



DIRECCIONES

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

January 17, 1997

BOARD MEETING DATES

The dates for the board meetings for the 1997-98 year were set for:

Saturday, January 25

Saturday, April 26

Saturday, July 26

Saturday, October 25

Board meetings are held on the campus of the Arkansas Tech University in Russellville from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting place for the October meeting will be announced later inasmuch as it takes place during the annual meeting.

BOLIVIAN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Twelve students from Bolivia were studying at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville for the 1996 Fall Semester. They are:

Name City of Residence Major

Joerge	Armando	Bowles	Santa Cruz
		Business Administration	
	Leila	justiniano	Santa Cruz
		Psychology & Biology	
	Stephan	Guillermo	Kuljis
		Business Administration	Santa Cruz
	Eduardo	Lopez	Santa Cruz
		Finance	
	Carlos	Moreno	Santa Cruz
		Economics	
	Casandra	Nunez	La Paz
		Elementary Education	
	Gustavo	Pereyra	Santa Cruz
		Engineering	Industrial
	Paula	Saldana	Santa Cruz
		Architecture	

Marcello Somerstein Santa Cruz
Business Administration
María Somerstein Santa Cruz
Business Administration
Daniel Villanueva @ Paz
Chemical Engineering
Ana Katharina Von Bergen Santa Cruz
Business Administration

The University of Arkansas started a three year period of waiving out-of-state registration fees for students from Bolivia--- undergraduates, graduate, and transfers. This action resulted from the efforts taken by Bob Frans in dialoguing with Chancellor Dan Ferritor, and administrators from the International program, specifically Lynn Moseoso, Michael Freeman, and Dede Long.

RECEPTION FOR BOLIVIAN STUDENTS

A reception in honor of the Bolivian students who are studying at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville was held at the home of Bob and Maria Teresa Frans at the beginning of the Fall Semester. The students were pleasantly surprised to be feted in such a warm and friendly ambiance of so many Partners that was pre- & Wed over by the late

Editor's note

For reasons that will become obvious, we are indebted to **President Margaret Clark** for this issue of *Direcciones*. Without her input, this issue might never have been written. So without further ado, the remainder that follows is her work. Thanks Margaret!

Election results

Laurin Wheeler, chair of the Nominating Committee, announce the results of the elections for officers and other board members for the 1996-97 year. The following officers were either reaffirmed or are continuing:

Margaret Clark--President
Kay Kraeft--Vice President
Natalia Salazar--Secretary
Laurin Wheeler--Past President
Jane Scroggs--Regional Vice President, Northwest Arkansas
Lisa Ronis--Regional Vice President, Central Arkansas
Susan Heily--Director-At-Large
John Townsend--Director-At-Large, Northwest Arkansas
Bob Frans--Executive Director

Results of the other officers and board member positions that were contested are as follows:

Paul Noland--Treasurer
Cora Holt-Zabala--Director-At-Large, Central Ark.
Jim Scroggs --- Director-at-Large, e Northwest Ark.

charming and gracious hostess, Maria Teresa, in her beautifully decorated home.

The reception was attended by Chancellor Dan Ferritor who challenged Arkansas chapter members to initiate more programs for student exchanges by getting University students, particularly those who are Spanish majors in the Department of Foreign Languages, to study for a semester or a year in the universities in Santa Cruz.

AWARDS? NO! NOMINATIONS? YES!

A reason for applause Out of the five applications submitted for national awards, the Arkansas Chapter was pleased to be among the few chapters nominated for awards in three areas: the David Watson Prize, the Nicholas R. Castricone University Linkage Award, and Program Development.

