



# DIRECCIONES

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

July 18, 1996

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## Editor's note

The Editor claims the first word, simply to note that this will be a somewhat abbreviated edition of *Direcciones*. After the rather full schedule of events of last fall, following our Annual Meeting, things have slowed considerably. There are a few items of interest, however, that we will comment on briefly, at the beginning of this new year of activity. We begin with a message from our new President.

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## President's message

Initially, I want to express my appreciation for the trust you have placed in me by electing me to serve as your President. I consider it an honor and I pledge to continue to provide leadership for the outstanding programs and projects that have been initiated in the past and work for adding others to our future.

At the Annual Meeting back in November of last year, I submitted a six-point agenda to the membership. Although the 1996 year has already gotten underway, I believe it is important to repeat them in order for everyone to be cognizant of the hopes and dreams I expressed at that time. The list that follows is not in any prioritized order.

### 1. Communication

It is my hope that communication can be improved

between the North (Arkansas) and the South (Santa Cruz/Beni) through the increased use of technology - e-mail and FAX - and by setting up Spanish classes for those potential travelers to the South;

between Arkansas and NAPA by arranging to have more contacts with our representative, Anabella Bruch, and others who have direct responsibilities for some of our special programs;

between Fayetteville and Little Rock regions by reporting information concerning both areas at the regular meetings and by relaying interim information to both areas in a timely fashion;

between and among members through the use of the newsletter and technological means;

and between our partnership and the general public primarily through the work of the Reach Out program that is already in force through the work of its chair, **Thecia Taylor**, who is planning both membership brochures and a Speaker's Bureau that can present a positive picture of the work of our partnership.

Hopefully, improved communication will enable us to make a greater impact through the coordination of our efforts.

### 2. Expansion and inclusion

It has to be recognized that plans and travel schedules, both in the North and the South, must consider that programs and projects must be expanded to include Trinidad and the Beni. Last year we were lucky to be able to reach **Steven Neus** in Costa Rica by e-mail and have him to include Trinidad on his itinerary by contacting Trinidad by e-mail. In the future such arrangements should already be planned.

Expansion should include the work toward establishing and refining linkages between universities in Arkansas (UAF, UALR, and UCA) and public and private universities in Santa Cruz and the Beni. The newly-approved program that resulted from the work of **Bob Frans** in getting the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, to grant out-of-state tuition waivers for all Bolivian students is an example of this kind of linkage.

### 3. Generation of internal and external funds

Recognizing the fact that NAPA funds are drying up, there is a need to find other means of adding to the funds needed for the successful operation of our ongoing and future programs and projects. There is always the desire to increase the membership rolls. Each member is expected to be involved in the endeavor. Hopefully, this will be facilitated with the publishing of our new membership brochures. It may be done at work and at play.

Special efforts will be encouraged to seek corporate memberships. Strategies will also be identified to tap the resources of potential

Arkansas-based donors and to submit applications for Arkansas foundation grants. To enhance the possibility of obtaining money from such sources, we envision the development of special exhibits and/or cultural events to which the general public will be attracted. Thus, our partnership would be provided with better publicity that could aid in membership recruitment.

It may also be time to consider increasing our annual dues. This idea will be presented to the Board for consideration.

#### 4. Educational exchanges

Exchanges should be made available on all educational levels - not only for elementary and secondary school teachers, university professors, technical and vocational instructors, but also for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, and technical and vocational students.

Additionally, we look forward to the work of the Fellows. **Dr. Desiree Mostajo**, the current President of the Trinidad area, was a recent Southern recipient; **Dan Gudahl**, **George Vena**, and **Leah Wilkinson** were three from the North. (We have recently been informed of the award of another to our own, **Jeff Allender** - more below).

#### 5. Fellowship and friendship

A great part of the success of our partnership is owed to those who have established and sustained warm friendships. We believe that a worthy goal should be the desire and effort to increase and nourish not only friendships between the North and the South, but also within our individual partnership groups. To this end we encourage the monthly area meetings (Northwest and Central Arkansas) to which potential members should always be invited to fellowship at the same time that they learn about the work of the partnership.

#### 6. Sustainment and refinement

There have been some praiseworthy programs and projects established under the leadership of

my predecessors like **Thecia Taylor**, **Bob Frans**, and **Laurin Wheeler**, who will be approached by me to serve as my mentors. Hopefully, these ongoing projects and programs will be sustained, nurtured, and revitalized where needed. We rightfully have a right to be proud of our partnership and the work it has done. I look forward to being able to have some more of our work recognized at the annual international meetings.

It is my personal agenda to be available and to be responsive to your concerns, issues, needs, and to work as harmoniously as possible with NAPA, our Southern leaders, both **Aida McKenney** and **Desiree Mostajo**, the Arkansas Board members, and the general Arkansas membership to make the upcoming months ones in which more of our dreams, hopes, and plans can be brought to fruition. As part of this agenda, I will be attending the upcoming meeting of leaders in Washing from April 18 to 20. At the upcoming April 27 Board meeting, I expect to share any information and ideas that I learn at this meeting.

**Margaret Clark**

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#### Beni officers

We have received a recent communication from the Beni, listing the new officers in that part of the Southern partnership. They are as follows:

President - **Dra. Desiree Mostajo F.** Tel. in Santa Cruz 363535.

Vice President - **Lic. Victor Hugo Callaú** Tel. 621165.

