



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
Bob Frans, Ed., 276 Alzheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704

March 28, 1996

President's message

Through the efforts of **Thecia Taylor** and **Don Thurman**, our 30th Anniversary meeting in Littler Rock was truly an event to remember. The weekend began at Thecia's house with a reception and culminated with dinner in the Pinnacle Room of the Excelsior Hotel overlooking Little Rock. Past presidents were invited to the anniversary dinner. In addition to Thecia and Don, **Steve Stevens**, one of the very early presidents was there. We were also pleased and fortunate to have **Aida McKenny**, President of the Santa Cruz chapter of Eastern Bolivia with us. This was at least Aida's second visit to Arkansas. Any member of Partners who has had the opportunity to visit Santa Cruz has met Aida and enjoyed her hospitality.

This year the International Partner's Meeting was in Port of Spain hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Partnership. Arkansas was well represented there by President Elect, **Margaret Clark**, Vice President elect, **Kay Kraeft**, Health Chair, **Thecia Taylor** and me. The meeting was opened by the President and the newly elected Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and the American Ambassador. The general theme of the meeting was cultural diversity and Trinidad Tobago was an excellent choice. One tour guide described his lineage and it included eight nationalities and two continents. The nightly entertainment focused on the national diversity of music and food,

- African, Indian, Creole and Caribbean. The meeting next year will be in Boston, hosted by the New England Partnerships. They will have to work hard to equal this year's meeting.

Bill Reese, national Partners President, said that the response of Partner members to congress concerning the proposed cuts of US AID funds was responsible for saving funding for foreign development. Those of you who contacted our congressional delegation are to be commended. The funding for Partners travel for next year is still unsettled. Our last resource letter indicated that we will have between two and four unrestricted grants. This is comparable with the unrestricted travel over the past two or three years. We have been fortunate to have generated a number of additional travel grants from the restricted programs through the work of **Bettie Lu Lancaster**, Chair of the Democratic Initiative Program, and **Phil Serafini**, the new Chair of the Agriculture and the Farmer to Farmer program. At one time last week we had eight Bolivians in Arkansas. According to my count, we have had about 18 travelers this year. This is remarkable level of activity given the tightness of funds and it underscores the hard work and ingenuity of a number of people on both sides of our Partnership and throughout the State of Arkansas.

As **Bob Frans** has told me, this is my swan song. **Margaret Clark** will write the next Presidents column. It has been my pleasure over the past three years to have been vice president and president and to be able to meet more of you. I want to thank all of you for that opportunity and for the effort that you have put

into our Partnership. I am always amazed and my faith in humanity is restored when I see the effort and dedication that people devote to volunteer work and how willing they are in sharing their knowledge and experience. I have been reminded of this each time we have a traveler, either north or south bound, and each time that I attend the International Meeting. Partners of the Americas is now 31 years old and our Partnership is 30 years old. There are few institutions that last that long especially if they are totally dependent on volunteer workers.

The exciting part of Partners is to travel and to see our southern half. There is another very important function of Partners that we tend to overlook, the people to people aspect. Each time we are able to host a traveler, take one to dinner or attend a reception for a traveler we make an impression. It is a way of saying that you care about international development and people. This is the strength of Partners of the Americas and it is why it is still viable after 31 years.

Laurin Wheeler

Editor's note

This will be the last issue of *Direcciones* for 1995. Several items of interest to the Partnership follow. Of particular note is the 30-year celebration held in October in Little Rock. During that meeting **President Wheeler** reported the results of the recent election of Officers and members of the Board. They are as follows:

President - **Margaret Clark**
Vice President - **Kay Kraeft**

Regional VP, CN - **Bill Parsons**
Regional VP, NW - **Jane Scroggs**
Secretary - **Natalia Salazar**
Treasurer - **George Vena**
Director (1997) - **Sue Heily**
Director (1997) - vacant - to be filled
by the Board of Directors
Past President - **Laurin Wheeler**
Executive Director - **Bob Frans**

We wish the new Board the very best for 1996, and to the outgoing Board members (**Bettie Lu Lancaster, Louise Montgomery, Cameron Jones, and Maria Teresa Frans**) our best wishes and thanks for your service. We hope you will continue your strong involvement with Partners in future years.

