

Arkansas Partners of the Americas Board Meeting

Russellville, Arkansas

January 14, 2006

Board Members Present:

Steven Neuse, President

Wayne Swegle, Vice President

Bob Frans, Executive Director, Editor of Direcciones

Thecia Taylor, Regional Vice President for Central Region, Health Chair, past-president

Jo Ann Kaminsky, Culture Chair

Jorge Mendoza, Director at Large, Culture Committee

Bettie Lu Lancaster, Chair of Democratic Initiative

Margaret Clark, Education Chair, Women and Family

Nadine Spears, Director at Large

Joe Waldrum, Director at Large

Sera Streiff-Vena, Secretary

Visitor:

Leonardo Mendoza, son of Jorge Mendoza, a student at UCA

Approval of the Minutes and Letters Received

President Steven Neuse opened the meeting by greeting and introducing the new board members and giving them an updated folder with information about the organization. After general introductions, the minutes for the previous meeting were approved after a motion by Wayne Swegle which was seconded by Jo Ann Kaminsky. Steven announced that Sue Heily had written a letter to the board indicating that she would no longer be able to continue working in Partners as past president. The board members were surprised and expressed their regret at losing such a dedicated and hard-working member.

Treasurer's report

A copy of the treasurer's report was distributed to the board members by Wayne Swegle, immediate past treasurer. George Vena, the new treasurer, was unable to attend the board meeting today. The financial report is up to date except for three checks that have not cleared the bank yet. The total funds in the bank account as of December 31, 2005 equal \$7, 141.45. Thecia Taylor stated that some of the receipts have not yet been submitted for expenses incurred at the November convention. She and George will meet later to finalize all the convention financial business. Jo Ann Kaminsky, Culture Chair, reported on the expenses from her art display and sale at the convention. Thecia discussed the problem of the guests' expenses during the convention for several dinners, more specifically the Bolivian students who helped out. Prior to the convention, she had gotten permission from Barbara Bloch in Washington for the students to attend the meals without paying. However, after the fact, there was a dispute about this. Also, Thecia told the board about several expenses from the Ecuadorian children's brass band which need to be included in the total, including several meals that she and George paid for. The band had to stay an extra night at the Peabody so their hotel bill was \$500.00 more than anticipated. Barbara

Bloch took back this amount from the children just before they left for New York. George discovered this by accident and he and Thecia returned the money to them. Margaret moved that the bill for the two Bolivian students and the five guests for a total of \$400.00 be paid out of the treasury. Nadine Spears seconded it and motion was approved.

Executive Director's report

Bob Frans gave the Executive Director's report and he distributed current membership lists. He informed the group that the date on the top of the list always reflects the date of the most recent board meeting. This list has all members and shows their paid dues status. He reminded the group that dues are \$20 for individual and \$30 for a family. Bob reminded the board that the total number of members is declining and he thinks we should be concerned about how to increase the membership. Jo Ann Kaminsky talked about she handed out brochures at various recent art events in North West Arkansas. Bob reminded us that he is happy to make and provide mailing labels from the data base for anyone who needs them. Also general Partners informational brochures are available to take to upcoming events. Bob met Elizabeth Bowles at the convention and at the leadership conference in Fayetteville and she has offered to assist us with South-North communication

