



# COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

Spring 2013

*Editor's note: This newsletter is a little different. In the interest of letting members get acquainted with our Board of Directors members, and some of the Cochabamba Partners as well, we are presented brief descriptions of them, along with their photo.*

**Christian Stalberg**, current President of the NC Partners and chair of the Environment & Natural Resources Subcommittee, owns a business performing computerized simulations of commercial buildings energy use and training others to do the same.



He became involved in California Partners of the Americas in San Francisco after the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City.

Chris says "The Partners experience has been invaluable as I have learned about cross-cultural understanding and cooperation which is vitally important in this era of the 'global village.'"

Through Partners he has traveled to both Mexico and Bolivia. Partners' projects with which he has been involved with include AIDS prevention, Internet use, disaster recovery, and energy efficient buildings design and modeling.

Christian stated that his greatest aspiration for NCPOA is to bring more young people into the organization.



**Steve Gibson** has a BS in biological science from Clemson, MS in plant pathology from NCSU. He was in the US army at Fort Bragg, 82nd Airborne Division between degrees from '73 to '76.

Steve started with POA as Farmer-to-Farmer coordinator in 1993. He continued the program in 1995 and maintained activities to 2003 until NC-Bolivia lost funding. He has tried to continue some activities and currently uses the flex funding from POA that results from program countries not using all the funds. He continues as the Chair of the Agriculture Subcommittee.

He considers his major accomplishment is the diversity of volunteers recruited while funded and ongoing success stories as well as reports of results from efforts made years ago. Steve says he is also proud to have incorporated humanitarian projects mostly in rural areas throughout the entire period. He spent 30 years as Agricultural Extension agent, whose main work was field crops such as soybeans cotton wheat and corn, but also did quite a bit with vegetable fruits and homeowner horticulture and, of course, beekeeping, which has been a major project area in Bolivia.



**Rodney Swink**, Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (FASLA), is a landscape architect in Raleigh. Having completed a 33-year career in NC State government, he now teaches in the College of Design at NCSU and provides consulting services to local governments, non-profits and firms interested in downtown development. He joined NCPOA in 1995 when asked to travel to Cochabamba to train local and regional planners in strategic planning. He returned to Bolivia in 1999 to lecture at UMSS and to assist local professionals in additional community development planning. Rodney has been on the board since 1995, serving as President of NCPOA in 1999-2000, and he received the Bramham-Marcus Humanitarian Award in 2001. Currently he is responsible for the annual holiday wreath sales project to raise funds for special programs.



**Katherine (Kitty) Stalberg's** professional involvement currently is as Program Coordinator of Scholars' Latino Initiative, Center for Global Initiatives at UNC-Chapel Hill. To the question "What connected you to NCPOA?" she replied, "I wanted to continue to be connected to work in Latin America after my Peace Corps experience in Ecuador. I began working at the Partners office in D.C. in 1977 as a graduate student and worked in various program areas at POA through 1989."

Kitty has been involved with Partners since 1977. From 1977-1989 she worked at POA, Washington, DC. From 1995 to the present, she has been with the NC Partners, and was president of the Partnership from 2009-2011.

She said that the highlights of her Partners involvement have been two trips to Cochabamba, Bolivia and the International Conventions in Guatemala and Quito.

She made two trips as Partners President to become acquainted with Cbba projects and key Partner members, and help to develop the annual plan. She also worked on consecutive exchanges with young music students at the Laredo Institute as well as one of the Youth Ambassador exchanges.



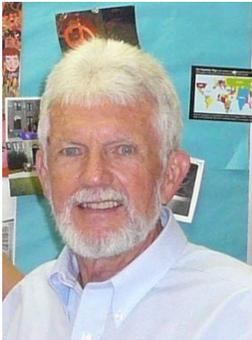
**Laura Cernikova** is a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) at North Garner Middle School. She has been an ESL teacher for 18 years and has taught in Europe, Australia, China, North and South America. She met my husband, Frank, while doing volunteer work for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. After dating over the Atlantic Ocean for two years, she moved to Prague, Czech Republic where he is from, to teach ESL at a private language institute.

She became involved with the POA last spring when I was selected to be the Teacher in Residence in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She worked with the faculty at the Centro Boliviano Americano, giving presentations on teaching ESL and helping develop placement tests. She also worked with the staff at the universities of San Simon, Catolica Boliviano and Privada Tecnica Cosmos or UNITEPC. For a part of her time at the universities, she gave presentations on Business English. Laura says, "I enjoyed my time in Cochabamba and getting to know the Partners there and the various projects they are working on."



**Virginia Freedman** has been a board member since 2005. She is currently an ESL public school teacher who has always been interested in both Americas. She learned about the organization through a recruitment table at an International Festival. She says "What connects me to NCPOA is the nice and dedicated group of people at the helm of the group, the networking opportunities, and the job experience I've gained. [This experience] has helped me land non-profit, intercultural, and education jobs. Unfortunately, I've never been to Bolivia but have traveled to Peru and Colombia."

