

**Arkansas Partners of the Americas**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

April 16, 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 -

Secretary Louise Montgomery

Treasurer Wayne Swegle

Past President Thecia Taylor

Director at Large

Director at Large LeAnn Robertson

Director at Large

Executive Director Bob Frans

**Program Committee Chairs::**

Agriculture -

Culture - JoAnn Kaminsky

Democratic Initiatives - Bettie Lu Lancaster

Direcciones Editor - Bob Frans

Education and Professional Development -

Environment -

Health and Wellness - Thecia Taylor

Public Relations and Partnership Development -

Sports -

Women and Families - Fran Free

**Ad Hoc 2005 Convention Committee Members:**

George Vena, Thecia Taylor and Don Thurman

**Visitors:** None

1. **Minutes** from the Jan. 15, 2005 board meeting in Russellville were approved with these corrections: Substitute Aida McKinney of Belles Artes for Tim Thompson on p. 1; on p. 2, change Carmen to Carmina, change "Swegle teased that Neuse" to "Neuse teased that Swegle" in Neuse's trip report; in the report on Neuse's attendance at the leadership conference, add that Neuse attended the international convention in Antigua before going to Eastern Bolivia. On p. 3, change "antiplano" to "altiplano."

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Swegle reported a bank balance on March 31, 2005, of \$3,955.11, with expenditures over the last quarter of \$896.14 and income of \$435. A copy of the

financial report is included with paper copies of the minutes as Appendix A

3. **President's Report:** Heily reported that she had learned in February that paperwork for the CPTJ program in Trinidad had not been processed. The chain of command between Trinidad and other Partner units is not clear, Heily said. The Trinidad group was given a Feb. 15 deadline to submit paperwork, but what was submitted was inadequate. More information was requested by March 11 deadline, but none was received. In the future, Heily said clarity is needed on whether Trinidad operates as a sub-chapter of Santa Cruz or whether it is a chapter Heily asked if Arkansas any other POA members wanted to be involved in the process to clarify this chapter issue besides Bob Frans, Steven Neuse, Thecia Taylor and Susan Heily. George Vena said he would like to be included. Among questions discussed was whether Arkansas would be the northern partner for both Trinidad and Santa Cruz or if Trinidad would get a new northern partner.

Frans said when the Trinidad unit was set up, Arkansas Partners thought it could operate in cooperation with Santa Cruz in getting grants, etc. But nothing was spelled out, he said, and only recently did Arkansas conclude that Trinidad was a sub-group of Santa Cruz.

Matt Clausen of POA agreed to guide the open letter process. Heily said the purpose of sending an open letter is to clarify the relationship between the two chapters and whether Trinidad has the resources and people to become a chapter. Vena suggested that Arkansas is better situated to work with Trinidad for several reasons, including the factional divisions between Trinidad and Santa Cruz. Frans commented that Cobija has had problems and is no longer a viable chapter.

Neuse said the Washington office of POA will not send additional money to Trinidad but the Arkansas chapter could find non-Partners money to continue working there. Or Arkansas could suspend all projects until proper reporting is made on the CPTJ grant. Neuse made a motion to make clear to Trinidad that Arkansas Partners will not participate in projects with Trinidad until the CPTJ paperwork problem is resolved. Taylor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

JoAnne Kaminsky and Heily won bronze awards for 250-499 hours of volunteer service to POA.

**Vice President's Report:** Neuse said Tom Dillard, head of Special Collections at Mullins Library, UA, Fayetteville, offered to process Partners' records for \$1,200. Someone noted that the chapter goes back 39 years, being created one year after the national was created.

Thurman called the offer "a bargain," but some members said they were concerned

about spending that much money when the chapter's resources were overextended. Neuse said he would tell Dillard that Partners will hold the decision until after the July board meeting on paying to have the chapter's papers processed.

Heily said some members had questions about information regarding the figure, reported as "around \$1,200." Neuse said the offer is \$1,200. Several people spoke approvingly of the offer; Taylor asked that no commitment be made until the chapter is reimbursed for convention expenses by the national office.