Donna Gebicke, Awards Program Coordinator, sent a letter to President Clark in which she stated "Thanks to you and your partnership for your outstanding nominations for your

Thecia Taylor submitted one for the David Watson Award reflecting the work of the Reach Out Committee in the design and dissemination of the colorful membership brochures and also the organization of the speakers' bureaus in Conway, Fayetteville and Little Rock. Bob Frans submitted one for the Nicholas Castricone Award based on the educational arrangements for waivers for out-of-state fees at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Three submissions were made for program awards. One was sent in by Betty Lu Lancaster centered on the project initiated by the Democratic Initiatives Committee in working for civic education. A second was submitted by Phil Serafini for the projects implemented by the Farmer To Farmer program, primarily involving

tillage and productivity. A third was submitted by Claude Gillette based on

his brucellosis project.

A WORD OF THANKS

President Margaret Clark sends a word of thanks to all of the members who responded to her personal plea for extra funds to pay of the meals of the eleven Bolivian students who were invited to attend the banquet at the Annual Meeting The students were delighted to be included in our festivities, both the banquet and the reception. Two of them, Carlos Moreno and Paula Saldana, acted as spokespersons for the group in expressing their gratitude.

M E M B E R S H I P RECRUITMENT

Who recruits new members? YOU! Every Partner in the Arkansas Chapter is a membership recruiter In the fall each member was sent a copy of the membership brochure produced by the Reach Out Committee. In order to carry out our commitment to recruit more members, each member is encouraged to request additional brochures for dissemination from either your regional vice president (Jane Scroggs in Northwest Arkansas-Lisa Ronis in Central Arkansas), Thecia Taylor, chair of the Reach Out Committee, Margaret Clark, President, or Bob Frans, Executive Director. Attention is called to the different membership categories, especially with the idea of soliciting corporate members. Partners of the Americas is a great organization! Spread the word! Recruit!

IN MEMORIAM

Maria Teresa Frans, the wife of our ex-president Bob Frans and ex-board member at large, died on October 5 in Fayetteville. A memorial service was held for her at the First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.

Burial was in the Cemeterio jardin in La Paz, Bolivia.

In the Arkansas Chapter of the Partners, Maria Teresa will be missed for many reasons. She was

instrumental in encouraging the establishment of a Northwest Arkansas regional component of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners; in helping with the arrangements for the 25th celebration held in Little Rock during the presidency of her husband Bob; in making the contacts with the Bolivian ambassador to the United States who arranged the Bolivian Embassy reception in Washington, D.C. for Arkansas partners and their guests during the 1992 inauguration of President Bill Clinton; in serving as a member of the Culture Committee that arranges so many artistic, musical, and literary exchanges between Bolivia and Arkansas; and in offering her home as a gracious hostess for receptions, dinners, and homesites for visitors for the South.

Maria Teresa was a teacher of Spanish in both the public schools in Fayetteville and in the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Arkansas. Prior to coming to the United States, she also taught in La Paz. She was the mother of three daughters and grandmother of nine grandchildren.

In recognition of her many contributions to the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partnership and the positive desire she demonstrated to work for the improvement of her home country of Bolivia, in addition to a response to her family's request, the Arkansas Chapter's board approved the contribution of \$100.00 to the Fund for Bolivian Children to be made in her memory.

A VISITOR--A TEACHER IN RESIDENCE

Miguel Arrazola, a supervisor of teachers of English at the Centro Boliviano Americano in Santa Cruz received a teacher in residence grant from NAPA which enabled him to visit Arkansas during the month of October in order to upgrade his knowledge of curriculum for English as a Foreign Language (EFL), instructional techniques for teaching EFL, and American culture. His project took him first to Little Rock for ten days

during which time he was hosted by Thecia Taylor, visited the Intensive English Language Program at UALR, and spent a couple of days with Alice Guffey Miller in Monticello. Secondly, he was hosted by Cora Holt-Zabala in Conway for ten days while he included visits to the Intensive English Language Program at the University of Central Arkansas. Thirdly, he spent ten days in Fayetteville where he was hosted by Margaret Clark. There, he visited with the Director of the Spring International Language School, Dr. Vicki Lanier, and several instructors at the School; visited a variety of English As A Second Language (ESL) classes in public elementary and junior high schools in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Rogers; observed the free ESL classes offered at the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for Families in Springdale and served as a consultant in the ESL teacher training classes taught by Margaret Clark at the University of Arkansas. Additionally, he was able to participate in the Arkansas Chapter's Annual Meeting, including the board meeting, that was held in Fayetteville. On one of his shopping trips to the Fayetteville Mall, he was surprised to hear someone calling his name. The surprise resulted in discovering that students who knew him from the CBA were studying here.

