



# COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

Summer 2010

## NCPOA Annual Mid-Year Meeting June 19

We were pleased that Elena Daza de Jimenez (past-President of CbbaPOA) could be with us for the mid-year meeting. She spoke of aspects of involving members in Partners activities and that it is important that people interested in joining do not have the idea that Partners is a funding or tourist agency. Connecting as friends strengthens the partnership, she said. She added that many in Bolivia think that only retired people are able to volunteers!



Above, Elena J.; below S. Wurzelman



Another guest speaker was Sam Wurzelman who gave a presentation on his work at San Miguel del Bala Eco-Lodge, in the department of La Paz). He worked there to help with improvements and marketing. One contribution he made was to set up a list of projects for volunteers; there are many who come there. Reforestation and a fish farm are two aims of the lodge.

Steve Gibson gave a summary report on agricultural projects in Bolivia, and Carlos Vargas recounted the impressive week of surgeries and symposia done by the team of doctors from NC.

The Annual Plan was presented, with its many programs

and development for the coming two years, and copies were made available. This is our "guidebook". Those who did not attend and would like to request one may do so (in digital form) from Kitty Stalberg.

As usual, it was a varied and interesting meeting!



## Sports Training Specialist Travels to Cochabamba

March Krotee conducted workshops in sports management for the municipality of Cochabamba, and for universities. His very full schedule there was coordinated by President Janet Morales and Marlene Mercado, Chair of the Sports Subcommittee of the CbbaPOA Partnership.



March said that "at each meeting that was conducted we began with an introduction to the Partners... not only regarding sport, health and education but to the entire range of Partners activities. Hundreds of individuals and numerous institutions in the public and private sector were introduced to our Partners leadership and to Partners Cochabamba!"

March toured Adventist University and met with Grover Sanchez, Director of Physical Education. Facilities and space planning was the topic of discussion. Noelia Mercado served as translator.

He met with National Volleyball Coach Lic. Bernado Pavisic, staff and instructors and had a tour of the Olympic volleyball/beach-volleyball facility. The management session dealt with community outreach programs. 12 people were in attendance.

Krotee met with Director Renel Mendez, Dr. Victor Colque, and staff of the Association of Table Tennis with Johnny Villazón translating.

Next he conducted a management session with the Victoria Swim Club/Dolphin Club Head, technical staff and David Velasco, Head of Bolivian Triathlon.

He visited the State Aquatic Center Juana Marquina and met with a planning team headed by Ing. W. Renel Mendez PE concerning the construction and design of 2012 Bolivar Games ODESUR Swimming Complex.

March delivered a presentation to forty-five Special Olympic coaches. Sra. Marlene Vargas, Director and More Galetovic Ass't., with Giovanni Fossatti of San Simon University serving as translator.

He had a tour of WARMI and planning meeting with Director and Past Partners President Elena Jimenez and Assistant Director Claudia Jimenez. The meeting concerning volunteer workshops outreach program was also part of the agenda.

March met with President Nelly de Jimenez and her Adult Fitness Group and gave a presentation to about

60 teachers at Sede de Jubilados with Youth Ambassador Melissa Quispe Cabrera serving as translator.

He met with UNICEN Rector Ramiro Bustamante and gave a presentation to faculty, administration and students at UNICEN University. Monica Ruiz former Teacher-in-Residence served as translator for the audience of 70.

Krotee gave the keynote presentation to over 100 administration, faculty, guests and students at the 13th Anniversary Ceremony of the University of the Cosmos (UNITEPC), translated by Silvia Quiroga, Partners Arts and Culture Committee Chair. He was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University President Dr. M. A. Hernan Garcia Acre. There were TV and media interviews followed by lunch with the UNITEPC administration and Partners President Janet Morales and Sports Chair Dra. Marlene Mercado.

There was a meeting and presentation to the faculty and students of Physical Education at Adventist University. Grover Sanchez, Head of the Department of Physical Education introduced Dra. Mercado and me. Mauricio Ramirez, Chair of the Partners Agriculture Committee served as translator for the group of 60. Certificates were presented to all participants.

At a dinner meeting with Mauricio Ramirez (Partners Chair of Agriculture) and wife Vania, he discussed future agriculture projects, the socio-political landscape of rural programs and student exchanges.

March gave a management presentation to the State Directors of Physical Education (SEDUCA) on Health and Physical Activity Day in Bolivia. Discussions also centered on the health and physical education status of the country and the government's commitment to a healthy nation. Rector Hernan Garcia of UNITEPC served as moderator for the 12 Directors.

His visit to Tennis Club of Cochabamba with Head Tennis Professional Daniel Miranda included discussions of future exchange programs.

He had a meeting and tour of the Centro Boliviano Americano hosted by Head Administrator Luis Fernando Ruiz and Danny Balderrama, former Partner Teacher-in-Residence to North Carolina. Discussions centered on the Teacher-in-Residence, Youth Ambassadors and educational materials acquisition for the Lincoln Library. Also he briefly met with Rolando Ribera as well as Ruth Quitón and Marcela Drpic—the Head of the Lincoln Library and CBA Academics, respectively. Discussions included expanding the Teacher-in-Residence role to teaching US popular culture and other appropriate topics and the July visit of 2010 TIR Ian Brailsford. Partners membership and involvement should be mandatory for those selected for the Teacher-in-Residence both from the North and South.

