



DIRECCIONES

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

July 22, 1997

President's message

The Heat is On! The Heat is On! In this summertime season of the year, so much of our energies are spent trying to stay calm, cool, and collected. However, our partnership commitments require us to be up and going.

To begin with, we are looking forward to a visitor in this month of July, **Jorge Jadauza Daza**. Inasmuch as he is the Executive Director of the East Bolivian Partners, we will be able to share our ideas about planning and management, discuss and propose solutions for our concerns, and enjoy fellowship activities with him, as well as introduce him to our Board at its July meeting.

In September, our NAPA representative, **Anabella Bruch**, the President of the North Carolina Chapter, **Hank Graden**, and the President of the Utah Chapter, **Doug Lowe**, will be meeting in Fayetteville with the president of the Arkansas Chapter and the Education Committee and several others with the purpose of drafting a plan for collectively and collaboratively assisting the ongoing Education Reform in Bolivia. This will be submitted to the Bolivian chapters for their approval and input along with the input already received.

For the month of October, MARK YOUR Calendars AND MAKE YOUR PLANS to attend the ANNUAL MEETING in CONWAY. Vice President **Kay Kraeft** assures us it will be both educational and entertaining.

Then the month of November finds itself offering the INTERNATIONAL MEETING in BUENOS AIRES, where the gauchos dance the seductive tango. This is a wonderful opportunity to go SOUTH. Four or five of us are already planning to go. Come join the group and give Arkansas a great representation!

Coupled with all of this is the committee work to be done. We have reactivated and revitalized our Health Committee and it's going full speed ahead with work initiated by **Desiree Mostajo** and our members **Thecia Taylor** and **Mary Alice Serafini**. **Mary Anne Sennett** has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Women in Development Committee and will soon be in touch with the newly appointed chair of this committee in Santa Cruz; the Economy Committee appears to be underway with efforts being made on both sides to identify potential items for marketability. Under the Agricultural Committee, Farmer-to-Farmer is making great strides to work with soil erosion, cattle farming, and cotton production. The other committees, Democratic Initiatives, Reach Out, Culture, and Education are all either embarking on programs or projects or they are deeply involved in them.

So, our days ahead in the rest of 1997 hold a lot of promise for potential successful endeavors and offer us opportunities to feel good both about the work we have accomplished and the work we are undertaking.

Peace and Love in our Partnership,

Margaret Clark

International Convention

For those of you interested, the International Convention will be held this year in Buenos Aires. The dates are November 20 to 22. The convention hotel is the Kempinske Libertador and you can register before September 1 for \$295/person (after that date, it goes up to \$325). Registration information is contained in the last issue of the Partners newsletter. If you do not receive this publication, and are interested in attending the convention, you may contact the Executive Director or the President for more information.

Our visitor from Santa Cruz

Jorge Jadauza, the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Partners, will be attending the July 24-25 Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. Afterwards, he will be visiting the Arkansas Chapter, both Little Rock and Fayetteville. He is scheduled to arrive in Fayetteville in the late evening of July 25. He will attend the Board Meeting at the Wiederkehr Village. Following this he will go to Conway. Then on July 30, he will return to Fayetteville and then return to Santa Cruz on August 5.

Jorge is an amateur actor who has expressed an interest in visiting the Children's Theater in Little Rock and the productions for children in Fayetteville at the Walton Arts Center. His other area of interest for this visit is emergency

preparedness, including volunteer fire departments and medical emergency services.

Fellow news

Fellows VIII

Dr. Desiree Mostajo, visited our chapter at the end of April after completing a Fellow's Seminar in Kentucky. Mostajo, who serves as the Coordinator for the Beni, is a gynecologist who works both in Santa Cruz and Trinidad. She was hosted by **Thecia Taylor** in Little Rock, and **Phil and Mary Alice Serafini** in Fayetteville. The Partners were delighted to have her back in Arkansas again.