Arazola, as president of the Bolivian English Language Teachers, has sent Margaret Clark an invitation to make a presentation at the Second English Language Teachers Conference being held in Santa Cruz in January.

A BENI PARTNER RECEIVED CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

Roxana Rivero Chavez, a professor of computer science at the Beni Technical University in Trinidad, Beni and secretary of the Beni Companeros de las Americas, received a Convention Scholarship from NAPA which paid for her registration and hotel expenses for the International Meeting held in Boston.

In order to accommodate her travel to

the United States, she sent in a request to the Arkansas Chapter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partnership seeking to use one of the unrestricted travel grants based on the travel project that she had already submitted in her role as chair of the education and youth committees. After acceptance by the Arkansas officers and board, the request was forwarded to the NAPA office which approved her project proposal.

Rivero visited the region from November 13 - 21 and then went along with Margaret Clark to the international meeting in Boston from November 21-24 before returning to Trinidad. Heavy fog prevented her landing in Fayetteville on November 13 and 14, therefore Clark had her to reroute her trip into Little Rock where she was hosted by Thecia Taylor until she was picked up by Clark on November 16 for the trip to Fayetteville. Needless to say, she was nervous and distraught, especially inasmuch as this was her first trip to the U. S.

During Rivero's stay in Fayetteville, she was hosted by Phil and Mary Alice Serafini and Jim and Jane Scroggs. She toured the campuses and observed vocational/industrial

classes at both the Northwest Technical and Adult Education Institute in Springdale and the West Campus of the Fayetteville High School, the only comprehensive high school for both academic and vocational/industrial studies in Arkansas.

Rivero brought several project proposals from the Companeros which will be considered at the next board meeting. At the international meeting in Boston, she shared a room with Margaret Clark which gave her ample time to explain these proposals in detail.

FOUNDATION GRANT FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

The Arkansas Chapter received a \$750.00 Foundation grant from NAPA to facilitate communication

between the Arkansas and the East Bolivia chapters by establishing direct e-mail correspondence between the two chapter presidents. The money received represents half of the request submitted in the proposal.

Margaret Clark wrote the grant proposal asking for enough money for the purchase of a computer with a modem along with the initial costs for an e-mail hookup for the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Companeros de las Americas. The equipment would be housed with the current president, Aida McKenney, and afterwards, it would be with whomever the president is. Inasmuch as only half of the requested money was granted, the Chapters must make plans for obtaining enough extra funds to accommodate this project.

FELLOWSI FELLOWSI FELLOWSI

FELLOWS X: There were two applications for Fellows X from the Arkansas Chapter. Robert Dzur, a Research Assistant in the Center for

Advanced Spatial Technologies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, submitted an application describing as a potential project the utilization of his knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in assisting the development of a strategic plan that includes digital geographic technologies in agro-environmental monitoring and research. Mark Robertson, a landscape architect and vice president of the Merlin E. Seamon Associates in Little Rock, was the other applicant. His potential project would involve his expertise in architectural design and implementation in the second phase of the Yamomal Park in Trinidad, Beni, whose first phase was funded by a grant from NAPA, a grant written by Laurin Wheeler, Desiree Mostajo and Bob Frans.

Interviews of the applicants are being conducted by Partners Don Thurman in Little Rock and Roald Peterson in Fayetteville. All information regarding the interviews must be completed by January 17.

The winners will be announced in early March. The first Seminar for Fellows X will be from June 14-28.

FELLOW IX: Our Fellow IX, Jeff Allender, who has already attended the first seminar of the Fellows IX Group in D.C. in June, should be in Lima, Peru from January 19 - 26 for the second seminar.