For the future, I hope that more youth can become members and gain experience that will help them in their career endeavors and help them gain confidence. NCPOA has varied and memorable volunteer experiences in the medical, sports, and cultural/arts fields. Members can propose their own projects within funding guidelines. I think high school and college students will find great networking opportunities with the organization.



**Hank Graden** is a retired North Carolina State employee and Master's Degree Rehabilitation Counselor. He has traveled extensively with NC Partners, other organizations and personal travel with his wife Ellen Graden.

He first went to Cochabamba, Bolivia in 1976 when POA had funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Rehabilitation Administration, to review what rehabilitation resources were available for persons with handicapping conditions. He used that opportunity to visit a small group of Cochabamba Partners and some rehabilitation programs and became so interested in the Partners there that upon returning home, he made a commitment to re-start the North Carolina Partners organization in North Carolina. Since the early Partners organization, which started in the mid-1960s in NC and dissolved in the early 1970s, he was asked by POA to provide the leadership to re-start the organization. A small group of interested individuals was recruited to help write by-laws,

articles of incorporation and non-profit designation. "The rest is history."

Membership grew and numerous people got involved. Some of the early projects were helping several rehabilitation programs in Cochabamba learn how to build children's wheelchairs through funding from RJ Reynolds in 1979 and applying for and receiving a grant from the US State Department to bring 9 Bolivian women to the 3 US/Bolivian Partnerships to participate in the "Women in Politics" project in 2000. In later years, I provided leadership in NC Partners initiatives in domestic violence through collaboration with InterAct in Raleigh and helping the 3 Bolivian Partnerships coordinate the development of increased and improved services for persons with the diagnosis of autism.

Throughout the years, he served in many roles, including President and Chair of the Board of NC Partners. Hank says he still spends nearly 20 hours per week working on some aspect of NC Partners and his commitment to the organization rarely waivers.



**Don Hopkins** started working with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1989 as a bee inspector. In 1994 he became NCDA+CS State Apiarist. He has been a member of the Apiary Inspectors of America since 1992 and has served as its president in 2000 and again in 2010.

His first *Farmer to Farmer* experience was through Winrock in 1999 in Kazakhstan. He had two additional assignments with Winrock, both in Kazakhstan.

The following are all Beekeeping Assignment trips that were assigned through Partners of the Americas:

Bolivia: December 2001, June 2002, January 2003, May 2003, February 2004, February 2005, February 2011, December 2011, February 2013, Haiti: December 2005, June 2006, May 2007, July 2008, August 2009



**Benson (Ben) Timmons** is an MD specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery. He reports, "My involvement began suddenly and unexpectedly when asked in 2006 to fill in as the surgeon on the first surgical trip to Cbba after the original physician cancelled due to health issues. That trip turned out to be very productive and formative as it has resulted in yearly trips since. He has traveled on medical visits to Cbba on six trips. Additionally, he has recruited physicians from Wake Forest Medical School allowing expanded growth and development of the program, resulting in the performance of over 100 surgical procedures each year. Currently three physicians and two to three surgical residents participate under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Vargas each year.

He became involved with the Board of NC Partners of the Americas soon after his first trip to Cbba and has remained so since. In addition to his involvement with the surgical trips, he

has been successful in raising funds for them.

Ben stated, "My hope is that we can continue to expand the program and continue to interact with Dr Romero and his foundation for children in Cochabamba."



**Judy Gibson** is a retired high school math teacher. She has been a member of Partners for 20 years. She became involved when her husband, Steve, became the Farmer to Farmer Coordinator. She is currently Treasurer for NCPOA and has been for 4 years.

Her one trip to Bolivia was about 11 years ago. Steve was on the trip for projects and she accompanied him to visited sites where there were agricultural or other projects.

**March Krotee** serves as a Professor at North Carolina State University with appointments in the Departments of Health and Exercise Science Studies and Public Policy, Administration and Leadership in the College of Education. He has been a member of Partners for 41 years serving in the Virginia/Brazil, (Santa Catarina), Minnesota/Uruguay and North Carolina/Bolivia (Cochabamba) Partnerships. His first Partners connection was when Partners/Coca Cola initiated its soccer-coaching linkages with Brazil. Since that time he has served various Partnerships as Sports and Education Chair, Board Member and President. Highlights include being selected as a Partners Fellow, participating in Partner youth exchanges with Uruguay and Bolivia, leading Partners involvement with Special Olympics International and General Mills. His first trip to Bolivia was in 2010 during which he was "hosted by beautiful families of Marlene Mercado, Janet Morales, and Elena Daza de Jimenez and stayed with the very special Eva Marcus."

