



COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)

Autumn 2013



Annual Meeting December 14 – Mark Your Calendars!



Come celebrate another phenomenal year of accomplishments through the Partnership between North Carolina and Cochabamba, Bolivia.

We have an interesting Annual meeting planned for Saturday, December 14, 12:30 to 4pm, starting with lunch. The meeting will be held at the Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 [\[Directions\]](#)

Our special guest speaker: Dan Rearick, Director of [Uniting NC](#). Uniting NC is a North Carolina nonprofit that works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. The ultimate goal of Uniting NC is to make our state a place in which all North Carolinians feel welcome, and together build stronger, more productive communities.

In addition, there will be reports on projects and visitors. Among others, four American Youth Leaders from North Carolina sent by the U.S. State Department to Paraguay have been invited to share their experiences.



Why not invite a friend who would be interested in learning about and supporting international work?

We have reduced the cost of the luncheon to \$15 per person.

Cochabamba Environment & Natural Resources Chair Valdivia Visits North Carolina

Submitted by Christian Stalberg



NC/Bolivia Partners hosted Jose Miguel Valdivia, a young architect and environmental activist from Cochabamba, Bolivia in September. He visited numerous environmental organizations in the Triangle area to exchange best practices in preserving natural areas.

He gave a well-attended speech at Duke University titled "A Green Building Emergency," co-sponsored by the Working Group for Environment in Latin America and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Duke, UNC, and NC State. The talk detailed the severe water problems facing Cochabamba due to poorly planned development.

Mr. Valdivia is the president of the Cochabamba Society of Landscape Architects, and he was able to give another speech

and make some great connections at the NC State College of Design with local Partners member and landscape architect Rodney Swink.

He met with new and prospective Partners members, including a group of Bolivia Peace Corps Volunteers led by Erin Shown, to socialize and encourage others to get involved in the partnership. Lee Moore also hosted him for a roundtable discussion at the Paradise Garden Project which opened at a Durham art gallery.

Finally, he got to visit several prominent green building projects, the Duke Lemur Center, and much more. He says he loved North Carolina and got a range of new ideas for his work back home. A million thanks to the many Partners members who volunteered to host Jose Miguel and show him what North Carolina has to offer!

Teachers in Residence

We are fortunate to be hosting two visiting Teachers of English from the Bi-National Centers of Cochabamba and La Paz. They are Rosmery Zeballos and Claudia Riviera. They have traveled NC from the coast to the mountains visiting ESL classes in public schools, community colleges, and universities. They have also shared information about their country and their cities, Cochabamba and La Paz.

Thanks to Karen Brown, Rick Whitmore, Laura Cernikova, Deborah Wilkes, and Hank Graden for their tremendous work in putting together the activities, home-stays, and other arrangements for this double visit.

Join us for a potluck at the home of Rodney and Juanita Swink this Saturday, November 23 at 6:00pm to meet them and to celebrate their Partners' work.

(You should have already received an invitation. For information, contact Karen Brown at 919-247-3753 or at kareneslbrown@aol.com)

SAVE THE DATE
September 23-26, 2014
Costão do Santinho Resort
Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil



Partners of the Americas announces the 50th Anniversary Gala and Convention in collaboration with the Association of Bi-National Centers of Latin America (ABLA)

POA Board Chairman, Tasso Lugon says
“Costão do Santinho is the “must” in terms of hotel, resort, meeting space and quality in Brasil.”

Come celebrate and build the future in partnership

Full details coming soon.



Legislative Fellows Application Deadline Extended to December 1

Martin Rozenberg, Program Officer, Professional Leadership Exchanges with **Partners of the Americas** has informed us that the deadline for the application for the Legislative Fellows Program has been extended to December 1st.

The Legislative Fellows is a US Department of State funded exchange program for professionals that is implemented by Partners of the Americas and aims to bridge civil society and government. Fellows from the United States, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay participate in the fellowships abroad.

Program Goals

Build sustainable relationships with professionals and organizations in organizations in diverse communities around the program themes: citizen advocacy, citizen participation, legislative processes, transparency, and government accountability

Afford Legislative Fellows the opportunity to share their professional expertise and continue their professional development via a dynamic and sustainable network

Strengthen the capacity of the Legislative Fellows to more effectively enact and engage civil society, government and legislative processes

Fellowships

Fellowships are customized to be mutually beneficial for Legislative Fellows and host organizations. Legislative Fellows work with mentors at their host organization in a host country to design and execute a scope of work which often includes site visits and on-the-job training. Legislative Fellows have the opportunity to work on new or existing projects, and share his/her best practices.