FELLOWS I - VIII: Fellow I - VIII are being contacted to apply for a scholarship to attend an alumni conference to be held from November 16 - 19 in Asuncion, Paraguay.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

During the fall, there were two visitors in the area of education: Miguel Arrazola, an EFL teacher from the CBA in Santa @z who came @ spent the month of October in

Arkansas as a Teacher in Residence, and Roxana Rivero, a professor of Vocational Education from the Beni Technical University of in Trinidad, Beni (See related articles elsewhere

Ideas are still being explored to arrange for high school students to come up from East Bolivia to study English and stay with members of Partners.

At the meeting in Boston, Margaret Clark met with Hank Graden, the President of the North Carolina Chapter, Silvia Quiroga from Cochabamba, Margaret Graniling, the newly reelected NAPA board member from North Carolina, Roxana Rivero from Trinidad and Anabella Bruch to discuss ideas for Partners in North Carolina, Utah, and Arkansas to help Bolivian educators with the implementation of its education reform.

PRESIDENTIS MESSAGE

Prospero A Nuevo! Bienvenido al ano 1997! Greetings! Happy New Year! Welcome to 1997! Once again it's time to pause for reflection and introspection, to review and vision, to be accountable for past

objectives and to plan for the future. We look back on 1996 and find another year filled with some dreams fulfilled, some successes, some joys and some sorrows...

We have been pleased to have a thriving Farmer To Farmer program that has been the vehicle whereby several travelers have gone down to Bolivia and several have come up to Arkansas. We have felt a lot of pride in the development of the membership brochure that Thecia Taylor coordinated in the Reach Out Program. When we pass one out to a prospective member, we note the light that comes on in their eyes when they see the colorful cover that reflects the sights and sounds of

South America. We were delighted to have three visitors from East Bolivia, Patricia Sosa, Roxana Rivero, and Miguel Arrazola. We have been a little excited about receiving some small degree of recognition from NAPA by nominations for awards for the work we are doing. We were more than delighted with the arrival of twelve students at the University

of Arkansas at Fayetteville. We have increased the formation of friendships between members of the

Arkansas and East Bolivia chapters. And, the Annual Meeting turned out to be better than we expected after we had been disappointed by the inability of both President Bill Reese and Bolivian Ambassador Fernando Cossio to attend our meeting.

Some work is in progress. We have made a small step in the direction of improving communication between East Bolivia and Arkansas by obtaining a partial Foundation Grant from NAPA. Our membership list has grown a few inches longer in length. Although our funds are far from being sufficient, we have had projects submitted that have resulted in our coffers receiving some extra money from NAPA, a grant for the Reach Out Project, extra funds for the

Fanner To Farmer Program, and some anticipated money for the Teacher In Residence. Word has arrived indicating that projects and plans for the Democratic Initiatives program are ready to continue. We had all committee chairs filled but unfortunately, we now have a couple of vacancies in Health and Youth in Development. Contacts and exploratory dialogues are underway for the Economy committees.

We were saddened by the loss of one of our staunch supporters, Maria Teresa Frans. Our hearts went out to provide comfort to her husband, our ex-president and current Executive Director, Bob Fraw

One promising vision for the future involves the planning of a meeting of the leaders of the American chapters of the three Bolivian partnerships, the ones in North Carolina, Utah, and Arkansas. The Companeros in Cochabamba are already in the implementaion stage of arranging a meeting of the leaders from Santa Cruz, La Paz and Cochabamba. Another vision focuses on planning a regional meeting of the leaders in this section of the U.S.--from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Arkansas.

If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding anything that will make the 1997 year a more productive and meaningful year, please get in touch with me or any of our board members. Let's make 1997 a banner year. Remember that this organization is a people to people group. that puts a lot of emphasis on developing mutual respect and appreciation between the two partnership chapters.

