



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas

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Outgoing President's message

FROM THE CHACO

Compañeros,

As the soon to be past President of the Arkansas Chapter of the Partners of the Americas, I am taking a bit of a beautiful Sunday morning in Santa Cruz to reflect on eastern Bolivia, its relationship with the Arkansas Partnership and the future.

Eastern Bolivia

The population in the city of Santa Cruz is thought to be growing at 15% per year, the region at more than 10%. The GDP per capita in eastern Bolivia is 4 to 5 times that in the Altiplano and Valleys. For me, eastern, tropical Bolivia's natural resources, beauty and potential are unparalleled in the world.

The crisis

Santa Cruz is experiencing a difficult time economically, but not so difficult as it might appear. Eastern Bolivia had experienced 5 to 10% per year economic growth for the better part of 20 years. Many people were over extended, especially in the agricultural sector. The current winnowing will be good for the long-term development of the region.

Natural Gas

The local word is that Bolivia has or will soon have the largest proven hydrocarbon reserves in Latin America, surpassing Venezuela. There are two new pipelines into Brazil. There are plans to build a new pipeline over the mountains and export LNG to Asia and the U.S. There are plans for a pipeline up the eastern side of the Andes to Colombia. The Dean Group is talking of building a plant on the Parana River at Puerto Suarez to manufacture low-sulfur diesel from natural gas for the Brazilian, Argentinean and Bolivian markets. There will certainly be electrical generation and perhaps nitrogen fertilizer production facilities that will spring up along the pipeline on Brazil's boarder. The current value of the

proven reserves is more than \$1,000,000 per Bolivian. Energy will be the economic engine driving development in the region for the foreseeable future.

Roads

The Transcontinental Highway is coming from Puerto Suarez. It will be finished to Pailon in 2 to 3 years. When the Bolivians build an auto bridge across the Rio Grande, there will be a modern, surfaced road direct to the industrial heartland of Brazil. The road will cut the overland transportation costs along the route Santa Cruz to Puerto Suarez in half, from \$25 to \$12 /ton in the case of soybeans and soybean derivatives. The necessary improvements for the road to northern Argentina will be in place within this time frame as well. There will certainly be a road paralleling the gas pipeline to Colombia in the foreseeable future.

Agriculture

Between 1980 and today, the agricultural area in Santa Cruz more than doubled. Soybean production grew from 50,000 tons in the late 1980s to a million tons in 1999. All the world's major input suppliers, grain marketing /shipping companies and industrial grain processors are well represented, entrenched in eastern Bolivia's agricultural sector and economy. As the banks have retreated from agriculture, these global companies have stepped into provide the industry the liquidity needed to get the crops in and out. Bolivia is probably the low-cost beef producer in the world. With the introduction of GMO, Roundup-resistant, soybean and maize varieties next year, Bolivia is likely to become the low-cost soybean producer in the world. Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia are highly dependent on Bolivia's modern agricultural sector. Increasing diversification into activities such as producing cross-bred, elite replacement cattle for the Brazilian market and essential oils will also strengthen Bolivia's continuing modernization, development and participation in the global food system.

Politics

Hugo Banzer's replacement as President, **Tito Quiroga**, is a breath of fresh air. He represents the first time the younger generation, post military government era, have held the reins of power. He is U.S.-educated in part and is a believer in Bolivia as an economically liberal, free market, member of the global economy. I do

not believe the older generation will ever really be in control again. Quiroga's assumption of power represents a political watershed for Bolivia. This group will continue and strongly reinforce Bolivia's transition to the rule of law and a private sector dominated economy.

The U.S.-inspired "drug war" on the poorest of the poor is a major thorn in the side of whomever is in power. The Church has aligned itself morally with the oppressed, as they should. The Bolivian government/military has been abusing and killing "Cocaleros" with a consistency that is troubling for years. There are U.S. soldiers stationed here helping with their efforts. The U.S. government has done little of substance to compensate the economically displaced coca producers. Our willingness to export what is essentially a domestic problem is both troubling and a destabilizing force in Latin America.

Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz is increasingly the inland economic center of Latin America east of the Andes. It will be the energy and transportation hub for this enormous region. There are no potential competitors for this role. Santa Cruz is Bolivia's largest city. It is 20 times larger today than it was in 1950. It will continue to grow around 15% per year for the foreseeable future. It will continue to have an economically progressive and private sector-dominated economy, something Bolivia's other substantial cities, and especially La Paz, lack.

Partners of the Americas

As a member of Partners of the Americas, I look with a good deal of pride at our organization's many accomplishments over the last 30 years, crucial and dynamic years in eastern Bolivia's development. As an organization and as individuals we have contributed to addressing and supporting the development of key aspects of eastern Bolivia's social and economic infrastructure. These include, in part, the professionalization of dental services, screening for cervical cancer, Brucellosis testing, control and eradication, increasing the educational and developmental opportunities of physically and mentally challenged children, bringing new awareness of the potential role of women in Bolivia's emerging, modern democracy, providing information and encouragement in addressing domestic violence and controlling sexually transmitted diseases, improved livestock nutrition and pasture management, developing rural and youth leadership and the list goes on.

Above and beyond these direct programmatic activities and contributions is the "Bolivian Scholarship" program at the University of Arkansas. For me, it is difficult to fathom the potential benefit to Bolivia of 10-25 well-educated, fully bi-lingual, culturally aware Bolivian graduates per year from our State's flagship university. This program came about and has continued because of the inspiration and effort of a small group of our Partnership and especially Dr. Bob Frans. Our Partnership and Bolivia will be forever indebted for this fundamental contribution to Bolivia's future.

The future

A crystal ball I have not, however, it is clear that there will be substantial opportunities ahead for our Partnership. It is my belief that we have the opportunity to look to the leading components of the development process in charting our course. Activities such as supporting the education of the best and brightest, identifying and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, supporting the industrialization of agriculture, increasing the capacity and conscience of professionals in the medical and education communities, supporting the emergence of a modern democracy with women playing key roles, fully in control of their lives, and so on, are areas of potential participation that will play out on the front edge of eastern Bolivia's march into the future. It is where our organization, the Arkansas Chapter and our Bolivian compañeros, should be.

As I write this, recently returned from the "chaco" (my translation is what we called "bush" in Africa), I look forward to participating in Bolivia's future as a member of the Partners of the Americas and as an individual. I have enjoyed my 2 years as President and appreciate the support so many of you have provided.

Phil Serafini

Incoming President's message

It is with great pleasure that come January 1, 2002, I will assume the Presidency of the Northern component of the Arkansas-East Bolivia partnership. I thank **Phil Serafini** for his leadership of the past two years. I look forward to working with him and the newly-elected Board members in the ensuing two years.

In the aftermath of an outstanding October 2001 Annual Meeting, I think we all are energized. If the world situation continues, we need to maintain that energy and focus, more than ever, on the future life of the Partners. I ask all Partners and prospective members to feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will do my utmost to answer you directly or, at least, to find an answer as quickly as possible.

Thank you, again, for your confidence. My plan is to fulfill, and possibly exceed, your expectations.

Thecia Taylor

New Officers

Prior to the Annual Meeting in October, new Officers and Board members for 2002 were voted on by mail ballot. The results of the election were announced at that meeting and are repeated here:

PRESIDENT - Thecia Taylor
VICE PRESIDENT - Susan Heily

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR CENTRAL
ARKANSAS - **Carolyn Hester**
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS - **Margaret
Clark**
SECRETARY - **Nadine Spears** (2nd year)
TREASURER - **Carol Corning**
DIRECTORS AT LARGE (2003) - **Laurin
Wheeler and Ed Hawkins**
(Directors continuing for 2002 - **Peggy Turbyfill**
and **Mary Ann Sennett**)

Incoming President Taylor also announces the dates for
the Board meetings in 2002:

January 12
April 13
July 13
October 12 (and Annual Meeting)

A brief history of Partners

In going through some old papers, **Thecia Taylor** uncovered this brief history of the beginnings of Partners of the Americas. It was written by **Neil Rolde**, a founder and former President of the Maine-Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil) partnership and a member of the Maine Legislature for 16 years. It is entitled: "The Partners of the Americas: An Important JFK Legacy." Although written in 1996, we think it sufficiently interesting to reprint it here:

"It is ironically fitting that the Partners of the Americas 1996 International Convention should be holding a session at the Kennedy Library on November 22, the 33rd anniversary of the assassination in Dallas. Partners is a living testimony to the late President's vision, a specific result of his efforts, still in existence a third of a century after his death. This bi-hemispheric organization of ordinary Americans, both northern and southern, represent a direct gift to the present from the Kennedy years.