Maria Teresa Scholarship Fund

Bob discussed the Maria Teresa Scholarship Fund. He reported that Ninon Gamarra, from Bolivia who is currently studying in Fayetteville, was unaware that she had received the \$500.00 grant from Partners. When Bob told Ninon that she had received the grant, she was surprised. He asked her to check in her university account, and she found the money and was very thankful. Margaret Clark stated that the university will often announce scholarships at a college level awards reception or ceremony and there is an opportunity to take a photo at that time. If there is enough money to continue the scholarship next year, it would be nice to try to publicize that the award comes from Partners. Any donations made will be put into the line-item that our past treasurer, Wayne Swegle, has set up. Ms Ede Hogue, at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, will administer the fund. The treasurer of our partnership will now be responsible for the fund from now on. Jorge Mendoza asked what the criteria are for selecting the student to receive the scholarship. Bob replied that it was need-based, rather than solely merit-based. Discussion followed about how to proceed with the fund in order to get some recognition for Partners by possibly getting our name printed in the university's program for the scholarship ceremony. Margaret talked about planning some kind of event to raise funds for scholarships. Bettie Lu Lancaster wondered whether we should set up a committee to work on all of the scholarship issues. Steven then appointed an ad hoc committee and asked Margaret Clark to be chair. Bob Frans and Jorge Mendoza will serve as members. Margaret made a motion, with Betty Lu seconding, that another \$500.00 be awarded this year. The motion carried. Margaret will check to see if there is time left to get the Partners' name printed in some announcement. Margaret wanted to know if anyone in

Bolivia was going to get the names of all the students who have studied in Arkansas and their parents in order to persuade them to contribute some money for scholarships from the Bolivian side. Steven will write to Jorge Ybarnegaray, president of the Bolivian partnership about this. Finally, Bob Frans gave out the manual of operating procedures for 2006 to all the board members.

President's Report

Steven handed out extra Partners brochures for any board members who might need them. Steven has a CD of the Jim Boren presentation at the 2004 convention which can be used as a recruiting tool. He gave one copy to Thecia and to Wayne.

Jorge Ybarnegaray, President of the East Bolivian Partnership, was interested in having someone go to Bolivia to recruit students. The U.A. Director of International Programs, Lynn Mossesso, from U.A. Fayetteville is interested in going down there to pursue this. The university would pay for her expenses but the Partners in Bolivia would host her and set up some meetings for her to talk with students. Part of her mission would be to organize the Razorback chapter there in Bolivia and get things going. Panama has a Razorback Club but would like to have an official alumni association. Joe Waldrum indicated that the Panamanians were upset that the university would not proceed with recognizing their Alumni chapter officially. Margaret will attend a U.A. Alumni board meeting soon and will bring this up at the meeting. The partners would like her to bring this up at the meeting and ask for the group's input on how to go about getting this done. Wayne posed a question about the term, "Razorback," vs. "the University of Arkansas" for an alumni association. Jorge raised the question whether Partners should recruit for one school or another now that the University of Central Arkansas has also agreed to offer in-state tuition to Bolivians. Discussion followed about the history of the preferential treatment of Bolivian students at U.A. Bolivian students at Fayetteville have formed a student organization and Steven passed around their brochure. They are interested in trying to get a famous speaker like Jaime Escalante, who was a principal in Los Angeles and was the subject of a recent movie, to come and speak to their group.

Steven had talked with Elizabeth Bowles and she gave them names of contacts in Riberalta and Cobija (both in Pando, Bolivia) to try to re-establish some relationship with them in order to get some partnership activities.

North West Arkansas Vice President

Thomas Green could not attend and did not have a report for the meeting.

Central Arkansas Vice President

Thecia Taylor announced that the holiday party had to be postponed because the members were too busy to attend. She will host another Partners party in the spring.

The Vice Presidents Report

Wayne Swegle had no report for this meeting.

Convention Wrap-Up

Thecia Taylor stated that she really enjoyed the newest Direcciones with editor, Bob Frans' thank you to our chapter for the members' help with the convention. She wanted to thank Jo Ann Kaminsky (whose name was inadvertently left off) personally for all her work and her committee's work. Also, Le Ann Robertson is to be thanked for her great work on the Marketplace and her husband, Mark, deserves high praise for the wonderfully successful evening at the Historic Arkansas Museum. Thecia read the letter that she and George Vena wrote on behalf of our local chapter to former President Clinton for his video of welcome to our international convention in November 2005. Betty Lu praised the co-chairs for their choice of entertainment in the evenings. Steven remarked on the high quality of the panel presentations.

