

Arkansas Partners of the Americas Board Minutes, July 16, 2005
Italian Gardens Restaurant, Russellville, Arkansas

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

President Susan Heily
Secretary Louise Montgomery
Director at Large Joe Waldrum

Vice President Steve Neuse
Treasurer Wayne Swegle
Director at Large LeAnn Robertson

Committee chairs present were:

Public Relations and Partnership Development --

Health and Wellness –

Women and Families –

Culture – Jo Ann Kaminsky

International Convention Ad-Hoc committee co-chair George Vena

Visitor: Kay Kraeft

Heily noted that since a quorum was not present, no official business could be transacted except by polling absent board members by mail.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the April board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Swegle presented a report (attached) indicating a total of \$1,044.28 in new income, a majority of which was dues payments generated by a letter that Past President Thecia Taylor mailed to delinquent members. The bank balance as of July 1, 2005, was \$4,214.99.

President's Report:

Heily noted that Thecia Taylor had been awarded the highest level of President's Volunteer Service Award by POA President Malcolm Butler. The board unanimously approved congratulating Taylor.

As of July 12, the Southern Partners in Santa Cruz had not paid the chapter's dues, which is essential for participation in the November International Conference.

Heily said a group called Amizade had contacted her about POA helping merchandise their hand-painted cards from a Bolivian organization. She suggested that they might set up a table at the Conference Marketplace.

Partners in Washington D.C. asked if our chapter wants to be part of Youth Ambassadors, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Youth from all over Bolivia would compete to come to the United States for two weeks, one in Washington, D.C., and the other in the Partnership. Heily said yes on behalf of Arkansas POA to the program, conditionally. The visits are to occur in January. She said Arkansas would consider taking 3-4 students, not the 10-15 that would usually come from a country. "We said, if it goes through, we'd like to be included," Heily reported.

On another matter, Heily said that one board member suggested at the last meeting that each member pay for his/her own lunch because the chapter is cash-strapped. No one supported the idea.

Heily said that Santa Cruz Partners would send a member from the chapter for leadership training in Uruguay (as Steven Neuse was last year) - and their dues would be paid at that time.

Heily said Carol Corning had resigned as Central Region Vice President, but because of an email addressing error, Heily didn't get that information before the last (April 2005) board meeting.

On scholarships to attend the International Conference, Heily read the requirements: a member for fewer than two years, never attended an international conference and active membership. The recipients would have to spend eight days in Bolivia as part of the scholarship. Heily encouraged the board to submit any recommendations to her.

Nominating Committee Report: Heily noted that MOP requires that the board suggest names of people to serve on the nominating committee to the past-president and that she and the board had not done so. Thus, Heily had recruited help for the nominating committee by email. The committee has been in place since May. Taylor is so busy with planning the International Conference that she hasn't had time to proceed with nominating committee work. So no report was available. Taylor promises to have that report for the Nov. annual meeting. We were reminded by the President that ballots would be sent out by Taylor and returned according to our MOP to the secretary for tabulation.

International Conference report: George Vena said former U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers will address the Friday noon Awards Banquet. He and Don Thurman are working on transport and tours with Little Rock Tours including transport to events such as the HAM reception; tour buses with commentary, and regional tour buses. Saturday afternoon tour possibilities have been narrowed to three possible tours: Little Rock, Hot Springs and green building of central Arkansas. He noted that the Saturday afternoon tours are paid for separately from those paid for as part of the registration fee. Prices discussed were \$20 for a 4-hour Little Rock tour, \$32 for Hot Springs and \$20-25 for the green tour (WinRock's new building; Heifer International).

There are two grant proposals in the works to benefit the International Convention. First, a grant request to Entergy on the possibility of bringing some weavers from the South which President Heily is working on. Kaminsky said fundraising for that project "is a no-go," but the deadline was August 1. Heily said she kept emailing Southern President Hermes Justiniano and didn't expect that she would get the grant proposal written if she didn't get the necessary information from the Southern Partnership in time.