"The Alliance for Progress is no more, but the Partners, who were once linked to it, still remain and like the Energizer Bunny, keep on going and going. Partners represents an idea and an idealism too cogent for the vagaries of time and politics to kill.

"The Alliance for Progress, itself, was a noble vision yet one that was very controversial. The concept of a vast hemispheric aid program may be said to have started on March 6, 1961, when a memo was sent from Kennedy to his fellow New Englander, **Richard Goodwin**, then serving as his eyes and ears in the State Department. The President said he wanted a plan of U.S. assistance to Latin America that would combine vigorous measures of self-help with the provision of complementary outside resources' in order to deal with 'problems of poverty, widespread illiteracy and grave social, economic and geographical imbalances.'

"At a conference in Bogota the previous September, the US had proposed a special 'Inter-American Fund for

Social Progress,' for which Kennedy promised to seek \$500 million from Congress. Incorporated in the Act of Bogota, the concept expanded into the Alliance for Progress, with the assistance of Argentine President **Arturo Frondizi**, and it was officially adopted at a meeting of high level diplomats in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on August 5-17, 1961.

"It should be noted that the idea was not exclusively North American. Brazil had already proposed a similar hemisphere-wide initiative called 'Operation Pan America.'

"Despite its twin north and south parentage, the Alliance immediately became a target for communist groups who played on notions of Latino nationalism. The Alliance was denounced as an instrument of U.S. policy: 'It still looks foreign and imported' was the complaint, 'a Made in USA product' or 'simply a money-lending operation' that would presumably suck up Latin American resources.

"Such criticism often inhibited the host governments from embracing the new program too fervently. Nor was there a lack of domestic U.S. opposition, some open, as in a LIFE magazine report that the Alliance was in deep trouble, or the publication of a statement alleged to be widespread in Latin America of '*mucho alianza, poco progreso.*' Unreported was a memo from Kennedy staffer, **William Haddad**, to the President, stating that the program was disorganized and fragmentary: '—pieces of the Alianza are in several spots in USAID, in the OAS, the Ex-IM Bank, the IDB, etc. The left hand doesn't know what the right is doing.'

Voices were raised, calling for a change in the Alliance philosophy, or an emphasis, as **Alexander Nimick** of Vision, Inc., put it, on a 'non-political, non-governmental citizens effort.' From the first, JFK had emphasized the notion of partnership, and almost two years after the Alliance's founding, he would tell an inter-American conference: 'the essence of the Charter of Punta del Este is that ours shall be an alliance of people as much as of governments.'

"A memo to the President proposed the formation of a national committee in each country of the Americas composed of a cross-section of 'workers, businessmen, industrialists, farmers, intellectuals, etc.' Reports were also circulating by the summer and fall of 1963 of spontaneous citizen contacts between the two hemispheres. A team of officials from Oakland County, Michigan, spent three weeks 'initiating a country-to-city program technical assistance with the city of Cali, Colombia, followed by a visit of Cali officials to Oakland County. A group of leading Guatemalan citizens endorsed the Alliance and formed their own Alianza Citizens Committee. California and Chile began exchanges in areas of planning, water resources and educational assistance.

"The President was extremely interested in rallying public support for the Alliance. In ceremonies at the White House, he presented a landless Colombian farmer with a deed to his first home near Bogota, honored a Chilean teacher and also the State Secretary of Education of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, for their work against illiteracy, as well as other public relations gestures. More concrete efforts began during 1963 when

Kennedy specifically asked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to find ways for private citizens to take part in the Alliance. USAID became aware of some of the informal programs that had sprung up, like those mentioned above, plus groups in Texas and Peru that had joined hands to rehabilitate a slum outside of Lima.

"It was from Peru, in fact, that the leadership for a new initiative, known as the Partners of the Alliance, would come, in the person of a young Oklahoman, **James Boren**, Deputy Director of the USAID Mission in that country. On March 19, 1964, the idea of the Partners became a reality. But, of course, by that time President **John F. Kennedy** was dead.