In an update on plans for the 2005 convention in Little Rock, Vena said he and Thecia Taylor, and Margaret Clark, who has planned the pre-convention leadership meeting in Fayetteville for incoming officers, have had "a learning experience" in their attempts to raise funds for the convention. Vena said he and Taylor met with a fundraiser, Rose Creenan. Vena said the Arkansas 2005 convention is the first time the sponsoring chapter has been asked to raise convention funds in the amount of \$70,000. We met with Steve Stevens - he started POA in Arkansas -- and Rose (Creenan) has offered to introduce us to some people at WinRock. He said Creenan was reluctant to sign a contract with Partners, partly because fundraising should have started a year earlier than it did. Creenan suggested as a speaker Bob Nash, economic development official for Gov. Bill Clinton who went to the white House with Clinton to be in charge of hiring. The initial reaction of Barbara Block at POA in Washington was positive.

Vena shared additional information about the convention. The second speaker recommended by Creenan was James Hendren, head of Arkansas Development. Also, Clinton will do a video welcome which Taylor said will cost \$1,500 . A third possibility is George Washington University adjunct professor Ed Grefe, whose expertise is functioning of grassroots organizations. He could be a panel speaker...Steve contacted the Blair Foundation about a pre-convention session on Arkansas history. Vena said POA has not yet chosen a theme for the convention, which complicates speaker selection. "Possibilities are endless; realities are another matter." Yes or No answers have been promised (by Washington POA) next week.

One of the themes Washington POA is talking about is the interrelationship of POA and other NGOs and the interrelationship of POA and for-profit companies. We have the understanding that the Washington POA office leadership will lead a plenary session on planning for POA.

On the theme and fundraising: "We're moving forward; we'll do the best we can getting the best we can." We have a band; Frans and Taylor heard it; it's a bit more staid than the Guatemalan band.

Vena said Margaret Clark has the pre-convention planning all set, although he wasn't sure whether the pre-convention contract had been signed. Thurman has looked into

transportation for the convention and a Saturday tour of Little Rock and Hot Springs.

Thurman passed out numerous brochures and talked about rates for buses. Vena said Tom Green had put together information on pre- and post-convention tours and providing buses to move people during the convention. Buses to take people to eat and other activities that are part of the convention would be part of the registration fee, while the pre- and post- tours would be paid for by the individual taking the tour.

Taylor said Washington suggested that Arkansas Partners put the tour possibilities on its website. Heily asked when the website would have convention information. Vena said POA will send a mailout in May, which will force the selection of a convention theme by that time.

Kaminsky said she plans an art show but is having trouble getting artwork from Bolivia to Little Rock.

**Old Business:** Uncertainty about whether the board had voted on dropping the Sports Committee from the board prompted motions and unanimous approval of removing the committee from the board.

**Regional Reports:** Tom Green, NW, wasn't at the meeting; Corning had nothing to report for Central.

**Executive Director:** Frans said his job entailed keeping up the membership list, soliciting dues and producing the newsletter. He said he wants to give it up. On dues, he said only 9 of 20 board members had paid dues. The chapter has 83 on its membership list, of whom only 18 have paid dues. The board discussed whether to send a letter with a bill. Taylor volunteered to prepare the bills to mail.

UA Bolivian students, led by Lorena Morena, formed the International Bolivian Organization, IBO. So far, 18 Bolivians have paid student memberships and sent us \$180. Vivian Careaga and her sister, Cecilia, were the first to join. The board agreed informally to send a thank-you to Lorena. Frans said the students want to help with the convention.

Regarding the annual Partners party for graduating Bolivian students, Heily said the Serafinis, who usually host it, cannot do so this year. She said the chapter pays for the meat used at the asado. Kaminsky and Free volunteered to host the asado on May 13 at Kaminsky's house. She suggested that they contact Tom Green, regional vice president, and said she'd await word from Tom on whether the asado is a "go." Free and Kaminsky said: "It's a go!"

**Agriculture:** No report.

**Culture:** Kaminsky said she connected Ralph Nesson, a fundraiser, with Hermes, Santa Cruz Partners president. Hermes hasn't responded.

**Democratic Initiatives:** No report.

**Education:** No report.

Heily said two foreign language groups have asked her to be an honorary board member representing Partners for 2005 the Year of Languages and to speak about Partners.

**Environmental:** No report.

**Health and Wellness:** No report.

**Public Relations/Membership:** No report.

**Women and Families:** Free said she was resigning because she "hadn't found a way to be successful" as chair of the committee. However, she said she wanted to help with the convention.

**New Business:** Brief discussion of the need to write projects, but Santa Cruz farmers are in the middle of harvest.

The meeting ended at 1:27 p.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m., July 16 at Italian Gardens in Russellville.