
DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
Bob Frans, Ed., 276 Alzheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72703

September 18, 1995

Editor's note

It is with considerable chagrin that your editor, upon checking through past issues of the newsletter, realizes that the last one was dated December 16, 1994! That is far too long ago and the editor apologizes for his procrastination. He could say that he's been too busy, not much happening, etc., etc., etc. But you don't want to hear all that. There is considerable news to report on, so without further ado - on to the news!

President's message

At our annual meeting this fall in Little Rock on October 20th and 21st, we will celebrate our Partnership's 30th anniversary. The Arkansas East-Bolivia Partnership began in the second year of the Partners of the Americas. **Thecia Taylor** and **Don Thurman**, the Annual Meeting co-chairs, are planning a big party, and I hope that many of our members will be able to attend.

We are also preparing for our annual election. This year we will elect a president, vice president, two regional vice presidents, two directors-at-large and a secretary. Our Nominating Committee is **Cameron Jones**, Chair, **Claude Gillette**, **George Vena**, **Roald Peterson**, and **Louise Montgomery**. If you are interested in being included on the ballot, contact a member of the committee, me, or **Bob Frans**.

This August, the National Office

will announce the guidelines for the next class of fellows. This is an excellent opportunity for members to visit several locations in North and South America and the Caribbean. The competition is keen for the fellowships. Only 41 were awarded this year. We are very pleased that **Desiree Mostajo** from Santa Cruz was selected in this year's group. If you are interested in applying, contact a board member or one of our previous fellows: **George Vena**, **Leah Wilkinson**, or **Dan Gudahl** for an application.

The National Office has opened up the Emergency Preparedness Program to all Partnerships. This may be an opportunity to work with Santa Cruz on flood control. The program will support trips that won't count against our non-restricted ones.

I read the recent travel article on Bolivia in the Democrat-Gazette with mixed feelings. When I scanned the photos, I anticipated a good article and thought it appropriate given the nearly 30 years of our partnership with East Bolivia and the sister-city relationship between Little Rock and Santa Cruz. Then I read the article and was dismayed. I was confused as to whether this was a feeble attempt at humor with the constant referrals to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid or a sophomoric attempt at writing. Whatever it was, I found it insulting. I wonder if the author ever visited Bolivia. **Louise Montgomery** thinks that he should restrict his travels to Miami Beach. Contrary to the article, you can drink the water in Bolivia, and you can get along well without knowing Spanish, but you will have more fun if you speak it. The people of Bolivia are wonderful, the food is excellent and you walk the streets a night without

fear. The author should do that in Chicago sometime.

I have had a request that we as a group respond to the Democrat-Gazette article. If you care to respond to it as part of the group, send me your letter in care of **Bob Frans**, and I will collect them and send them together to the Democrat-Gazette.

Laurin Wheeler

Nominations

To re-emphasize the President's message on nominations - these need to be gotten underway rather quickly. A ballot needs to be prepared during the next two months and circulated to the membership for the vote. The new officers and board members should be announced at our fall Annual Meeting. The positions to be filled are President (although the Vice-President is to advance to the presidency if confirmed by vote of the membership), Vice President, two regional Vice Presidents (Northwest and Central Arkansas), Secretary (**Louise Montgomery** will be gone for the next year on leave of absence), and two Directors-at-Large (traditionally one from central and one from northwest Arkansas). The Nomination Committee would welcome your input into these important selections.

Board meeting

Two meetings of the Board have been held since the last issue of *Direcciones* - one in January and

one in April. The following is a brief excerpt from the last meeting.

April meeting

The Board met on April 29 at Russellville. **President Laurin Wheeler** made several announcements. He had received the list of the Santa Cruz Officers and Board members and they are as follows:

Consulting Council

Carlos Paniagua L.

Rubén Urey J.

Hugo Arce V.

President - **Aida McKenney**

1st Vice President - **Desiree**

Mostajo

2nd Vice President (Agropecuaria and FTF) - **Miguel Cortez E.**

Project Coordinator - **Hugo Arce V.**

Secretary - **Martha Ribera de**

Cortez

Office Secretary - **Ingrid Melgar M.**

Veterinary Chair - **Tomás Raúl**

Suárez C.