March says, "My vision for North Carolina Partners is to keep the ball rolling in the true spirit of Partners which I have known, respected and been engaged in for so many years."



**Karen Brown's** professional involvement is as State Director, Professional Development & Instructional Support, College and Career Readiness, NC Community College System. Her connection to NCPOA began in 2006 when she applied for the Teacher-in-Residence travel grant to Bolivia. She organized books and teaching materials to conduct teacher education workshops at the CBA. She was experienced in conducting teacher education workshops through her career as a teacher in the public schools, the community college, and an intensive language program at UNC-Charlotte. Her particular area of interest was oral communication skills training. In Bolivia, she made travel plans to get to know other cities.

Bolivia was not her first Latin American connection: she lived and worked in Central America on a USAID project in which she developed English-Spanish literacy materials for a pre-apprenticeship trowel trades training program. After her 2006 experience as Teacher in Residence, she has been a host family for a number of the Bolivian TIRs and has been involved with the cultural and educational activities of the visiting TIR. Additionally, she attends the Partners socials and meetings. She has assisted in the arrangement for our visiting TIR to attend the annual state conference for teachers of second language learners, the Carolina TESOL Conference. Currently she is leading our 2013 TIR Committee and serves as host for our TIR from Bolivia, Rosmary Zeballos, who will arrive at the end of October 2013.

Karen says that the most meaningful of her Partners involvements are the collaborations and the new friendships with our visiting Bolivian TIRs.

Karen said "Knowing other cultures and worlds changes lives". One of her aspirations for NCPOA is to "have more professional young people involved with our organization. The new Campus Partners is a window of opportunity to recruit this new energy and these new perspectives. Students are graduating with skills and knowledge about green energy and biotechnology that would benefit our organization and the peoples' lives that they may touch."



**Robert Pyle** is full professor and Chairperson of the Department of Construction Management. He has directed projects dealing with weatherization, energy, construction practices, and improvement of housing for low-income residents.

He says "My initial connection to Partners was through Hank. Three of us from the department went to Bolivia to conduct training at two institutions regarding GIS. We spent two weeks in Bolivia working with several groups regarding training and the exchange of

students with our students. We are particularly interested in sharing information and training in Construction Management, Environmental Health and Safety and Geomatics. We also have several faculty that are experts in energy and residential construction.”



**Rick Whitmore** grew up outside of Cleveland, Ohio and has lived in Charlotte, North Carolina for the last twenty years. He has been a high school Spanish teacher since 2004, having switched careers after fourteen years in the restaurant business in Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Charlotte. Rick is a National Board Certified Teacher with a bachelor's degree in International Studies from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in Spanish from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Rick is a highly engaged educator, currently serving as his school's Leadership Team chairperson and a PTSA board member. He is the Advanced Placement Spanish Master Teacher for his school district, leading workshops on successful pedagogical approaches to language acquisition. Furthermore, Rick is known district-wide for his effective approaches to developing student rapport,

conducting workshops on its undeniable impact on student learning.

As a high school student, Rick spent part of his junior year living with a Mexican family in Tepic, Mexico. It was that experience that inspired him to return to Mexico three more times: first as a student at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, next as graduate student in Cuernavaca, and finally as an English teacher also in Cuernavaca. More recently, he traveled to Chile as a Youth Ambassador mentor with Partners of the Americas, thus beginning his relationship with our NC chapter. His enthusiasm and involvement with youth makes him an excellent addition to the NCPOA Board of Directors.

**L. George Wilson** earned his B.S. in Pomology/Agricultural Economics at Cornell University, his M.S. in Horticulture at Washington State University, and his Ph.D. in Postharvest Horticulture at Michigan State University.



Prior to coming to NC State, Dr. Wilson worked for nine years as Research Physiologist in bananas and other tropical fruits for the Division of Tropical Research of United Fruit Company in La Lima, Cortes, Honduras -- plus other banana divisions in Middle America -- where he learned Spanish. In 1991 he was assigned to Peru for two years as Chief of Party of the NC State-USAID Applied Technology Transformation project and joined the Office of International Programs of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. In 2006 he was selected as Senior Advisor for University Relations and Agricultural Research, Training and Outreach for the Office of Agriculture of USAID/Washington -- through a two year agreement between NC State and USAID.

He is a long-time Partners member, serving on the Board for several years. He has been involved in discussions about nutritional crops for the Ansaldo/Arampampa area of Bolivia where malnutrition is a significant issue.



**Carlos Vargas** is not only a Board member, but also the head of the Health Subcommittee. He served the Partnership as President from 2007 to 2009. In 2006, he orchestrated a Medical Team trip to Bolivia that has resulted, over the eight years of the annual visits, in the consultation and treatment of over 800 patients providing plastic surgical procedures to pediatric burn victims. He has arranged number of symposia providing information to Bolivian doctors and medical students. He was also responsible for delivering a medical seminar to Bolivian military physicians of the 7th Army Division, and increasing the public's awareness regarding Partner's presence in Bolivia by giving radio, television and newspaper interviews. In November 2006 at the Partners of the Americas International Convention in Belize Carlos was given the Volunteer of the Year award to Dr. Vargas, a Board Member of the North Carolina/Cochabamba, Bolivia Chapter and Chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

This award is given annually in honor of Dumond Peck Hill, whose 20-year commitment to Partners exemplified the spirit of international volunteerism.