For more information, contact Program Officers, Penelope Kim (pkim@partners.net) or Martin Rozenberg (mrozenberg@partners.net).



PartnersConnect features

Have you discovered **PartnersConnect** yet? Sign in at <https://www.partners.net/Login.asp>

There you will access Your Profile, Programs, What Works Project Library, Partners Pass, and Partners Market
What Works Project Library: The Partners Project Forum aims to highlight the effective projects throughout our network.

At Partners Pass, you can print out your PartnersPass card to give you access to

- Special and discounted access to select Peer Learning Events, conventions, regional meetings, webinars and other events
- Exclusive discounts for Partners of the Americas programs, events, trainings and select products in the Partners Market

Partners Market is your source for Stationery, Brochures, Promotional items, Apparel, Forms and Safety items.

Wreath Fundraiser

Thanks to Rodney Swink for heading up the sale of holiday wreaths, which is an important fundraiser for supporting projects of North Carolina Partners.



Newsbits

Elena Crespo, a Girl Scout from California, was seeking a project that she could do as the focus of a Gold Award in Scouting that she was seeking. She contacted us in NCPOA and among other ideas we suggested a project to have her sister Scouts help find donated hearing aids (a continuation of sorts of the project done for several years with audiologist Lori Scott Sears).

Here is an excerpt from her Website *Let the Children Learn* (www.letchildrenlearn.org):

Hearing Aids for School for the Deaf in Bolivia



For this particular project we will be working with Partners of the Americas in North Carolina (www.ncboliviapartners.org) and the School for the Deaf in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The school for the deaf, which has been in existence since 1957, provides education for children ranging from primary grades through high school. The school not only provides education in not only academic subjects but also has lessons in theater, dance, ceramics, and deaf culture. They also provide occupational courses such as dressmaking,

cooking, and metal mechanics. We will be collecting used hearing aids, then reconditioning them and sending them to the school. The school is underfunded and understaffed, so they have trouble providing the children with helpful materials and up-to-date amplification. In addition to this program, the school would like to create an outreach program that will allow them to take equipment to other parts of the country and assess children living there.

She recently wrote this update: "I am going to Bolivia on November 23rd and will be taking approximately \$15,000 worth of equipment that was needed along with 27 hearing aids (worth approximately \$35,000) and a computer to program the hearing aids with. I and another Girl Scout will be helping David [Fuentes] to test and fit kids from Potosi. I will send you pictures but this is the first step in trying to get David all that he needs for his lab. I am very excited!"

[AYLP 2013 Participants Share Their Experiences](#)

This video was posted on our Website at <http://www.ncboliviapartners.org/node/49#comments>

See it also at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbjIS_QT_uc



Eastern Bolivia Partners Now Have Website

Website for the Santa Cruz, Bolivia Partners of the Americas chapter now have a web presence. Their partner state is Arkansas. You can see it at <http://www.santacruzpartners.org>.

They have just recently hosted a specialist in autism from the University of Arkansas.

POA's Leadership in Fighting Child Labor

[letter from POA President Steve Vetter]

Dear US Chapter Leaders,

Did you know that Partners of the Americas is an international leader in the fight against child labor? How WOULD you know, if we've never told you? Because WE ARE, and WE HAVEN'T.

For almost 50 years, Partners has been making an impact in communities throughout the hemisphere across dozens of issues. But if our impact is so large, why are we not better known? Maybe at the time of our founding it was enough to be a "quiet brand". But in today's 24-hour media environment being modest about your achievements doesn't win you fans, grow your membership, or make you more sustainable.

Part of celebrating Partners' 50th Anniversary is thinking creatively and strategically about where we can improve as an organization, and we know that until recently, communications was one of our weak points. The creation of our Communications Unit was a step in the right direction, as was contracting with marketing communications firm Kosovo-Addis this past summer to further increase our communications and fundraising capacity. We are about to begin Partners' first large-scale holiday campaign, called "No Children Need Apply". With this campaign, we hope to raise awareness about Partners' work on child labor, while testing the overall approach we will apply to future messages.