Medicine Chair - **Herman Feeney**

Dentistry Chair - **Melvin Cuellar**

Rehabilitation Chair - **Doris**

Banegas G.

Culture - **Jorge Ibarnegaray**

Communications - **Carmiña**

Fernandez

Fellows Program Chair - **Martha**

Coronado

Economy Chair - **Fernando**

Terrazas

Civic Education Chair - **Eugenia**

Mosciaro

Education and Youth Chairs

Maria Teresa Guilloux

Max Frydman

Blanca Barba de Callaú

Eco-Tourism and Environment Chairs

Andres Visinoni

Anaí Holzman

He urged committee chairs and other interested persons to become acquainted with their counterparts and to contact them directly. Complete addresses and telephone numbers may be obtained from the President or Executive Director.

The President reported on several potential travels for 1995 - these are covered in more detail below. There were several committee reports as follows:

REACH OUT - It was noted with regret that **Louise Montgomery**

would be out of country on sabbatical for a year and would be unable to continue with this program and as Secretary.

CULTURE - **Kay Kraeft** held meetings regarding the role of Culture in the Hemispheric Summit in Santa Cruz in November, 1996. She is also developing a resource list of people who can speak on aspects of Bolivia in Arkansas.

EDUCATION - **Margaret Clark** is firming up a possible exchange in this area, possibly for the fall.

AGRICULTURE - **Bob Frans** reported that **Phil Serafini** had generated projects garnering support outside of Partners, such as a Conservation Tillage Conference, a short course on cotton production, and a machinery show in Santa Cruz, facilitated by new Partner member **Preston La Ferney**. Other new projects are being considered for future years.

YOUTH - **Sue Heily** is coordinating goals with Santa Cruz counterparts which she hopes to complete on a forthcoming trip to Santa Cruz.

DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVE - **Bettie Lu Lancaster** reported that **Steve Neuse** will consult with counterparts in Santa Cruz on Social Studies Methodology on a forthcoming to Santa Cruz this summer.

New members

We have had several people join Partners in the early part of this year and since the last issue of the newsletter. They are:

Benjie Bartos (student), 235 Lower Ridge Rd., Conway AR 72032

Chris and Lynda Brothers (students), 510 Elmdale Lane, Springdale AR 72764

Wade and Sarah Burnside, 1102 E Shadowridge Dr., Fayetteville AR 72701

Preston La Ferney, 1794 Ora Dr., Fayetteville AR 72701

Scott La Ferney, 1227 East Ash, Fayetteville AR 72703

Becky Lentz, 2000 Magnolia Ave. #356, Little Rock AR 72252

DeDe Long, 508 Forest Ave., Fayetteville AR 72701

William and Gwen Millager, 12304

Cannon Rd., Rogers AR 72756

Alice Guffey Miller, Star Rt 7, Box 137, Nelia Valley, Mena AR 71953

Robert and Barbara Savage, 348 N Walnut, Fayetteville AR 72701

Please help welcome these new members in your area, and help them become familiar with Partners.

News from Washington

Several items have come from our national office in Washington and some have been referred to in the President's message. Here's some other items:

Reach Out

The Reach Out Bulletin continues to remind us how important the Partners program is. We are also reminded that foreign assistance is much lower than the public's perception - an important point in these days of budget cutting in Washington. Also, **Polly Donaldson**, National Director of Reach Out has reminded us of a new newsletter, *Connections*, published 10 times a year by the Alliance for Global Community. The Alliance is a coalition of relief and development organizations and the recent issue of their newsletter features Partners of the Americas and Sister Cities. Our Reach Out representatives will receive *Connections* on a regular basis. If any of you would like to subscribe individually, we have the details.

International Convention

Fact sheets have been received by the President and Executive Director concerning this year's International Convention, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, November 16 to 18. The theme is: "Many Cultures, One People." Both our President and Vice President are slated to attend this meeting. If any of you are interested, contact us for further details.

Emergency Preparedness

This program is continuing to receive strong support throughout the hemisphere. **Jim Feaster**, the National Director, reminds us that

small project assistance grants and travel grants are available.

