in Santa Cruz: follow-up Joe Waldrum's LEAD-AR mission (to be based at Nur Univ.?)
- Part-time *paid* Exec-Dir in Santa Cruz?
- 2005 International Convention set for Little Rock, to be led by George Vena.
- 2003 was Lexington, KY; 2004 will be Antigua, Guatemala, where the first convention was held, 40 years ago.

>>> Join Partners ! >>>



Join Arkansas – East Bolivia Partners of the Americas:

Membership:

Individual/Student, \$15

Family, \$25

Sustaining, \$100

Benefactor, \$_____

Send check with your info and
committee interests to “Partners
of the Americas,” c/o Bob Frans,
1366 W. Altheimer Dr.,
Fayetteville, AR 72704-6898

Introduction to Prototype Promotional Presentation (P³)

(For internal discussion)

- **Audience:** Public, Service Clubs, Students – Arkansas now; broader later?
- **Purpose:** Educate Public, Build Membership
- **Applications:** Speakers' Bureau; Web
- **Duration:** Twenty minutes?
- **Feature:** Extra slides available to be selected by presenter according to audience (future)