1996 Board meeting dates

Incoming President **Margaret Clark** has announced the dates for Board meetings for 1996. They are :

January 27
April 27
July 27

October 26 (somehow we missed the 27th!). This latter date is also the Annual Meeting date and is scheduled for Northwest Arkansas - we alternate between Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas for the Annual Meeting.

All the above dates are Saturdays. The months for Board meetings are specified in the Constitution and By-Laws, giving us one meeting per quarter. Further details regarding time and place of meetings will be announced later.

1996 Dues are due!

Yes, it's that time again - time to get caught up and to continue your active membership in the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas. Considering the fact that we have completed 30 successful years in partnership with East Bolivia (which now includes both the

Santa Cruz and Beni departamentos) should bring us all a sense of real accomplishment. Your interest in Partners has been expressed in many ways, and the diversity of your interest has lent real strength to this organization. We hope you will agree and will be prompt in taking care of this matter as soon as possible. Some of you have paid dues for 1996 already - most of us have not. If your copy of this issue of *Direcciones* has a dues statement, this means our records indicate it's time to write that check! We welcome and need your continued support. Also, this is the time of the year that we start "cleaning up" the mailing list. If we haven't heard from you in the last three years - so long! However, we'd sure like you to stay, so if you have questions, please call.

Note from Helen

In regard to the above, your Editor could not resist including the following note from **Helen Wilson**:
"¡Amigos! Muchas gracias por *Direcciones* con muchas noticias. ¡Qué bien trabajo de parte de muchas "Partners" tanto en Bolivia como aquí en Arkansas! FELICIDADES to the Board of Directors and Editor!"

Sure is nice to receive plaudits once in a while. Thanks Helen!

New members

Please help us welcome new members. One family is from Northwest Arkansas and is:

Frank & Susan Farmer - 2025
Winwood, Fayetteville AR 72703

Two members are from Central Arkansas (Russellville):

John Burch - Arkansas Tech Univ.,
Box 8621, Russellville AR 72801-
2222

Patricia Rivière-Mitchell - 915
North El Paso, Russellville AR

72801

Patricia has succeeded **Dan McElderry** as director of the Arkansas International Languages Program at Arkansas Tech. Dan is now with the Arkansas Math and Sciences School in Hot Springs. Welcome all!

Highlights on our Partners

For those of you who might not be getting the National Partners Newsletter (you should be, if you are a current and paid up member!) A couple of our Partners are Featured. On the front page of the August 1995 issue there is a picture of a smiling **Desiree Mostajo** busily stirring a pot in Washington D.C. as part of her Fellows activities. You will remember Desiree as helping start our group in Trinidad-Beni a couple of years ago. She is now in Santa Cruz. Then, on the last interior page, there is a nice article on **Jeff Allender**, from UCA in Conway, and his work in promoting ecotourism in Bolivia. Congratulations to both!

Travelers

This has been a particularly busy season for travel, especially from our southern partners to Arkansas. Some of the highlights of their trips are as follows:

Democratic Initiatives

Bettie Lu Lancaster entertained four ladies from East Bolivia just recently. Two of the ladies, **Rosario Villarroel** from Trinidad-Beni and **Sylvia Novillo** from Santa Cruz, represented the Comité Civico Feminino in their respective cities. Their visit overlapped with that of **Maria Eugenia Mosciaro** and her sister **Ruth Otero** from Santa Cruz. Maria Eugenia is Bettie Lu's counterpart for the program in East Bolivia. The purpose of their visit was to look at how we promote civic participation in this country and they

had a full schedule while they were here. The Comite women were able to go to Little Rock and met the Governor, and they were in the company of Farmer to Farmer representatives for that opportunity. They also met with **Scott Trotter**, Executive Director of Common Cause and then attended a Leadar conference in Eureka in the company of **Don Voth**, a member of our partnership. They also attended a League of Women Voters luncheon and met with our representatives in the Legislature, **David Malone** and **Sue Madison**. They plan to concentrate their efforts in Bolivia on newly-enfranchised, young voters. Maria Eugenia and her sister saw the multicultural center in Springdale and the Spanish radio station, Z-Radio, where they met **Jorge Mendoza** and **Robert Espinosa**. They toured the Community Access Television facilities and were interviewed there. They were also interviewed by **Bill Bowden** and **Brenda Blagg** of The Morning News, which resulted in a nice article. Other activities included meeting with Chancellor **Dan Ferritor**, an interview with **Jennifer Fulfer** for her KUAF program, Ozarks at Large, student council activities at the high school, a Quorum Court meeting on billboards, which reportedly was a little heated, and participation in the recent voting process on the constitution.