"Jim Boren, in a dissertation he wrote at the university of Texas, stated that the exact plan was 'first conceived on a bouncy and cold train ride between Puno and Arequipa on the high plains of the Peruvian Andes.' Likewise he conceded that independently and almost simultaneously, Congressman **William Broomfield** of Michigan was proposing a similar program in Congress. Broomfield represented Oakland County.

"**Alan Rubin**, the former Maine businessman who served for 17 years as the President of the Partners, once made the remark: 'It is a fact that President Kennedy woke up one morning and had the bright idea that there was a need for a people-to-people program.' While this assertion is not documented, it is true that the wheels had been set in motion before the President's assassination.

"Jim Boren had been experimenting with Partners-like projects between Peru and Texas as early as 1961. With Texan help, materials were purchased to complete a small rural school; a breeding heifer was rafted down a river for a youth organization to raise; a generator was provided to a night adult education course near Lima. By the end of that year, Boren had sent a memo to Washington, with the encouragement of his mission director, advocating a program similar to what the Partners became.

"Ideas move slowly in DC. Two years later, President Kennedy spoke personally to Governor '**Pat** **Brown** of California about the Alliance and the result was a three-way negotiation between California, the government of Chile and USAID. Money from USAID for technical assistance was to be matched by a private California-Chile fund to supplement the governmental resources with small self-help projects. Meanwhile, Michigan Congressman Broomfield's efforts were bearing fruit in developing a relationship between Oakland County and Colombia.

"Finally, in August 1963, **Teodoro Moscoso**, the Puerto Rican-born head of Alliance for Progress, brought Jim Boren to Washington as his 'Special Assistant' for stimulating private activities within the Alliance on a state and local basis. Boren at once began to work with the Michigan-Colombia and California-Chile efforts. The very first official partnership, however, was that between Florida and Northern and Central Colombia. Soon, a Bolivia-Utah exchange was added.

"In setting up partnerships, Boren established a pattern based on the philosophy of a two-way direction, north and south, to overcome the suspicion of North American domination. The logo of the Partners, arrows heading in both directions, well expresses the sense of this equality.

Given full support by Moscoso and especially his Deputy Director, **William D. Rogers**, Boren would meet with Congressional personnel and acquire leads on private individuals and state and local officials in their districts who might be helpful in establishing a partnership planning committee. Concurrently, planning committees in Latin America were also organized.

"By 1965, there were 21 partnerships in operation. The same year saw the earliest example of an activity so popular that it became a model for all the other partnerships; *i.e.*, the Oregon-Costa Rica youth exchange, touching the lives of an estimated 10,000 persons over the next 19 years. Also in 1965, in another first, a regional office was set up in Brazil to build partnerships between Brazilian states and states in the U.S.

"A year later the National Association of Partners of the Alliance (NAPA) was formed. There were then 15 partnerships. Two brothers from Texas, **Edward** and **Stanley Marcus** of the Neiman-Marcus Company, agreed to direct the board. The first executive to run the program was genial giant of a man, 6 foot 8, **Warren Huff** from Michigan, where he had served as a Partner and also chaired the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University.

"Warren Huff was only a part-time executive. It was not until 1970 that Maine's Alan Rubin came to Washington as the first full-time paid President. Problems at USAID led to severance of the official connection between the Partners and the Alliance. Partners of the Alliance was changed to Partners of the Americas. By June 1970, when the separation was completed, there were 40 partnerships and the total annual budget was \$410,000. Today, it is in the \$6 million range.

"The intricacies of the political in-fighting between USAID officials and the Partners need not be elaborated here. With the help of friends on Capitol Hill, such as Florida Congressman **Dante Fascell** and Maine's Senator **Edmund S. Muskie**, the Partners survived by receiving desperately needed governmental funds. The first private foundation grant, from the Lillie Endowment, was received in the early '70's, followed by the gift of an airplane from **Howard Hughes**, which the Partners sold for \$265,000, a sum that allowed them to continue to exist.

"Hard years were followed by increasing strength. A critical moment occurred in 1982 when the Inspector General's Office of USAID concluded that 'USAID is probably obtaining a much larger development impact per dollar invested in the Partners program than in its own bi-lateral program.'