Dr. Vargas has earned a successful reputation for his spirited volunteerism and his observed efforts. “Carlos has played a key role in many of our Partners ventures ranging from recruiting and organizing our NC/Cochabamba Medical Team to his very active Board Presence”, as noted by March L. Krotee, then President of NCPOA. He possesses a strong drive to initiate different projects and activities, and has had a great deal of success in obtaining donations of money and medical supplies for the work with their Bolivian counterparts. Charles H. Mann, MD, an ENT doctor who has also gone on a number of these medical team visits to Cochabamba, speaks in favor of Vargas, “without his help, our mission (in Bolivia) simply could not be accomplished”. Dr. Vargas continues to make an effort to spread the word about Partners, and has contributed to strengthening the ties between the Northern and Southern components of his chapter.



**Deborah Wilkes** is an educator with 24 years of experience in the field. Her specialty is English as a Foreign Language/Second Language and has taught, lived and trained other teaching professionals in the United Kingdom, Spain, China, Mexico, Bolivia and the United States. Deborah has been a member of POA since 2008 when she was selected as the Teacher-In-Residence North-South and travelled to Cochabamba, Bolivia for five weeks during that summer, where she taught daily an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) class to teenagers; she coached teachers in strategies of TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and pronunciation to students aged 6 to adults; and conducted a workshop titled: "Developing Language through Interaction".

In addition to being an NCPOA Board member she actively serves on the Education Committee and has helped the Partnership considerably in the screening of candidates for the TIR program.



**Sallie Abbas** has been a member of NC POA since 1987. She, like Virginia Freedman, learned about Partners at an International Festival. In 1989 she went to Bolivia with two donated computers and taught 3 teachers at the Instituto de Audiología (School for the Deaf) how to use them, so they could provide computer training to their students. For NCPOA, she has served as secretary, twice as president, and for many years has been the editor of the partnership newsletter, as well as managing the Website. She served on the International Board of Partners of the Americas for two terms, from 2001 to 2007.

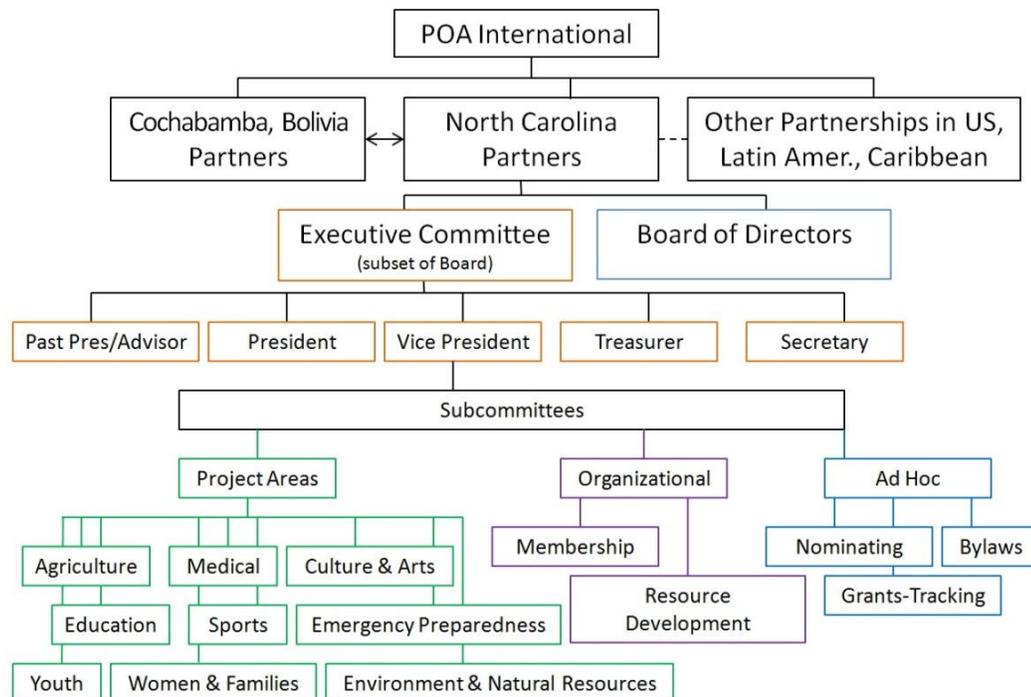
She has traveled numerous times to Bolivia, assisting with the Audiology and ENT exams, and some with the surgeons medical team visits. She also gave a technology workshop in using computers to enhance the teaching of English to teachers at the Centro Boliviano Americano, the Teacher-in-Residence program. She has assisted the

Search and Rescue group, SAR, in obtaining a variety of equipment.