Partially as a result of her visit, Rosario composed a poem, most worthy of consideration and reflection by all of us:

For the "Partners of the Americas"
by: **Rosario Villarroel**
Trinidad, Beni, Bolivia

When friendship and brotherly love exist
there is no distance nor time that separates us,
nor language, nor customs that interfere,
if we give ourselves freely.

Friendship is the magic that transports us
toward a country of well-being and harmony,
gathering a traveler at each doorway

with his enormous bundle of happiness.

Many times we think in absurdities, creating bogeymen, without reason; when actually there is peace and harmony,
if we open the window of our heart.

I arrived here a bit of a stranger, perhaps afraid, even astonished, but I found a warm welcome from friends who further enrich my life.

Soon I shall return, that is very certain,
to Bolivia my beautiful and great country,
but I will take Arkansas with me in memory,
and too, her people of noble heart.

Arkansas - December 1, 1995

What a great tribute to the spirit of our exchanges - this could well represent what we are all about. We're indebted to **George Vena** for his help in translating Rosario's poem. The Spanish version is available also, if any of you are interested.

Farmer to Farmer

Our Farmer to Farmer coordinator, **Phil Serafini** hosted a visit of four agriculturists from Santa Cruz recently. They traveled under special funds set aside for Farmer to Farmer volunteers to travel to their partnership states for strategic planning, training, and to help recruit future volunteers. Coming from Santa Cruz were **Demetrio Soruco**, President of the Wheat and Oilseed Producers Association (ANAPO), **Gustavo Pereyra**, Executive Director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture Research, **Mario Melgar**, Past President and current board member of ANAPO, and **Diego Montenegro**, Deputy Director and Head of Planning and Management for ANAPO. They toured the University of Arkansas campus, meeting with Dr. **Bernie Daniels**, Deputy Director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. **Navam Hettiarachchy**, of the Food Science Dept, and **Janie Hipp**, at the National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information, and

with Drs. **Preston La Ferney**, **Don Voth**, and **Frank Farmer**, all Arkansas Partners, as well as with Dr. **Mark Cochran**, all of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department and with **Robert Dzur** and **Don Scott** who briefed them on Geographic Positioning Systems and Geographic Information Systems and their relationship to natural and agricultural resource monitoring and management. They then had an extensive tour of the state, including Little Rock where they met with Gov. **Jim Guy Tucker**; Stuttgart, where they discussed crop genetics with Dr. **Bob Dilday** of the Rice Research and Extension Center, and with Dr. **Curtis Williams**, of the Hartz Seed Co.; Pottsville, where they met with **Jack Jones**, a representative of the Farm Bureau; Memphis TN, where they met with **John McClendon** of the American Soybean Association; Milan TN, where they discussed conservation tillage with **John Bradley**; and Keiser AR where they discussed experiment station operations with Dr. **Tom Evrard**, Director of the Northeast Research and Extension Center.

According to Phil Serafini, it was a most productive visit, cementing further common interests among Arkansas agriculturists and those of East Bolivia

Sonia Suarez visited Arkansas in November. Her interests were in Education and Youth. In the Central Arkansas area, she was hosted by **Sue Heily** and she provided us with the following article, written by **Jessica Zimmerman** for the Wampus Cat:

"To the founding father of Partners of the Americas, President John F. Kennedy, the wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by one single group, but it is the "liberation of the diverse energies of all free nations and all free men"

"Partners of the Americas is a non-profit organization whose purposes are to promote friendship, communication, and understanding among the people of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, and to promote economic

and social development throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"Thursday, November 9, the Career Center of Conway High School served as a host to Sonia Suarez, a member of the Education Committee of Partners of Eastern Bolivia. Suarez, hoping to gain knowledge and understanding of vocational training offered in Arkansas, toured the Career Center.

"Suarez is an English teacher in Santa Cruz, a large city in Eastern Bolivia, where there is little or no vocational training offered. "To learn a trade," Suarez explained, "your father must teach you. If your father is a carpenter, you will be a carpenter." Unfortunately, workers will teach no one but their own children the trade.