The second grant request - to benefit the International Convention is being formulated by Kaminsky to submit to the POA in Washington. Kaminsky said she has communicated

with Santa Cruz Partners members Aida McKinney and Hermes, asking that they send 12 pieces of art to be displayed at the International Conference. She thought it could be displayed in the lobby of the convention hotel, the Peabody. The grant is nearing final form for submission to Washington in the near future. Heily noted that the board need not take action on the convention grant proposals. Kaminsky noted that the art show in her grant will go from Little Rock to Fayetteville for display at the Town Center for one month, coming down Dec. 12, 2005. Anyone wanting to buy the art could contact the artist, she said.

Vena said he is meeting with other POA members in Little Rock regarding catering for the conference. The City of Little Rock is paying for the HAM reception, he said, and he is talking with Prios about catering the Clinton Library event. He said he is using the figure of expected attendance of 300.

Waldrum said he has talked with Assistant City Manager Brian Day about helping with the conference. He also said he has a contact at the Arkansas Art Center, Heather Haywood, and could talk to her about displaying the Bolivian art there.

Executive Director's Report (given by Steven Neuse):

Neuse noted that Frans recommended that Heily attend the International Conference as the chapter delegate. Heily noted that the chapter usually provides \$500 for expense of a delegate at a convention in the United States and \$700-800 outside of the country. Neuse moved and Montgomery seconded a motion to supply our voting delegate with \$500 to attend the International Conference in Little Rock. The motion was unanimously approved. (Note that by this time, seven voting members were in attendance; the plan was to poll remaining members by email, meeting the quorum requirement for official board action.) A unanimous vote was sustained by email vote.

Discussion centered around making the treasurer the official liaison between Partners and the UA International Office relative to the Maria Theresa Frans scholarship. Heily questioned whether such a designation should be in the bylaws; "I'll put in future business that we should work on the bylaws," she said.

Swegle, who lives near Little Rock, suggested that a Fayetteville Partner might be a better choice as liaison. Whether to take further action on making the liaison official was left to further discussion when Frans is present.

On dues, Heily noted that Taylor's approach to getting dues paid was successful.

Neuse played a video of a speech given by former U.S. Sen. Jim Boren, founder of POA.

REGIONAL REPORTS: Northwest Regional VP Tom Green submitted a written report. It stated: The only activity to report was the May 13 asado for the graduating Bolivian students. The asado was quite a success due to the efforts of Jo Ann and Hank Kaminsky, Fran Free, and Margaret Clark. We didn't count how many Bolivianos attended, but it certainly was close to 50 students and some of their parents.

Jo Ann and Hank hosted the event at their house and purchased barbequed meat. Various members of the OPA in NWA brought food to supplement the meat. Margaret Clark brought Blue Birds of Happiness to give to each graduating student. Fran Free prepared the announcement. Bob Frans distributed it, and Vivian Careaga made sure the Bolivian students knew about the event. Margaret Clark and Thecia Taylor distributed the bluebirds to the graduating students after dinner.

Photographs of the event are in the last issue of Direcciones.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Frans reported in a written report that Neuse delivered that the Maria Teresa Frans Foundation scholarship fund contained about \$1,500. (The formal name of the fund is Fundacion Maria Teresa Villanueva de Frans, Account. No. 30-003131.) A brief report on the fund is in the attachments to these minutes. Frans noted in the attachment that Partners wants the fund, hosted by the UA International Students office, to continue and that it should be used "only to assist financially needy Bolivian students at the University." Frans recommended that a \$500 scholarship be awarded annually and that fund raising augment the fund. Of two applicants who qualified for the scholarship this year, Frans recommended awarding \$500 to Ninon Gamarra. Michael Freeman, who heads the International Students Office at UA, provided details and names of the students. (The board reviewed the applications, and Neuse motioned and Louise Montgomery seconded that Gamarra be awarded the scholarship. It was unanimously approved after the email ballot of absent members)

On the issue of dues-delinquent members, Frans recommended dropping from membership roles those people who had not paid dues since 2001. He said a letter had been sent to those on that list, noting that the Partnership planned to drop them. Frans noted that Taylor objected to removing Dan and Ana Gudahl because they have been helpful in planning the 2005 International Conference in Little Rock. He asked: "Should we attempt to maintain a list of people helpful to our partnership regardless of their dues status? We have not done so in the past. Are there suggestions as to how this might be done?"