Her love of Bolivia and its people began in 1965 when she traveled to Cochabamba, where she had a job teaching science and math, and she lived for a year with a Bolivian family. It was during that time when she met her husband, who was a staff member in the Peace Corps, working with volunteers on their agricultural projects. Over the years she has been involved with Partners, there have been many changes, but Sallie is pleased to see it redefining its approach, even though the mission remains to create connections between the peoples of the Americas, to serve needs where they can be found, and to have an impact on people's lives, to change them for the better.

She received the Bramham Humanitarian Award from NC Partners in 1995, and was awarded the Lifetime Volunteer Award in 1997 from Partners of the Americas International.

NCPOA Organizational Structure



### Three people important in the Cbba POA (more to follow in the next newsletter)

**Daysi Marlene Mercado Vargas**, casada, 2 hijos.

*26 años de ejercicio profesional Cirujano Dentista, con especialidad en Salud Pública y Maestría en Administración de hospital y Educación Superior con mención en Ciencia Jurídicas y Políticas Docente Universitaria en el sistema Privado tanto en la Carrera de Odontología y Fisioterapia en Pre grado y Pos grado hasta el presente. Soy fundadora de 2 sociedades científicas del colegio de Odontólogos de Bolivia. Recibi 5 Medallas de UNITEPC por Exelencia en Docencia. Desde el 2007 a 2012 Recibi el Reconocimiento de Las mujeres Profesionales la Rosa de Plata por aportes científicos al país 2002. Fui mencionada por el colegio de Odontólogos como Odontóloga de Prestigio a la federación de Profesionales de Cochabamba el 2006. Ingrese a Partners hace 24 años por invitación de la Dra. Mirtha Córdova Fue responsable del comité de salud en 2 gestiones y actualmente para la gestión 2013-2015 Viaje a Carolina por mi Proyecto de Manejo de la basura Médica y en la última gestión desarrolle el proyecto de Autoprevención del Cáncer Bucal. El 2012 recibi el award Bramham-Marcus por el capítulo de Carolina del Norte y e 2013 fui reconocida por el capítulo de Cochabamba.*



**Daysi Marlene Mercado Vargas**, married, 2 children

She has been engaged for 26 years in professional practice as a Surgical Dentist, with specialty in Public Health and a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration and Higher Education, with minor in Legal Science and Politics. She is a university docent in the private system in careers of odontology and physiotherapy, both undergraduate and post-graduate. She founded 2 scientific societies in the Bolivian College of Odontologists. ...

She became a member of Partners 24 years ago, through Dra. Mirtha Cordova, daughter of Lina and Alcides Córdova, also members of Partners.

Daysi is the head of the Health Subcommittee (currently, to 2015), and has been in the posit for two terms. As such, she has worked tirelessly in making arrangements for the annual medical team visits by the surgeons and ENT specialists from NC.

She came to NC in 2000, for her project of Proper Caring of Medical Wastes, and developed the project of Self-Prevention of Bucal Cancer.

In 2012 she received the Bramham-Marcus Award for outstanding volunteer service

**Rosario Claros**, Research Professor, Instituto de Investigaciones de Arquitectura, IIA UMSS, Cochabamba, Bolivia; Professor of Urban planning at the Architecture school, Fundamentals of the physical world at the Environmental planning school, UMSS Diploma en Gestión educativa, Diseño Urbano, Maestría en elaboración, planificación y evaluación de proyectos de desarrollo sustentable, UMSS BA of architecture, Master of urban planning, University of Washington, Seattle, Wa, Usa 1989 She joined the Cbba POA through an invitation of Silvia Quiroga from CBA. She came to NC and attended a seminar in Linear Parks: Greenways and Riverways, in Ashville, NC, as well as visiting a class of Professor Robin Moore at NCSU, and some governmental planning offices at Chapel Hill.

She remained as member of the Cbba POA in the Higher Education committee, and occasional translator for landscape architect visitors and Farmer to Farmer programs.

2000 She again visited North Carolina POA, attended a class of Professor Rodney Swink at the Landscape School at NCSU (who hosted her) and visited some environmental research works of Oscar Penegar and his special property (where she was hosted) and Kitty Stalberg and her family (who hosted her)

Currently she serves as the 2013-2015 President of the Cochabamba POA Chapter.