Her trip to Arkansas gave her an opportunity to meet several medical doctors and others who work in health related fields, including Mary Alice Serafini, the Director of the Student Health Services at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. A beautiful reception was held for her in the home of **Bob Frans**. It was attended by approximately 50 individuals, including almost all of the 15 Bolivian students studying at the University of Arkansas under the waived-tuition plan.

Prior to ending her trip, Mostajo attended the Arkansas Chapter's Board Meeting on April 26 that was held in Russellville. She gave a report on the activities of the Partners in the Beni in addition to presenting proposals for the Board's consideration. As part of her fellowship proposal, **Dr. Batres** from Little Rock is scheduled to go down to Santa Cruz in September.

Dr. Mostajo asked the Board to approve her Fellow's Project which will a) provide a medical seminar for 2500 doctors in Santa Cruz on statistical methodology. The doctor identified to conduct this seminar is **Dr. Francis Corbatas** from the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock; and b) to provide a medical library with Internet and journals. She noted that the Internet in Bolivia costs \$40.00 per hour. The Board

approved her proposal.

In order to facilitate the shipment of medical library books, Mostajo is seeking to use her connections with the Rotarians. Additionally, she is seeking to obtain an audiometer from the Rotarians in Fayetteville.

Mostajo asked the Board also for ideas on a) planning a doctor's conference on strategies for lowering incidences of breast cancer; and b) identifying someone to teach self-supporting skills and family planning to street children.

She reported on two successful projects in Trinidad: a leadership seminar for 18 to 25 year old youths that was attended by 105, and a menopause seminar.

During her time in Little Rock, she arranged for **Dr. David Grinstein**, a ear, nose, and throat specialist from Bolivia, to study ear surgery and sleep apnea in Little Rock under **Dr. Jim Sung**. He paid his own way for this trip, and is staying with **Thecia Taylor**. Thecia is going to Santa Cruz and Trinidad on September 19 to visit. Anyone having letters or small packages to send should contact her.

Fellows IX

Congratulations to **Jeff Allender**! He is our Fellow IX recipient, and received a Learning Grant for \$1,400 to permit him to study intensive Spanish in order to advance his personal learning goals. Jeff provided the following report:

"Between January 18 and 26 of this year, the second Seminar was held for the Fellows IX, Partners of the Americas/Kellogg Foundation, in Lima Peru. The friendships and progress during the two-week first seminar in Washington D.C. the previous June was obvious and we were able to get down to the tasks at hand much faster than before. It was interesting to see how each of the 40 Fellows had developed their own project and how widely varied their interests and perceived needs were. Several of the Fellows from South America, including the two Bolivians from La Paz and Cochabamba, viewed citizen participation and democracy issues as most important, designing their

individual projects around that theme.

"We met with a variety of related officials while in Lima, and were able to visit sites around the region, showing citizen action, women's cooperatives, education and training facilities for poorer neighborhoods, and numerous other 'success' stories, as well as addressing continuing needs. I was again amazed how well organized and dynamic the women's groups were. Were I doling out resources for international development, I would select women to run most of the projects!

"As with the other seminars, we were also able to break into smaller groups of 10 or less and travel to other regions of Peru to see what was being tried in smaller, more remote communities. My group, looking at long range community planning and employment growth, went to Tarapoto. It is in the jungle of northern Peru at the headwaters of an Amazon tributary, and was also the place where the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Army was founded. Meeting with their mayor and municipal planning commission, we were amazed at how advanced they were in their planning and understanding of all the factors of growth. Indeed, as urban and regional planning is my area of 'expertise' and I teach several courses in that area, they could have taught several communities in Arkansas a few things! But alas, as seems so often the problem in rural Latin America, funding to carry out the goals was the problem. This seemed to be a general impression we are getting in these seminars, that these people know better than we their problems, need, and solutions, but the financial resources to address the problems are always the problem.