DUES Statement

The following list includes those who have paid current dues.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held in Fayetteville from October 25-27. The

activities included a reception held at the Walton Arts Center on Friday evening. Several administrative dignitaries from the University of Arkansas campus were in attendance in addition to all of the eleven Bolivian students, who have matriculated at the University. Afterwards more than a dozen members attended a performance of the Broadway production *Having Our Say* in the Theater at the Walton Arts Center.

On Saturday, the meeting continued at the Hilton Hotel with a program that included presentations from Phil Serafini and two of the persons that have gone to Bolivia under the auspices of the farmer To Farmer Program, Paul Noland and Maxine Jones-Ray. Thecia Taylor described the work of the Reach Out program and introduced a video, *Public Diplomacy*, that was made by USIA for the USIA Alumni Association. The video chronicles the work that extends diplomacy beyond the traditional conduct of government-to-government relations. Jeff Ryan of the Political Science Department at the University of Arkansas lectured on the state of foreign aid. His presentation sparked a lot of discussion among the members of the audience.

A banquet was held at the Hilton Hotel. All of the Bolivian students in attendance introduced themselves. Two of them who served as spokespersons gave expression of thanks to Partners and offered insights into their impressions of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas. Members of Partners shared either the reasons that they became interested in Partners or the most interesting incidents that they have experienced since becoming involved with Partners. This proved to be a very informative and humorous activity.

On Sunday morning, the meeting ended with a combined board meeting and a Continental breakfast.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Margaret Clark and Thecia Taylor attended the International Meeting in Boston in November.

On Friday, we were introduced to the National Issues Forum Method, the process and methodology for conducting a Hemispheric Town

Meeting on the subject "Reassessing America's Global Role" by David Matthews, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kettering Foundation. The issue we discussed and considered was the role of the U.S. in the world. The major catalyst for our group discussion was a video, "Mission Uncertain" which offered three possible choices: give up global leadership, exercise global stability, or exercise global leadership.

In the opening plenary session, Brian O'Connell, the president of Independent Sector and professor of public service at the Tufts University Department of Urban and Environmental Policy, spoke on the subject "The Growth and Role of Civil Society" in which he described "People Power" as the result of "Service, Advocacy, and Empowerment," thereby providing insights into volunteerism in general and more specifically in terms of its manifestations in the U.S.

Thecia Taylor moderated a breakfast roundtable discussion group with Sallie Dell Lee on "Designing and Implementing a Partners' *Reach Out* Strategy. Margaret Clark joined one that focused on the "Collaboration with the U.S. Information Agency and another one on the upcoming Free Trade in the Americas Conference to be held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in May 1997.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the tour of the John F Kennedy Presidential Library where a reception was also held. Prior to the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year awards, the group was addressed by Mark Schneider, the Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Another was the

Annual Awards Dinner at which the national awards were presented to the winners.

We were informed of the strategic reassessment that NAPA is pursuing, including 1. Identification--the establishment of a common identity to help with recruitment and development (This is underway with the identification of the four core competencies.); 2. Exploration of alliances--(Collaboration is already manifested through the joining with the Kettering Foundation, and the cooperation and co-sponsoring of activities with Conciencia; and 3. Funding Diversification.

The site for the 1997 Convention is Buenos Aires, Argentina. Convention Scholarships will be available again for registration plus four nights in the Libertador Hotel. (There were 14 of these Convention scholarships granted in 1996.)

During the business meeting, we were pleased that Mari Gramling was reelected inasmuch as she is a member of one of our sister Bolivian partnerships, the North Carolina one.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

(A letter of appreciation from Bob Frans to the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas, c/o President Margaret Clark)

Dear Margaret,

We would like to thank Partners for the very kind and generous gift of money to help the children of Bolivia, in memory of Maria Teresa. You may know that this was a very favorite project of hers, and she was working with several ladies there, including the Bolivian President's wife, to help alleviate some of the pain and suffering poor children, often homeless, of that country go through.

Your gift will go a long way in assisting the work those dedicated people are doing.

Most sincerely,

Bob Frans and Family