Leadership Pre-Conference Report

Margaret Clark reported on the Leadership Conference in Fayetteville preceding the international convention. Margaret's committee included: Jane Scroggs, Mary Alice Serafini, Elizabeth Jordan, Elizabeth Wheeler, Steven Neuse, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Diana Worthen, JoAnn and her husband, Hank Kaminsky. She wrote a grant to get some of the costs paid for. Margaret and her committee organized everything including getting all the participants from the airport to the event, all the food and rooms covered plus entertainment for the evenings. She gave a recap of the activities and how she was able to manage on a very modest budget. The group attended two of the peace fountains and a viewing of art work by a former partner, and went on a brief tour of Springdale for a viewing of the Trail of Tears artwork. She reported that she has written thank you notes to all the participants and the supporters. The board congratulated her and her committee for a wonderful job.

Brain Storming Discussion

Steven has asked the president of our Bolivian chapter, Jorge Ybarnegaray, to send him a list of all the Bolivian partners' emails and contact information so that we can work directly with our counterparts. Steven asked the board about the whole issue of fund-raising and whether we have the desire to get into fund-raising, what our fund-raising goals would be, and how to go about it. One area that could be worthy of raising funds would be the scholarship fund. Margaret asked about fund-raising for seed-money for project development. Further discussion followed about these issues. Thecia reported on information that she learned from Rose Crane about fund-raising. Rose stated that a successful organization has a board of directors which includes people who are well-known and well-connected in the community. Rose gave as an example of one successful technique which is to create a plan with a travel grant already in place and then approach someone in a lunch setting with a request for the price of a plane ticket. Thecia Taylor proposed the possibility of inviting Rose to a board meeting for a presentation on how to go about this. Margaret brought up the possibility of sponsoring an event of some kind

and then selling tickets to raise some money. She stated that some other organizations which have used this technique have been very successful. Joe Waldrum reported on an attempt to raise money for the Lead-AR group by using a silent auction which required the members to seek items to be donated. Jo Ann asked that any silent auction not be primarily art since artists cannot take a tax write off for their work. Joe said that the auction consisted of commercially produced objects or in-kind type items like being a guide for a day fishing trip. Jorge questioned how to build a relationship with a large corporation like Wal-Mart and if we could follow-up on our initial fund-raising contacts during the convention. He wanted to know how the Hispanic Women's organization has received so much backing from them even though they are more recent than the 40 years history that Partners has in Arkansas. Steven requested that Margaret put together a model of how some of her organizations do their fund-raising. Steven asked Thecia to contact Rose Crane and ask her to attend our next board meeting and speak to us about improving our fund-raising.

Steven met with someone from the Kansas-Paraguay Partners who told him that their group sponsored a tourist trip to see the sights in Paraguay but also to learn about what the Partners' group did there. The woman whom Steven talked with said it would take at least 18 months to get any trip together. The board members indicated that they were interested in following up on this idea. Steven asked Bob to contact his neighbor who was a travel agent to look into some of the details. Steven asked Jorge what his opinion was of getting a group like Savia Andina to come and perform as a fund-raiser. He stated that other lesser known groups and musicians would be cheaper especially if they were already going to be in the U.S. and could just extend their trip to perform in Arkansas. Steven asked Jorge to look into some musical groups that he knows and ask about the feasibility. Jo Ann talked about how important it is to follow up on projects and exchanges that the Bolivian counterparts are interested in. She indicated that Jorge Ybarnegaray was very interested in bringing up a conductor or choir master to give workshops. Sera Streiff-Vena had introduced him to Mr. John Erwin, the senior choir director at UCA, during the time he spent in Arkansas during the convention and they discussed the famous Baroque music festival held in Santa Cruz each spring. Jorge expressed interest in inviting Mr. Erwin and some of the UCA Concert Choir members to attend it next year.