"Regarding the hostage crises, it was almost a non-event in Peru. It was barely on the news and few people we met seemed concerned about it!

"After the seminar, several of us stayed in Peru to visit Machu Pichu and Cusco in the mountains, and then traveled to the northern Atacama desert to see the lines of

Ica (supposedly drawn by 'space men,' but more likely brilliant paleolithic art work!). We were able to see a very different part of the country than Lima, but the problems of development, empowerment, and equitable sharing of resources were as evident there as anywhere."

Advocacy Alert

Bill Reese, President of POA, reports that advocacy efforts are paying off, inasmuch as the House and Senate Committees have negotiated almost \$1 billion increase for international affairs budgeted for FY 1998, with an additional \$200 million for development assistance. He requests that such efforts be continued in order to emphasize the importance of development assistance and the need to obtain the highest levels of funding.

Therefore, please call, fax, or write letters to our Arkansas congressional representatives and U.S. Senators **Dale Bumpers** and **Tim Hutchinson**, asking for their support for international affairs funding. Our members can be called at the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Ask to be transferred to the members representing your district.

Use your contact: 1) to advocate the highest possible funds for development assistance in order to preserve the U.S. global leadership and ensure its capacity to respond to foreign policy challenges; 2) to indicate how a reduced global leadership role could cost more in terms of humanitarian and political crises; and 3) to remind them that the fight against world hunger and poverty accounts for less than half of 1 percent of the federal budget, yet it strengthens U.S. security, promotes peace and democracy around the world, and expands U.S. export markets.

If you send letters or faxes to your representatives or senators, please send copies to the new advocacy intern, **Heather Dale**, at the POA office by Fax: 202-628-3306, by e-

mail: hd@partners.poa.com, or call at 202-637-6237 or 800-322-7844, ext. 237.

Serving your chapter

State level

Your Arkansas chapter of the Partners organization is continually in need of new persons to serve and to become acquainted with the work that we do. Consequently, we would urge anyone desiring to serve, either as an Officer, Board Member, or on one of our various committees, to make your wishes known. Much work is needed, beyond the opportunity for an occasional trip, to keep the organization viable. So, please contact one of the Officers or Board Members if you have the desire to become further involved in the work. There's lots to be done!

Nominations should be made now for positions that will be open on the Board, as well as Officers. These positions are:

OFFICERS: President (by affirmation), Vice-President, both Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary.

BOARD MEMBERS: two Directors-at-Large, one each from our two regions.

All Officer and Board positions are now for a 2-year term of office (although persons can run for a second term if they so choose). For further information, requirements, position descriptions, please contact President **Margaret Clark** or the Chair of the Nominating Committee, **Laurin Wheeler**.

National level

There are also positions open at the national level in POA. If you are interested in serving, the following have been advertised:

OFFICERS: Chair Person, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

DIRECTORS (non-officer) positions: 2 director positions representing the U.S.

All positions are for a 3-year term of office. Each nominee must submit a biographical data form, along with a statement of purpose and a willingness to serve form. All recommendations must be in by September 5. For further information, requirements, position descriptions, including forms, please contact our President or Executive Director.

Disabled POA volunteers

Suzette Holt, Project Officer for *Partners Reach Out*, sent a copy of the premier issue of *A World Awaits you (AWAY)*, a bi-annual journal with articles and interviews about people with disabilities who have successfully participated in international exchanges. POA is included as an organization that is creatively including people with disabilities in all aspects of its international programs.

If you are interested in encouraging persons with disabilities to get involved with international exchanges, contact Mobility International USA (MIUSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities in international exchange, leadership development, disability-rights training, community service, and travel. The address is:

P.O. box 1076
Eugene OR 97440
Phone: 541-343-1284,
FAX: 541-343-6812, e-
mail: info@miusa.org,
W E B :
<http://www.miusa.org>

Traveling in Bolivia

A former Board Member, **Dan Gudahl**, has suggested that several of you might be interested in joining together on a tour of Bolivia. Presumably, a large enough group might be able to customize such a tour, at attractive prices. We know that many of you have never been to Bolivia. This

might be a chance to do this. Such a tour could be broad in its coverage, and would not have to be limited to just our partnership area. Bolivia is a land of contrasts and is fascinating to visit. If you think you might have an interest in joining such a tour, let one of your Board members know. An indication of numbers interested would be helpful before much more planning can take place.