"In 1996 the Alliance for Progress is history but the Partners program is 32 years old and continuing strong. The \$6 million or so annual budget of the Partners remains a small portion of the total amount the U.S. spends on foreign assistance, both through public and private money, but what a bargain for inter-American relations! Literally thousands of contracts have been established, thousands of friendships created, invaluable knowledge imparted of each other and real understanding fostered. There have even been a few marriages resulting from these partnership connections, not to

mention the immense good generated through projects that touch peoples lives so directly.

"This is certainly what President John F. Kennedy wanted. The Partners program is one of his most important legacies."

Eventful Visit of Rina Del Rio

The following was supplied by **Gwen Millager** following the visit of Rina, and prior to her attending the International Convention in Orlando, Florida:

Bob Frans and **Phil Serafini** welcomed **Rina Teresa Del Rio Rivero** of Trinidad to Northwest Arkansas when she arrived by air late in the evening on November 7.

Rina had expressed an interest in the development of youth leadership. With that in mind, and with fantastic assistance from the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas (HWOA), a day of Spanish-speaking contacts was provided on Friday, November 9.

She interviewed by pre-arranged 'phone call, Jose Gomez, who is organizing a youth branch of LULAC. He is Communications Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Met with **Al Lopez**, Student Relations Coordinator for the Springdale, Arkansas Schools.

Lunched with **Diana Worthen**, President of HWOA, to learn about their activities aimed at fostering continuing and higher education and good health for Hispanic women.

Over afternoon coffee, Rina heard from **Yolanda Fields**, Fayetteville's Director of Community Development, how the city fosters, coordinates, and encourages networking among all sorts of community groups - yet tries to prevent duplicate effort.

At the JTL Center, **Margarita Solozano**, also of HWOA, introduced Rina to the concept of one-stop community services, which include a small health clinic, Head start offices (and now early start), OEO, and many others.

Enjoyed dinner with her Bolivian student friend **Ana L. Torrez**. Then they went to the PEP rally held around the Greek Theatre, for the upcoming Ol' Miss football game.

Saturday morning, Rina visited the bright, well-stocked children's library at Springdale, where sections with books and tapes in Spanish are conspicuous.

We again met Diana Worthen. and Al Lopez, now in his garb as Papa Rap, with a team of break dancers, ready to perform for patrons of the library. He believes that the performing arts and graphic arts may provide vehicles for self expression and self esteem when language skills are inadequate.

Thecia Taylor and **Bob Frans** were patiently waiting for

us at the old Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, Arkansas's charming Little Switzerland. After lunch we strolled down to visit St. Elizabeth's church. Thecia told about Father Joe, the resourceful priest who, though penniless himself, wangled its repair, expansion, and decoration in remarkable style in the 1950's. We drove along the switchback streets and tiny alleys's filled with throngs of tourists.

Enroute to Rogers, we drove to the top of Whitney Mountain for a panoramic view of Beaver Lake. It seemed to interest Rina that the lake is a "golden egg" for Northwest Arkansas.

At home we put a beef roast in the oven, then drove to town. I told her there were *real* malls in Little Rock. We toured the Wal-Mart Supercenter, and bought a papaya and tangerines, a persimmon and bananas so that we could have proper Bolivian fare. Rogers, Arkansas had the very first Wal-mart Store. The sales slips read, "Store No. 001."



Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting of our partnership was held in Conway, October 19 to 21. It was quite a successful meeting, thanks to the efforts of **Sue Heily**, and others, who collectively put in many hours of planning and preparation for the event. **Bill Millager** prepared the following PR piece:

Malcolm Butler Keynotes Arkansas NEXOS Event

Arkansas Partners of the Americas held a one-day Latin American Development Conference at the Agora Center in Conway on October 20. Over fifty participants heard from leaders of area volunteer organizations about their development projects in Latin America, with emphasis on Bolivia. Partners President **Malcolm Butler** was warmly welcomed as the keynoter.

Aided by a NEXOS* grant, conference organizers led by **Sue Heily**, focused on encouraging participation by members of the Hispanic community in Arkansas. Two prominent groups responded: The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas (HWOA). As a result, eleven members and officers - some representing both groups - traveled from Northwest Arkansas to take part in the event. Hispanic media were also represented.