Archiving Partners

Tom Dillard, an archivist, was contacted about getting all the Partners papers and documents officially archived. He said it would cost \$1200.00 (flat fee) to archive the Partners' material. Margaret Clark moved and Thecia seconded the motion to spend the money to archive the material. It passed unanimously.

Bylaw Changes

Thecia Taylor, Bettie Lu Lancaster, and Bill Millager served on the bylaw committee. A copy of the possible suggestions for changes was circulated to the membership. Thecia

Taylor had a concern that the committee could not find a copy of the articles of incorporation. Thecia stated that our Partnership contacted the Secretary of State about a year ago and that we are all legal with the paperwork in order. There was some debate about the wording which states that the Articles of Incorporation may be amended. Margaret made the motion with Thecia seconding, that the term, "Articles of Incorporation" be replaced with the words, "Bylaws and/or Manual of Operating Procedures." The language in Article XI will be replaced with the sentence, "The bylaws and/or MOP may be amended by a majority vote of the total authorized number of members of the Board of Directors or a majority of the qualified members present at the annual meeting of the corporation. The last sentence replaces all the verbiage of the Article XI of the Bylaws. In addition, on page 9, top line, the first sentence, after the part which ends "under the laws of Arkansas," add the sentence: "and is a 501-C-3 entity, with the federal identification number 71-0562044." In Article VI, section 6, page 4 after the word, "writing," add: "or by e-mail" and after the word, "signed" add: "or instructed by e-mail." A motion was made by Margaret and seconded by Jo Ann to make these changes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

In article VII, Section 12, page 6 after the word, "officer," add "or board member" amend the following to read, "may be removed by....." Margaret made the motion, with second by Bettie Lu Lancaster. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Bob Frans addressed the suggestion, brought up at the last board meeting, that a Bolivian student be added to the board. His objection is on a logistic level because university students come and go and change their addresses and emails frequently. The board decided in light of this reality, that it might be better not to make the student an official board member. Margaret suggested that Steven write a letter to the Fayetteville Bolivian Student Organization asking them to send an official representative of their group to attend our board meeting. The purpose of their presence would be for them to voice their concerns, put forth their ideas, and inform us of activities and events that they are involved with. The representative would not have to be the same person every meeting. Joe asked that Steven word the letter in a direct manner that requests that they send someone to the next meeting.

Committee Report

Bill created a Partners "blog" for the whole Partners organization and now it's on the website. The board praised him for taking the initiative to do this.

<http://partners-intercom.blogspot.com>

Culture Committee Report

Jo Ann Kaminsky is working on getting the artwork to the people who purchased it from the convention art sale. Her committee worked with elementary and high school age children to put together the exhibit. In addition to the sale, there were continuing activities up in North West Arkansas. This process was very educational for the kids; the artists and their group taught the children about Bolivia and the partners' work there.

They worked with fifth graders at a school that has a very transient population. The children came up with wonderful ideas about ways to change the world for the better. At the high school level, the youth selected for the project were part of an at-risk group. It was a little more difficult to energize them and get them to work on community building. When the idea of selling the artwork was presented to the children, they decided that the money should go to the poor children in Bolivia. Steven asked Jorge if he would write a little article for Direcciones about the whole art show event.

New Business

Steven requested that Thecia Taylor contact Bob Boyd, the band leader whose group played for the banquet at the convention, about information on piano tuners who might be willing to go to Bolivia. The tuner, who was approached already about going to do some training on tuning, felt that it would take longer than several weeks to teach the process and could not spare the time. Steven inquired about whether or not he needed board approval to order some stationery with the new Partners logo. The consensus is that he can incur this expense without board consent. Thecia Taylor asked if anyone on the board knows someone who might be interested in taking over chairmanship of the Health Committee from her. Steven requested that Jorge contact Dr. Orlando Aguilar Guzman from Rogers as a possible replacement since he is from Bolivia and he has already indicated interest in our organization.

Steven moved to adjourn the board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2006.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sera Streiff-Vena.