There are many ways that you can help the "No Children Need Apply" campaign. First, I welcome your financial contribution in any amount. Partners also needs your support sharing campaign messages with chapter members and your personal networks through email and social media. Finally, we welcome your feedback to communications@partners.net about any aspect of the campaign.

Thank you, as always, for your support in building a stronger Partners,



Zombie Chola



In this Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013 photo, Evelin Huaycho, dressed as a "cholita" zombie, poses for a photo before her performance in the House of Terror, during a Halloween night event in El Alto, Bolivia. Day of the Dead festivities recently have begun to fuse with the American celebration of Halloween in some areas. Some Bolivians have started to embrace the Halloween traditions such as the haunted house, fusing characters adapted from the Andean culture such as 'la cholita' and creepy creatures of U.S. horror films. (Juan Karita, AP / AP)

On the Calendar (2013):

Executive Committee meeting	Jan 14, February 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 16, 9am-12	A&T Univ. Greensboro
Executive Committee meeting	April 15, May 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year mtg	June 15	FedEx Global Education Center at UNC Chapel Hill
Executive Committee meeting	July 8, August 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 21	Chapel Hill Public Library
Executive Committee meeting	October 14 November 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	December 14	Chapel Hill Public Library 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

*Quarterly Board Meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30-12:00. Members may attend these meetings.

North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:

Christian Stalberg, President chris@stalberg.net

Karen Brown, Vice-President ; 919-539-6211, 919-715-7410, kareneslbrown@aol.com

Sallie Abbas, Past President/ Advisor and Newsletter Editor h919-467-0382; swabbas@nc.rr.com

Kitty Stalberg, Secretary, 919-942-7882; kit@mindspring.com

Judy Gibson, Treasurer; h704-487-4228 hbgibson@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Stephen Gibson, Judy Gibson, Don Hopkins, March Krotee, Larry Nelson, Robert Pyle, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson, Robert Pyle, Laura Cernikova

2013-2015 Cbba POA Officers

Rosario Claros Rosales

Lupe Buendia

Marlene Mercado Vargas

Monica Niño De Guzman

Silvia Quiroga

Carla Andrea Leigue

Elena Jimenez Daza

Mauricio Ramirez Parra

Claudia Jimenez Daza

Phebe Jhonson

Jhony Villazón

Presidenta Responsable de Sub-comité de medio ambiente y habitat

Vicepresidenta electa Responsable de Sub-comité de Rescate y Sobrevivencia.

pas Presidenta inmediata; Responsable de Sub-comité de Salud y Deportes

Secretaria

Secretaria De Hacienda Responsable de Arte y cultura

Responsable de YAS y grupo jóvenes

Responsable de Escuela de Voluntariado y Warmi; Pas presidente

Pas Presidente; Responsable de Programa Agricultores (Farmer to farmer);

Sub.Comite de Etica

Responsable de Sub.comité Mujer y familia

Responsable de Sub. Comité de Rehabilitación

Pas presidente; Responsable interino de Sub. Comité de Educación Superior ; Sub.Comite de

Etica

Registration for Annual Meeting

To register for the Annual Meeting of North Carolina Partners of the Americas, December 14, you can make your payment online: go to the website at www.ncboliviapartners.org and in the left hand column enter the amount and click on the Proceed to Paypal.com button. After you enter in the payment amount, etc. you will be given the opportunity to add instructions. Here you may tell us how many people will be attending in your party, as well as if you are including membership dues.

Or if you prefer, print and fill in the registration form below

Registration Form

Registration: Please complete the registration form, detach, include your payment and mail to:

Treasurer, NCPOA

P.O. Box 28221,

Raleigh, NC, 27611-8221.

(make your check payable to NCPOA)

Registration Deadline: Dec 12, 2013

Name _____

Guest's Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address _____

Number of Registrations, including lunch:

_____ x \$15 = \$ _____

I am making an additional gift for North Carolina Partners (tax-deductible): \$ _____

I am making a gift for the general fund of Partners of the Americas (tax-deductible): \$ _____

I am also enclosing my 2013 membership dues:

\$15 Student \$25 Regular Individual \$40 Family \$250 Lifetime

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Questions? Contact Christian Stalberg, President at christian@ncboliviapartners.org or 919-930-1143