Agricultural development

Phil Serafini continues his involvement with South America. Most recently, he visited Argentina and Bolivia, developing interest in irrigation capabilities in Argentina's agricultural private sector, and has signed memoranda of agreement with three of their agriculturally-oriented universities. The University of Arkansas will act as a subcontractor with a private Arkansas firm in providing irrigation for Argentine farmers. Phil is also attempting to involve Bolivian agriculturists in this project.

In addition to these kinds of Farmer-to-Farmer projects, we are aware of the Seeds for the Americas project also sponsored by the national office. Although Arkansas has not been actively involved with this project, it is our understanding that our Bolivian counterparts have already ordered 114 boxes of seeds for vegetable gardens, and are planning to obtain 200 additional boxes. This represents the largest Partners seed initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to **Richard Lamporte**, Director of the Seeds for the Americas program. According to Lamporte, orders like this are enabling the seeds program to become the first POA program to achieve financial self-sufficiency. He indicated that it would be of interest to ascertain from our East Bolivia colleagues the fund-raising techniques they used to raise the \$21,000 to cover the cost of these seeds.

New members

We have but two new members to report. They are:

Lucas and Janet Parsch, 467 Rockcliff Rd., Fayetteville AR 72701

Both are part of the University of Arkansas - Luke is on the faculty of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Dept., and Janet is Librarian at Mullins Library. Welcome, Luke and Janet!

Arkansas Partners Annual Meeting

This year our Annual Meeting will be held in Conway, on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas. Tentative dates are Friday evening and Saturday, October 24 and 25. Mark your calendars for this important event. More details will be provided later.

Annual dues

For those who have not paid their 1997 annual dues, you will find attached to this newsletter one last statement. We would ask that you please take care of this matter as soon as possible. We wish to keep our membership list current, but if we have not received the annual dues from you for the past three years, your names will be removed from the list. We don't want that to happen!

East Bolivia Officers

Recently, we received a directory of the current Officers and Members of the East Bolivia chapter. We thought it might be of interest to at least list the Officers and Members of their Board. They are:

ADVISORY COUNCIL: **Dr. Carlos Paniagua L., Dr. Rubén Urey J., Dr. Hugo Arce V.** (Past Presidents)
PRESIDENT: **Aida McKenney**
1ST VICE PRESIDENT: **Miguel Cortez E.**
2ND VICE PRESIDENT: **Max Frydman**
BENI COORDINATOR: **Dra. Desiree Mostajo**
BENI REPRESENTATIVE: **Roxana Rivero, Victor Hugo Callaú**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **Jorge Jadauza**
SECRETARY: **Martha Ribera de Cortez**
TREASURER: **Rosario de Paz**
ASST. TREASURER: **Juan Cuéllar**
MEDICINE: **Desiree Mostajo, René Valdivia**
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: **Ana Eida Vaca Diez**
COMMUNICATION: **Carmiña Fernández**
CULTURE: **Franz Terceros**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: **Richard Cotton**
EDUCATION: **Max Frydman**
YOUTH: **Sonia de Frydman**
ECOLOGY: **Hermes Justiniano, Andrés Visinoni**
CIVIC EDUCATION: **María Eugenia Mosciaro**
FELLOWS PROGRAM: **Luis Fernando Terrazas**
A G R O P E C U A R I O S (AGRICULTURE): **Miguel Cortez**

If you are further interested and wish to make contact with any of these persons, we have telephone and addresses available in the Executive Director's office for most of them.