Elections, Board of Directors, POA

The National Board has open six non-officer positions, which will be voted on at the International Convention. If you are interested in serving, nomination forms are available.

Fellows VIII

The Fellowship in International Development, 1995-1997 (VIII), is underway. **Kate Raftery**, National Director of the program, announced that they have completed their first seminar. She has made available to us a directory of the participants in Fellows VIII - we are pleased to announce that **Dr. Desiree Mostajo**, now of the Santa Cruz Partners, is one of the group of 41 participating in these activities. Plans are already underway for recruitment for Fellow IX. The deadline for these applications is December 15, 1995.

Population NGO's

Martha Lewis Director of Women in Development has announced a program funded by the World Bank to assist small, indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working in family planning and reproductive health. Forms are available from our office to nominate such NGO's to assist in this work.

Communications

National President **Bill Reese** reminds us that the Washington staff is on the Internet, and that all of them have e-mail addresses. If you know the person you want to contact by e-mail, simply type their initials followed by @partners.poa.com - thus, Bill would be: wr@partners.poa.com. Our partnership representative, **Anabella Bruch** would be ab@partners.poa.com. If there is anyone you would like to contact in this manner, and you are unsure of the address, we have a complete list of these addresses in the Executive Director's office. President **Laurin Wheeler** is working on developing e-mail capabilities with Santa Cruz. So far, we have one e-mail address

with UPSA, the private university - but we need others. This would improve our communications abilities tremendously. If any of you have a recently-acquired e-mail address and would like it listed in our membership roster, just send it to the Executive Director.

Travelers

We will try to update you on the status of travels between Arkansas and East Bolivia as far as is known at this writing; however, the picture remains a little confused. There has been and will be movement between our two areas, but none of the travels have been part of the four allotted travels we receive each year. **Susan Heily** was in Bolivia from June 2 to July 9. She traveled on a Dodge NEH Fellowship. Although not a Partners official travel, she did interact with many of our counterparts in both Trinidad and Santa Cruz, including **Max Frydman** and **Sonia Suárez**. In particular, Heily held conversations regarding the possibilities of interchange of students both North and South in addition to other and regular exchanges between Partners members of both Arkansas and East Bolivia. **Miguel Cortez** was scheduled to come to Arkansas on a Farmer to Farmer funded trip in mid-July. However, he had to re-schedule his trip due to illness in his family and is now scheduled to be here from August 5 to August 20. **Phil Serafini** will accompany a group of University of Arkansas scientists and Arkansas farmers to Santa Cruz to participate in a conservation tillage forum sponsored by USAID and CYMMT in Mexico. Farmer to Farmer is providing part of the funding for these travels. **Steve Neuse** plans to travel to Bolivia on a Democratic Initiative funded trip in August. He will spend a few days in La Paz visiting USAID officials (and, hopefully, the **Frans** family, who will be in La Paz at that time) before going on to Santa Cruz.

Annual meeting

We are told that **Thecia Taylor** and **Don Thurman** are hard at work planning for the Annual Meeting to be held in Little Rock, October 20 and 21. What's special about that? Well, we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary then! Those of you who remember our 25th blow-out know what a great time we had, including a visit by then Governor Bill Clinton. We would guess that the 30th will be equally exciting. Our President has invited our counterpart President from Santa Cruz, **Aida McKenney**, to come. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This is the one time in the year that all Arkansas Partners have a chance to come together for a most interesting time. We need to make this year's occasion very special. More details will be provided later, either through the newsletter, or in a special mailing.

Dues for 1995

Yes, dues are due! If you have not paid for 1995, you will find attached to this issue of *Direcciones* a dues statement. We have already received many renewals, but we want you all to have a chance to be sure you continue to be an active member. We maintain a membership roster for all who have paid dues during the current and last two years. Already, people who have not paid since 1992 are starting to disappear from the roster. You don't want to be one of them! So, please take a little time and take care of this very important matter. You will be helping yourself as well as the Arkansas East-Bolivia Partners!

Next Board meeting

President **Laurin Wheeler** has announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held July 29, at 10:00 am in Russellville on the Tech campus - Dean 104. All Officers, Directors, and Committee

Chairs are urged to attend.