For 2013, she is also Chair of Environmental Resources and Habitat Subcommittee in the Cbba POA

Rosario shared her philosophy of a volunteer organization like Partners: "As volunteers we keep learning I hope, at all times, how to better serve to our community, I should say it is very important to keep reminding a conceptual instrumentation to all of us, on the volunteer principles. But most important is the willingness from your heart, for compromises to those objectives as a group. And what takes time and effort is getting down to actions in the real world, because all kinds of people makes this possible through all kinds of small contributions and advises. We only need to listen to the sound of these voices around us, which make such clear projections to the future. "

"Therefore our task is to learn to support and facilitate all types of creative visions of youngsters and adults who are willing to try some more."

"Partners gives us the opportunity to see several interchange programs through different experts and visitors from the north. We may on both sides of the continent find a great benefit and advantages sharing these experiences north-south, how do we or they apply learning processes, how do we or they, set the challenges between limitations and probabilities for a future world."





**Silvia Blanca de Quiroga**, Arts and Culture Specialist, joined the Partnership in 1986 through Centro Boliviano Americano as Cultural Coordinator. She has served as PoA: Chair of Arts and Culture Subcommittee, 1986 to the present. She was President of the Cochabamba Chapter from 1991 to 1993. She is currently Treasurer of the Cochabamba Chapter (2013-2015). Silvia visited North Carolina Partners Chapter twice, in 1987 and again in 1989. In 1989, she attended the Convention of Partners of the Americas in Boston, Mass.

Silvia stated her vision for Partners: "I consider that it is necessary for the well being of a community to count with volunteer members who are well aware of its needs and resources and are willing to work as such. Partners of the Americas gave me the opportunity to contribute to the understanding of the American and Bolivian cultures through the exchanges organized with artist-residents in the area of visual art, painting and sculpting, photography, pottery, textile art, dance and music. At both sides of the Partnership, musicians, dancers, performers, visual artists were involved in exhibits, workshops, lectures getting to know the people and culture of our northern and southern regions and making life lasting friendships."

### Med team visit in March

Marlene Mercado sent this press release from Cochabamba about the medical team visit:

#### **Programa de la VIII Versión De Cirugías Correctivas Y Reconstructivas Para Niños Quemados**

Por 8va. vez luego de un constante seguimiento de anteriores intervenciones y luego de una planificación de larga data por nuestra institución de Voluntariado, presente en Cochabamba por 43 años y un equipo mixto de profesionales de salud locales y los galenos Norteamericanos provenientes del Hospital de Wake forest de Carolina del Norte, a la cabeza del jefe de la delegación y responsable del subcomité de salud de la contraparte de Carolina del Norte Dr. Carlos Vargas quien acompaña a 7 profesionales Cirujano Plásticos de renombre internacional como el Dr. Malcolm W. Marks, M.D, Benson E L Timmons, M.D. William Todd Stoeckel, M.D., Benjamin C. Wood, M.D., Clayton Crantford, M.D., Katherine I. Habenicht, M.D y su equipo de apoyo de traductores, residentes universitarios y enfermeras.

Este lunes 11 de Marzo se inicia la campaña de Cirugías a los niños quemados pacientes del Hospital Viedma las mismas desarrollaran hasta el día viernes 15 de Marzo.

Se realizaran proceso quirúrgicos correctivos y Reconstructivos que hasta el presente llegan a Aproximadamente 800 cirugías en 7 años de trabajo ininterrumpido y con carácter gratuito. Este Programa se lleva a cabo con la coordinación del Dr. Oscar Romero, jefe del servicio médico del pabellón de Cirugía de Niños Quemados del hospital "Manuel Ascencio Villarroel con la colaboración de su equipo médico y paramédico.

Así también se realizara un Simposio Académico internacional los días 13,14, 15 desde hrs 18.30 en el Auditorio del Hospital Viedma de la calle Venezuela el cual es auspiciado por la Facultad de Medicina de la UMSS y otro curso en la UNITEPC el día jueves 14 de Marzo por la mañana en el auditorio del Km. 7, Av. ½. Blanco Galindo, Florida Norte.

Responsables locales pas presidenta y Presidenta en ejercicio Dra. Marlene Mercado Vargas y Arquitecta Rosario Claros en coordinación de Dr. Oscar Romero y Dr. Jaime Montaña del Granado.

[translation] For the 8<sup>th</sup> time of annual surgical treatments and after a considerable planning process by our volunteer organization, existing in Cochabamba for 43 years, and a mixed team of local health professionals, a group of American physicians came from the Wake Forest Hospital of North Carolina [to continue this program of surgeries]. Leading the delegation and head of the Health Subcommittee of the North Carolina counterpart [NCPOA] is Dr. Carlos Vargas who accompanied 7 professional plastic surgeons of international renown -- Dr. Malcolm W. Marks, MD, Benson L Timmons, MD William Todd Stoeckel, MD, Benjamin C. Wood, MD, Clayton Crantford, MD, Katherine I. Habenicht, MD and a translators support team, along with university residents and nurses. This Monday March 11 began the series of surgeries on the burned children patients of the Hospital Viedma and finished Friday March 1. They carried out corrective and reconstructive surgical procedures; this makes a total of approximately 800 surgeries in 7 years of uninterrupted work performed *pro bono*. This program is achieved with the coordination of Dr. Oscar Romero, leader of the medical service of the Burned Children Surgery building of the hospital Manuel Ascencio Villarroel with the contribution of its medical equipment and paramedical personnel. Also an international Academic Symposium was conducted the March 13.14, 15 at 6:30pm in the Auditorium of the Hospital Viedma of the street Venezuela, hosted by the Faculty of Medicine of the UMSS and another course was presented in the UNITEPC Thursday March 14 of in the