"Suarez interacted with both students and teachers at CHS. "I came to see what was offered to students here," Suarez said. "I hope that someday in Bolivia, we will have someone to teach a trade to all students."

In Northwest Arkansas, Sonia's visit was coordinated by **Margaret Clark** and **Libbie Wheeler**. Again, she had a very full schedule. She spent considerable time at the West Campus High School, learning more about vocational education, particularly as it relates to the building trades. She met with personnel at the Spring International Institute, looking at procedures involved in the teaching of English as a Second Language (ESL) to students from other lands, as well as with Margaret Clark's colleagues in Education. She has a special interest in working with students from rural areas who come into the cities looking for work, so conferences with personnel in Agricultural Education were helpful to her there. Sonia is the wife of **Max Frydman**, who was instrumental in getting us interested in a special waiver for Bolivian students being able to enroll at the University of Arkansas under in-state tuition requirements, so she spent time with **Lynn Mossesso**, who developed the program at the behest of Chancellor **Dan Ferritor**. We are told that Sonia is a worthy contender for an award in commercialism, having arrived in this country with

one suitcase and leaving with four additional ones! (With the help of the Scroggs, who traveled to Santa Cruz just a bit later)

Jim Scroggs visited Bolivia under the auspices of Partners from November 22 to December 11. Jane accompanied Jim. Jim's time in Santa Cruz was occupied by visits to NUR University, Universidad Catolica de Bolivia, Universidad Autonomos 'Gabriel Rene Moreno' and to the Distrit Departmental de Educaci3n. Talks on mathematics were given at NUR and UCB. The discussions at UAGRM were centered on setting up some workshops for intermediate and high school teachers with the aim of improving their competence. The ultimate aim is to improve the preparation of students entering the universities. (Jim was reminded of the situation in Arkansas in the 1950's) Part of his time was devoted to a short course for secondary teachers in methods of teaching mathematics.

The Compañeros hosts for the Scroggs were **Max Frydman** and **Aida McKenney**. The **Carlos Miranda** family hosted Jim and Jane in their home and for a trip to Samaipata. The Scroggs were grateful to NUR University for a trip to their environmental studies center near Ambor3 National Park.

Last Board Meeting

The Board last met in conjunction with the 30-year Partners Anniversary in Little Rock in October, which was also our Annual Meeting. President Wheeler has already reported on the celebration above as well as the International Convention in Trinidad. During the Annual Meeting, both **Phil Serafini** (for Farmer to Farmer) and **Steve Neuse** (for Democratic Initiatives) reported on their activities and recent trips to the Santa Cruz area (see last issue of *Direcciones* for more details).

Kay Kraeft reported for Culture, indicating that further Suzuki training would be a priority soon. In this

regard, a fund-raiser - a "Posada" - was to be held at the **Lisa Ronis** home in early December. We haven't any details on that but will report on it next time if we are able to. **Margaret Clark** reported on Education activities and indicated that there were several persons in the Trinidad area interested in coming to Arkansas. **Thecia Taylor**, reporting for both Health and Reach Out indicated that work was progressing in setting up Speaker's Bureaus. She indicated that **Bill Parsons** was preparing material for a new Partners brochure for recruiting purposes. There was also considerable discussion on availability of travel funds for 1995, and the necessity for close coordination on priorities. Presumably, this will continue to be a priority item for the Board as it convenes in early 1996.

Final notes

Board Members and Committee Chairs - don't forget the January 27 meeting - presumably in Russellville. Details concerning time and place will be sent later.

I'm attaching as the last page if *Direcciones* (other than the dues statement, where applicable!) an article freely lifted from the *Cochalina Herald*, which is the newsletter of the North Carolina-Cochabamba Partners. Their editor, Sally Abbas, is kind enough to send me their newsletter when it is produced. I imagine she lifted this article from the Wall Street Journal. The reason for reproducing the article here is because it gives a much more positive picture of Bolivia today than we have gotten from the last two pieces produced in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Enjoy!

Finally - your editor has pushed hard to get this issue out before Christmas. Although you may not receive this issue before that date, let me, on behalf of all the Officers and Board Members, wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons. See you next year!