Secretary - **Lic. Roxana Rivero Chavez** Tel. 620550, Casilla 38, e-mail rosi@utb.nrb.edu.bo

Treasurer - **Selva Novas de Yanez** Tel. 621695, Fax 621468.

Board Member - **Rosario Villarroel de Yabeta** Tel. 21223.

We are pleased that the new Secretary in Trinidad has provided us with this information - particularly since she has provided us with a P.O. Box number and an e-mail address! As she said: "We promise that now our

communications will be more prompt."

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#### New Fellow!

As noted above in the President's message, we have a new Fellow from our part of the partnership - **Jeff Allender**. He is part of the faculty of UCA, Conway, and has been active in promoting ecotourism in Bolivia through Partners. Congratulations, Jeff! We'll look forward to hearing about your activities in this exciting program in the next two years.

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#### Vacationers in Bolivia

Apparently, Bolivia really grows on you! Currently, **Phil Serafini** and family (including Phil's parents) are spending their vacation in the Santa Cruz area, where Phil has already made a host of friends. We think some of his children were to take advantage of the soccer school while there. Also, **Maria Teresa** and **Bob Frans** are spending about five weeks in the La Paz area. Perhaps we can give more details regarding the visits of both these families in a future edition of *Direcciones*.

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#### Partners Reach Out

This just in from **Thecia Taylor**, Chair of our Reach Out efforts:

"I am pleased to announce a Project Assistance Grant in the amount of \$4,128 that has been approved for the Arkansas Partners of the Americas. The title of our Project is: Partners Reach Out Multi-Year Strategy. This project is supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development through Partners of the Americas.

"Our project has two parts, the first being the publication of our new color brochure. The second part will be our new Speakers

Platform. Arkansas Partners will volunteer to speak to Civic, Church, Educational groups, etc. Limited funds will be available for support materials.

"Keep in mind this grant is for the Northern part of the Partnership only. The Reach Out program is an effort to make the name and projects of the Partners of the Americas well known to the American public.

"I would like to thank those who have helped on this project, especially **Bill Parsons** who has worked tirelessly to produce the brochure. Also, thanks to **Polly Donaldson** and **Paul Teeple** from the Washington D.C. office for their faith in the Arkansas Partners.

"Our regional coordinators will be **George Vena**, **Kay Kraeft**, and **Bettie Lu Lancaster**. I thank them for their help."

This is indeed good news from our folks working in Reach Out - in particular, we will look forward to seeing and using the new brochure. A first glimpse of it at our recent Board meeting promises that it will be a good representation for what we are all about.

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## January Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in Russellville on January 27 of this year. The following are a few highlights of that meeting:

### Regional news

Both **Bill Parsons**, Regional Vice President for the Central Arkansas group, and **Jane Scroggs**, Regional Vice President for the Northwest Arkansas group, announced that they would be initiating monthly meetings in each region just as soon as they could. Both recognized that there had been considerable activity in the preceding fall for each group.

### Culture

**Kay Kraeft** indicated that music had been delivered to Bolivia. She also went over requests for visitors from the North to East Bolivia.

## Education

**Margaret Clark** indicated that in conversations with **Aida McKenney**, they would try to unify efforts in education improvement with Cochabamba and La Paz. She announced that **Paula Saldaña** from Santa Cruz would be the first student enrolling at UAF under the new out-of-state tuition waiver. She also announced that the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas is one of the co-sponsors of the Third ESL (English as a Second Language) Conference that is scheduled to be held on April 26 at the Continuing Education Building of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville from 8:30 to 4:15. The conference will focus on providing information to area ESL educators on the way by which culture impacts the education of non-English or limited English proficient speakers. Members of our partnership will be responsible for registration, checking on logistical arrangements, and assisting with the serving of the free lunch provided to the participants. **Laurin Wheeler** is Chair of the group making the arrangements.

There were other reports from the various committees, but they dealt, largely, with activities from last fall, and have already been reported in the last issue of *Direcciones*.

### New business

With the resignation of a Director-at-Large, it was necessary for the Board to nominate and elect a person to fill that slot. **John Townsend**, of Fayetteville was elected unanimously.

It was also moved, seconded, and passed that our Reach Out ad hoc committee be merged into our standing Public Relations committee. The thrust and responsibilities of both committees are approximately the same.

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## New members

Please welcome our new members. We have several this time.

**Cora Holt-Zabala**, 263 Pickles Gap Rd., Conway AR 72032

**Katherine Larson**, 93 Happy Valley, Conway AR 72703

**Jorge** and **Judith Luna**, 726 Rockcliff Rd., Fayetteville AR 72701, Tel. 521-7088

**Anne Miller**, 202 Ila, Fayetteville AR 72701, Tel. 443-1572

**Mark Robertson**, 1105 N. Monroe, Little Rock AR 72205, Tel. H-661-1504, O-372-6092

**George** and **Patricia Schuyler**, 1970 Springwood Dr., Conway AR 72032

**Mary Anne Sennett**, 13466 Mineral Springs Rd., West Fork AR 72774, Tel. H-839-8394, O-575-7600

Be sure these new folks are invited to your next group meeting, so they can become acquainted. Welcome to you all!

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## Dues

Please note that if you have not yet paid your 1996 dues, a statement is attached to your copy of this newsletter. If you have paid, you should not receive such a statement. For those who have not paid, we would welcome hearing from you!

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## Next Board meeting

All Officers, Committee Chairs, and Board Directors - please note that the next meeting of the Board will be April 27, a Saturday, in Russellville. Plan to attend!