Diana Worthen, HWOA president, was a major contributor to the strong showing. Group interaction was clearly enthusiastic, including a lively luncheon-table



discussion among Malcolm Butler and a number of HWOA members.

Featured conference speakers were **David Norman** of Winrock International, **Bob Spears** of Farmer to Farmer, **Tony Snyder** of Habitat for Humanity, **Carol Bates** of Kevin's Kids, and **Bob Frans** of Arkansas Partners. Together, they represented an impressive array of ongoing economic and social development activities in Latin America.

The evening banquet heard first from **Robert Trevino**, LULAC state director and Governor Huckabee's liaison with the Hispanic community, introduced by **Phil Serafini**, president of Arkansas Partners. Trevino was followed by Malcolm Butler, who had traveled from Washington for the conference.

Trevino presented Butler with an Arkansas Traveler certificate, in recognition of the visit (see photo). Both men remarked on the notably enhanced common interests and opportunities for cooperation among Partners and the Hispanic groups. Both saw this as a promising development; Butler suggested that Partners in other states could benefit from exploring similar relationships. .

* The Conway conference was part of a nation-wide public education campaign, NEXOS: Expanding the Latino Voice in U.S. Foreign Aid toward the Americas. NEXOS aims to empower community leaders with the outreach tools necessary to engage Latino communities on development issues affecting Latin America and the Caribbean in order to create a stronger Latino consensus and voice in U.S. foreign affairs.



International Convention

The convention was held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, November 14 to 18 this year. Two of our members attended: **Sue Heily**, Incoming Vice President, and **Thecia Taylor**, Incoming President. Each filed a report as to their impressions of the meeting. Sue writes:

A mind stretching opportunity

Practicality piqued my thoughts with the question: Why go to an international business meeting of Partners when you can't vote and don't have to? --I have learned--Don't let that ever stop you from the opportunity to attend the

Partners International Meeting.

There were sufficient scheduled activities to meet the desires of the most active of members or visitors. My two favorites were the keynote speaker **Bill Toomey** decathlon gold medal winner and a workshop entitled "Creative Solutions for a Common Concern". Being a Spanish teacher, I didn't think I'd be very interested in a sports speaker. I was wrong! Who would think that he would compare sports to foreign language? That is just what he did with great ease.

The workshop Creative Solutions for a Common Concern addressed solutions to drug addiction and treatment presented by the partnerships of S. Carolina/SW Colombia, ST. Lucia/Rockland Co., NY, and Bolivia/Utah. I came with one perspective of Alateen from Conway, AR and heard three other possible solutions. There was such creativity! I was re-energized and reminded that departmentalization and tunnel vision to one solution only handicaps us and limits solutions

Finally, the non-scheduled encounters brought me closer to fun times, new friendships and life. Give yourself the same gifts by attending the 2002 International meeting in Quito, Ecuador.

Thecia attended a workshop prior to the convention and she writes about both:

Leader Orientation Workshop

For two days prior to the Partners' International Convention, I attended the Leader Orientation Workshop. Topics covered were:

- History of POA
- New Directions
- Strategic Planning
- Accessing Partners Resources
- Leadership and Governance
- Building Partnerships
- Communications
- Volunteer Management

A wrap-up session was the final discussion, followed by evaluation and graduation. It was an outstanding program, and I know will make me a better President.

Annual Meeting

After two years of not meeting, there was more enthusiasm than usual at the Partners Annual Meeting. This meeting was targeted at youth. **Malcolm Butler** is doing a great job as our CEO. Our Grant Portfolio has grown from \$1.5 million to \$12.5 million since he was hired.

AID is still a major funder. They once provided operation money, but now fund programs in Farmer-to-Farmer, Women and families, and Democracy training.

Our money is targeted to certain programs, and now we need to find additional funds for the whole network to include sports, arts, education and leadership.

Friday started with Round Table discussions, later were concurrent discussions on Programs for Youth. Arkansas and Bolivia Partners, along with **Anabella Bruch** shared

one of the round tables. We discussed the possibilities of working together on programs within the country.