morning in the auditorium of the Km. 7½, Av. Blanco Galindo, Florida Norte. Locally in charge [through the Cochabamba Chapter of Partners of the Americas] were Past-President Dra. Marlene Mercado Vargas and President Rosario Claros, Architect, in coordination with Dr. Oscar Romero and Dr. Jaime Montañón del Granado.

This note was sent from President Rosario Claros to N POA Present Christian Stalberg:

Cochabamba 24 de marzo de 2013

**Mr. Christian Stalberg -President, Partners of the Américas North Carolina**

A través de la presente nota, el Directorio de Compañeros de las Américas Capitulo Cochabamba, envía un saludo de profunda gratitud a todo el equipo de médicos cirujanos, enfermeras y traductores de North Carolina y Cochabamba, a través de la coordinación de Dr. Carlos Vargas y Dr. Oscar Romero, quienes brindaron una vez más su valiosa cooperación y compromiso profesional para culminar con éxito la VIII Jornada de trabajo gratuito en el Pabellón de Niños Quemados del Hospital Viedma, en Cochabamba Bolivia del 11 al 15 de marzo de 2013 y las conferencias internacionales ofrecidas en el auditorio del Hospital Viedma y la Universidad privada UNITEPC

Igualmente nuestro reconocimiento al apoyo y soporte del Subcomité de Salud de Compañeros de las Américas de North Carolina y Cochabamba y al equipo local de voluntarios.

Nuestro Dios colme de bendiciones sus esfuerzos, sus manos y su corazón, porque la vida de nuestros niños lo merece.

MSc. Arq. Rosario Claros, president, Cochabamba Partners of the Americas

Through this note, the Board of Cbba POA sends a greeting of profound gratitude to the whole team of surgeons, nurses, and translator from NC and Cbba, through the coordination of Dr. Carlos Vargas and Dr. Oscar Romero, who offered again their generous cooperation and professional involvement to bring success to the eighth session of gratis work in the Burned Children's Wing of Viedma Hospital, in Cochabamba Bolivia from March 11 to 15, 2013 and the international conferences presented in the Viedma Hospital auditorium and the private university UNITEPC.

Equally we recognize the aid and support of the Health Subcommittee of NC POA and Cbba POA and to the local team of volunteers.

May our God bless their efforts, their hands, and their heart, because the lives of our children deserve it.

**SAR celebrates its 25th Anniversary**

Mario Aranibar, one of the founding members of SAR (Search And Rescue) Bolivia, wrote to me in February announcing the celebration of 25 years of service to the people of Cochabamba and beyond. They have also helped in training of the emergency response volunteers of La Paz, Oruro and Sucre. I was involved in the transfer of an ambulance from the Cochabamba SAR to Sucre SAR in 2006, complete with a public municipal ceremony.



*Founding and long-time volunteers with SAR*

Some volunteers have served for a time and moved on, but there is a core of very devoted volunteers who work tirelessly to train recruits. Doña Eva Marcus was a staunch supporter of the group.

NC Partners has had a long relationship with this fine organization. In the past, we have helped them obtain some equipment and training (both in NC and supporting scholarships to training courses in Colombia).

[note: Lupe Buendia, shown 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left in the photograph, is Vice-president of the Cochabamba Partners and head of the Emergency Preparedness subcommittee .]

## Quarterly Board Meeting

The Board met on March 16 in Greensboro at Price Hall, School of Technology, at NC A & T State University, hosted by Board member Robert Pyle. Here are some of the issues discussed:

Sports and Youth: Bob Pyle talked about previous involvement of A&T faculty in Partners, including Dave Dillon and Dilip Shah. There continues to be faculty interest in Partners. Specifically, the group discussed establishing a higher education committee through A&T and receiving help with sports programming. A&T has programs in sports administration and is interested in youth programming.

Teacher-in-Residence, Rosmery Zeballos has been selected to come from the CBA to NC. Her visit is scheduled for late October to late November, 2013.

Autism: Hank Graden has been working on a Travel Grant with POA for Eldia Hildago, active participant in the June, 2012 Autism Conferences in Bolivia. She is a volunteer with the La Paz Partners. The intent is to continue the work on Autism awareness in Bolivia.