(Some dues were received after Frans' report was written; therefore, the only persons dropped from the membership rolls are those who did not respond to the latest request for dues payment. Those dropped include Rafael Acosta, Teresa Elder, Thomas Evrard, Jim and Margaret Johnson, and Cora Zabala-Holt.)

Agriculture Committee: No report.

Culture Committee: Jo Ann Kaminsky said most of her activities are focused on the International Conference. She said she will work with George Vena on details of a grant request for the convention.

Democratic Initiative: No report.

Education: George Vena made a brief report for Education Chair Sera Vena. The committee's work with Little Rock teachers developing an ecology curriculum is progressing, though she had had difficulty getting responses from the South.

Environment: No report.

Health and Wellness: No report.

(At 11:20 a.m., the group broke for lunch.)

Public Relations and Partnership Development –
Membership Committee:
Sports Committee:

OLD BUSINESS:

Heily noted that she had a letter from POA's Matt Clausen that the POA chapter in Trinidad had refunded \$500 to resolve its grant problems with CPTJ. She also said Clausen will draft a letter to explore how AR, Santa Cruz, and Trinidad want the structure of the relationship between the Santa Cruz chapter and the subchapter in Trinidad to be in the future..

Heily said Taylor suggested putting Helen Wilson on the honorary membership list. Heily asked that the secretary send a letter on letterhead to those on the list who are there because of their service. Neuse agreed, as did Swegle.

Neuse commented that the only people who get the membership list are board members. Kraeft said that is why she came to board meeting; POA "disappears from my life." Neuse asked if the list could be put online. Vena suggested sending the list with dues statements. Kraeft said that suggestion had once been voted down. Neuse said he didn't think it required board action. Swegle said sending the list might create privacy issues. Waldrum suggested sending the list without personal information. Neuse suggested asking members to say whether they want their personal information sent out.

Heily passed around information on the 3-year Fellows program.

On archiving POA materials at UA Fayetteville, Heily noted that the issue had been discussed at a previous meeting, Neuse moved, Montgomery seconded, paying the \$1,200 that UA requested to prepare the materials. Robertson moved, Waldrum seconded, a motion to table the issue of whether to give UA the go-ahead on archiving POA materials. All except Heily approved; Heily opposed. In email balloting, the

motion to table failed and will return to the board as “old business” at the November meeting.

New Business: Neuse suggested including a student board member in the bylaws. Vena suggested that Neuse, the incoming president, list changes desired in the bylaws and bring the list to the next meeting. Neuse agreed to do so.

Kraeft suggested as part of membership development that university faculty be written about POA. Neuse said he doubted that faculty would be interested because “it wouldn’t help with tenure.” Kraeft said she has written organizations about participating in her 2006 festival and would like POA to participate. “We’ll provide the space,” she said. The 2006 festival will promote Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, but Arkansas is also featured in this, the second, festival she has sponsored. The first was in Bolivia in 2003.

Heily asked how many attend: Kraeft said “hundreds.” Kraeft said she needs to know by Dec. 5, 2005, whether an organization wants to participate.

Heily said the next board meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 13, during the conference.

The meeting ended at about 12:20 p.m.

Attachments:

1. Agenda 7/16/2005.
2. Membership list
3. Quarterly Income and Expenses, Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
4. Letter dated July 5, 2005, from Cecilia Otero, Program Director, POA, regarding American Fellows Program.