Our Keynote speaker on Friday was **Bill Toomey**, Olympic Gold Medal Decathlon Winner, Media personality and Partners Volunteer. Our Guest speaker was **Roy Bernardi**, Asst. Sec. of Community Planning and Development, HUD.

Fridays Plenary Session was high-lighted by the singing of our National Anthem and the Colombia National Anthem. (Colombia is partnered with Florida). A nice touch and this Partner hopes it will become an annual tradition.

Noon was the Volunteer Awards Luncheon. Evening brought dinner and dancing at the Latin Quarter.

At Saturday mornings breakfast were more round table discussions on Youth, Fellows Alumni Reunion and a Fundraising Workshop.

A concurrent breakfast on Saturday morning concerned the Partners' sports program, a Rejuvenation Program. Speakers were Malcolm Butler, Bill Toomey and **John Horshock**, President of USA Sports Marketing and former POA staffer. There is great interest in reviving our sports program. I have information on the Inter-American Sports Exchange Program, history and guidelines. If anyone is interested, I will get you a copy. Disney has expressed an interest in this program and appears willing to give cut rates on their facilities. Let's give some thought to this program.

Quito, Ecuador will be the site for next year. An excellent chance to experience a convention, to travel on to Bolivia, and to explore other points in South America. Remember ALL Partner activities are tax deductible.

Finally, I enjoyed sharing this meeting with **Susan Heily**, our new Vice-President. She was particularly helpful in evaluating candidates for the four Board positions.

Some staff addresses

While at the International Convention, **Thecia Taylor** obtained a list of some of the staff in Washington. She thought it might be of value to some of you, so here are several names, their titles, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses:

Barbara Bloch, Interim Vice President for Partnership Development, 202-637-6231 x231, bb@partners.net

Anabella Bruch, Vice President for Programs, 202-637-6212 x212, ab@partners.net

Malcolm Butler, President and CEO, 202-637-6202 x202, mb@partners.net

Claudia Calderon, Liaison, Partners of the Americas Board of Directors and Publications Coordinator, 202-637-6225 x225, cc@partners.net

Gladys Camacho-Takacs, Accountant/Personnel Administrator, 202-637-6216 x216, gct@partners.net

Peggy Carlson, Assistant Director, Farmer to Farmer Program and WebSite Coordinator, 202-637-6230 x230, pc@partners.net

Oscar Chicas, Program Officer, Citizen Participation

Program, 202-637-6223 x223, oc@partners.net

Matthew Clausen, Program Associate, Farmer to Farmer Program, 202-637-6211 x211, mclausen@partners.net

Rosalind Elahi, Contracts and Grants Accountant, 202-637-6218 x218, re@partners.net

Hannah Fortune-Greeley, Program Officer, Women and Families Program, 202-637-6205 x205, hfg@partners.net

Lisa Guli, Program Associate, Women and Families Program, 202-637-6214 x214, lguli@partners.net

Althea Haigh, Development Officer, 202-637-6209 x209, ahaigh@partners.net

Mary Beth Hastings, Director, Women and Families Program, 202-637-6204 x204, mbh@partners.net

Salina Hattley, Administrative Assistant, Finance and Administration, 202-637-6217 x217, sch@partners.net

Richard Lamporte, Vice President for New Program and Resource Development, 202-637-6222 x222, rl@partners.net

Sarah Levin, Deputy Director, Citizen Participation Program, 202-637-6212 x212, sl@partners.net

Danielle Mutone, Program Officer, Farmer to Farmer and Youth Programs, 202-637-6227 x227, dm@partners.net

Pablo Paz y Miño, CFO and Vice President for Finance and Administration, 202-637-6219 x219, pp@partners.net

Angela Sanders, Receptionist, 202-637-6206 x206, asanders@partners.net

Dennis Shaw, Consultant, 202-637-6201 x201, ds@partners.net

Carmen Sepassi, Program Officer, Education and Culture Program and Membership Services, 202-637-6234 x234, cs@partners.net

Lisa Shooner, Assistant to the President, 202-637-6203 x203, lshooner@partners.net

William Stedman, Jr., Senior Policy Advisor and Director, Education and Culture Program, 202-637-6233 x233, ws@partners.net

Martha Cecilia Villada, Director, Citizen Participation Program, 202-637-6220 .220, mcv@partners.net

Mauricio Ramirez, Farmer to Farmer Field Officer - Bolivia, 591-4-427-1445 (h), 591-4-427-4765 (o), 591-4-196-7232 (fax), farmercochas@yahoo.com or tango@supernet.com.bo

Web sites!