POA is holding a "What Works" conference in Colorado May 22-24 and is offering a scholarship. We discussed offering the scholarship to fill targeted vacancies in partner committees in order to energize the subcommittees (e.g. Women in Development, Youth Ambassadors, Partners Campus and Emergency Preparedness) – as well as to create counterpart leaders with Cbba. The scholarship provides \$500 plus airfare.

"American Youth Leadership Program" Teen program is taking place in Paraguay for youth with projects in climate change and global warming will take place in late summer, 2013.

New NCPOA leadership program: Christian participated in conference call with Abraham Cisne who heads up leadership program. The program, similar to youth ambassadors, has targeted a few states including North Carolina for participation. NCPOA is seeking feedback in order to build the program.

Domestic Violence: Hank met with Kathy Johnson about her trip and she and Hank are working on preparing a document for future follow-up with organizations in Bolivia and/or Cbba. We will collaborate with Claudia Jimenez, but will seriously work with other agencies such as INFANTE.

## A Scholarship Fund to Honor Outstanding International Volunteer



From Steve Vetter:

As many of you know, the Partners family recently lost one of its most generous and dedicated members, my friend Jose Rodolfo Carvajal Sanchez of Puebla, Mexico. As a Kellogg Fellow (Class V) and past International Board member, Rodolfo was a role model and a leader who embodied Partners' mission. He worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for youth and students and was committed to serving communities in Puebla and Oklahoma.

To ensure that Rodolfo's passion for youth development and international education continues to change lives, Partners of the Americas and the University of Oklahoma have partnered to create the *Jose Rodolfo Carvajal Sanchez Memorial*



*Scholarship Fund.* **We have raised half of our \$20,000 goal, but need your help to get the rest of the way.** If we reach \$20,000 by May, the funds will be matched by the Oklahoma Foundation, so please make your tax-deductible donation today. No amount is too small.

To make a donation in honor/memory of Rodolfo, follow the simple instructions below:

1. [Click here](#) – this link takes you to the donation landing page
2. Scroll down on the first tab labeled "Fund Name" and select the [Jose Rodolfo Carvajal Sanchez Scholarship Fund](#)
3. Complete the donation form and submit your payment.

The Scholarship will have its first disbursement in early 2014 and will be awarded for international education or research to students and professors that exhibit strong character, leadership, and participation in international activities, as well as a strong academic record. The Fund will be managed by the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma under a model that will allow Rodolfo's legacy and his scholarship fund to continue to change lives *indefinitely*.

I cherish, as I know you all do, the memories of working with Rodolfo and I know that you will all join me in extending to his family and friends our very best wishes in this difficult time. **If you have any questions regarding Rodolfo's Scholarship Fund, please contact Ukiah Busch at [ubusch@partners.net](mailto:ubusch@partners.net).**

*Personal note from Sallie Abbas:* I worked on the POA International Board of Directors with Rodolfo. I found him to be a person of great commitment to POA, and loved his good ideas, his earnestness about contributing to the improvement of the organization, and his genuine good spirit and sense of fun. I remember looking forward to seeing him each time at the next meeting of the International Board. It is a fine thing to remember his with this scholarship fund. I hope that, although you may not have known him personally, that you will be able to make a contribution to this fund.

### On the Calendar (2013):

Executive Committee meeting	January 14, February 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 16, 9am-noon	A&T Univ. Greensboro
Executive Committee meeting	April 15 May 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year meeting	June 15	TBD
Executive Committee meeting	July 8, August 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 21	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	October 14 November 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	December 14	TBD

\*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, Vice-President** chris@stalberg.net

**Karen Brown, Secretary;** 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

<b>Rosario Claros Rosales</b>	<b>Presidenta</b> Responsable de Sub-comité de medio ambiente y habitat
<b>Lupe Buendia</b>	<b>Vicepresidenta electa</b> Responsable de Sub-comité de Rescate y sobrevivencia.
<b>Marlene Mercado Vargas</b>	<b>pas Presidenta</b> inmediata Responsable de Sub-comité de Salud y Deportes
<b>Monica Niño De Guzman</b>	<b>Secretaria</b>
<b>Carla Andrea Leigue</b>	Responsable de YAS y grupo jóvenes
<b>Elena Jimenez Daza</b>	Responsable de Escuela de Voluntariado y Warmi Pas presidente
<b>Mauricio Ramirez Parra</b>	Pas Presidente Responsable de Programa Agricultores (Farmer to farmer); Sub.Comite de Etica
<b>Silvia Quiroga</b>	Secretaria De Hacienda Responsable de Arte y cultura
<b>Claudia Jimenez Daza</b>	Responsable de Sub.comité Mujer y familia
<b>Phebe Jhonson</b>	Responsable de Sub. Comité de Rehabilitación
<b>Jhony Villazón</b>	Pas presidente Responsable interino de Sub. Comité de Educación Superior Sub.Comite de Etica