Once more we need to emphasize the utility of the web sites. **Bill Millager** graciously and recently has updated ours. Please take a look at it at <http://www.uark.edu/misc/partners> - we think you will like it! All the most recent issues of *Direcciones* can be found there; the new list of Officers and Board Members for 2002 is there; and Bill has organized some of the links to make them more convenient to use. In addition, he has created a new link with the Washington office of Partners, so it will be easy to find their stuff. When you get to their

site (which is: www.partners.net), you can request that you be put on a list to receive the national newsletter, I assume by e-mail. In addition, our website is now listed in their Directory of Partnerships, so people interested in us can get to us quite easily. It's a new age, folks, so we might as well all get used to it. One day, we'll be relying more heavily on these sites for information. And it will certainly help if we have your correct e-mail address. See the next item for making sure we have it.

Time for dues and e-mails

Yes, it is time to start our annual drive for the 2002 dues. So, do yourself a favor and go ahead and fill out the attached dues statement (some have already paid for 2002 and will not receive this statement), write us a check and send it right back. If you do that, you won't have to be bugged any more by Bob Frans, asking you to pay your dues! What a relief that would be! Be sure you check your address against the mailing label by which you received this issue of *Direcciones* and make any changes necessary. **Also, please** give us your e-mail address (if you have one) in the space provided. We may already have it on the mailing list, but send it again so we can check it for accuracy. Again, there will be, in the future, a lot more information available to you electronically than is otherwise available by paper. We may even be asking you soon if you would prefer getting *Direcciones* that way - it would save us a little on postage and reproduction. We haven't quite gotten that far yet, but we're getting closer! It would be nice to know what you think of that idea - scrawl a note on the dues invoice and let us know.

New members

We have a couple of new members to include since the last issue of the newsletter. Please help welcome:

Charles and Rhonda Adams, 11101 Spring Mtn. Dr., Farmington AR 72730, 501-267-2225

Karla Bradley, 3300 Cherokee #A-3, Fayetteville AR 72701, 501-582-3036

The success of LEADAR

The LEADAR program, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service, **Joe Waldrum**, Director, just keeps on going. We're not sure how many classes have completed their training thus far, but we're fond of LeadAR 8, since that's the group that chose to go to Bolivia as their international trip. They made quite an impact on many Bolivians and we believe Bolivia made quite an impact on them. Several of them were sufficiently motivated by that

trip to join our partnership as a result. And talk about leadership! Four of them are now on our Board of Directors: **Carolyn Hester** is now Regional Vice President for Central Arkansas, **Carol Corning** is our new Treasurer, and **Peggy Turbyfill** and **Ed Hawkins** are members of the Board of Directors. Congratulations! We're proud of you. (Any more out there in LeadAR 8-land that would still like to join?)

Notes from the Board meeting

Secretary **Nadine Spears** has supplied us with the minutes of the last Board meeting, held October 21 in Conway, following the Annual Meeting. These are a few of the pertinent items from that meeting:

1. Annual Meeting a success - 51 were in attendance, including 10 from LULAC and Hispanic Women of Northwest Arkansas, 4 guest speakers, 3 from Hispanic newspapers, and 3 visitors.
2. The Northwest group had a Welcome Back party for returning Bolivian students. They also had a booth at Autumnfest and sold donated items from Bolivia.
3. Rechartering of our partnership has been completed and confirmed by the Washington office.
4. Medical supplies were delivered to Bolivia and plans are underway to acquire and send more.
5. Training videos were sent to Bolivia in September covering family planning issues. They were distributed to interested persons in Trinidad and Cobija.
6. It was moved, seconded, and passed that all travelers to Bolivia under the sponsorship of our partnership should be required to be members of this group.
7. The annual Christmas party is being planned at the home of **Thecia Taylor**, December 16 at 5:00 pm.

Final notes

Don't forget - please pay your dues promptly! And --- have a **happy holiday season!**