A visit to the Victoria Aquatic Center was hosted by Marcos Ramirez, Director of Bolivian Swimming and David Velasco of the Bolivia Triathlon. Discussions with coaches and staff included management, team preparation and program building. He met Chief Administrator Lic. Magali Ladedo there, as well.

He had a meeting, discussions, tour and presentation to the students, faculty and staff at San Simon University

(UMSS) hosted by Vice Rector Mario Perez-Hoffman, Lic. Kurt Huffman, Head of Sports and the Deans of the Schools of Physical Therapy and Linguistics (Dra. Elena Ferrufino). Janet Morales also spoke about Partners. Eighty people were present.

He participated in a tour, management deliberations and luncheon meeting with Cochabamba Country Club Director Lic. Marco Luque, Juan Carlos Medinacelli, President of Raquetball and Janet Morales. Exchange programs and intern possibilities among others were explored.

There were a presentation and management discussions with the Department of Sport Associations and Federations of the State of Cochabamba (SEDEDE). Janet Morales and Dra. Marlene Mercado also presented an Introduction of Partners to the over 60 administrators and coaches in attendance.

A training session was hosted by Dr. Luiz Mercado at the Association of Table Tennis. Future outreach and exchanges were also discussed.

In addition to the sports-related activities, he also met with Youth Ambassadors Diana Valdez, Melissa Quispe and Lesly Zema to discuss formation of a Partners Youth Committee (YC). Several potential projects—including the environment and health within high schools (Liborio Cadima High School Project), medical team support, and Eva Marcus story—were named. A tour of the Art and Cultural Museums and Artisan Fair followed. Other activities during his stay were a tour of the city, including Plaza 14 Septiembre, cathedral, and government complex.; planning meeting with the Partners Leadership Team; Partners reception and Sub Committee Chair Meeting and briefing. (Medical, Health, Emergency Prep, Education, Sports, Art & Culture, Women & Family), The Teacher-in-Residence and Youth Ambassadors programs were represented and each give updates and shared their projects, programs, activities and critical needs to the 20 Partners and guests who were present; Tour of Cristo de la Concordia and surrounding area; lunch and tour of the Campestre House, including a discussion with Dra .Mercado the plan for the presentation at the Partners meeting in Brazil; evening soccer match of Aurora vs. Wilsterman with Dr. Luiz Mercado and son Mauricio; tour of Palacio Portales (the house built for Simon Patiño); tour of SAR (Search and Rescue) city-site with Janet Morales. Discussions here included history, future needs and the future of the organization. Mother's Day was celebrated and Janet presented a gift for his wife Leslie. Contacts with the Cochabamba Country Club were established for future meetings and cooperation.

Traveling on to Santa Cruz, March met with former President and long-time Santa Cruz Partners member Ana Maria Ybarnegaray (current President Elvaria Chevez was on tour with Partners visitors from Arkansas) .They presented a full briefing on the history and activities of the Santa Cruz Partnership.

A three-hour strategy meeting was then conducted with the Claudio Flores, Head of Physical Education and Sport at Catholic University and Rosario Villarrol, President of the Basketball Association. The

development of an Academy of Sport, Health and Physical Education and Sport Management was the main topic of the productive discussion.

As for the anticipated long-term benefits, Krotee wrote in his report "More proposals and projects should also be forthcoming and certainly more membership activity should take place. The Partner's leadership can now see the value of a strong and vibrant Sports Committee structure, as the network will be valuable for other committees and projects as well. The visit will also serve to re-energize former Partners and some of those who have benefited from travel to renew their activity. I also think that our goal of closer cooperation with our LaPaz and Santa Cruz Partners will begin to come to full realization. President Janet Morales has done significant work in this regard. I would also hope that the momentum of this trip will be built upon and lead to sustainable growth and development as the government is committed to building a healthy and inclusive nation and hopefully embrace our activities."

"I am also sure that this visit did a lot to build a stronger Partners infrastructure and will lead to team building and a greater appreciation of the role that we all must play to be an effective organization. The host chapter did a wonderful job in bringing together all its members and involving them in meaningful roles to help make the trip as effective as it could be."

#### Teacher-In-Residence Finishes His Month in Cbba

Ian Brailsford, arrives back mid August from a month in Cochabamba as Teacher-In-Residence.

He has created a Website to show off some of his activity there. [www.cocha-lina.yolasite.com](http://www.cocha-lina.yolasite.com)

One interesting activity he had the students participate in and make a video (speaking in English (of course!) is the creating of origami forms:



#### Medical Team Visit to Cochabamba

In mid-March, Carlos and Willma Vargas went to Bolivia with a team of plastic surgeons-- Todd Stoekel from Cary; Malcolm Marks (Lewisville) and Ben Timmons (Gastonia), two residents from Bowman-Gray hospital; Charles Mann (ENT specialist, Cary) Lara Marks, (Dr. Marks' daughter).

A report on the activities of this team was presented in the Spring 2010 Cocha-lina Herald newsletter, but we're including some photos here.



*The team collaborates with the Bolivian doctors.*



*One of the operating teams*



*Willma Vargas, Steve Vetter (POA President, Carlos Vargas, Matt Clausen (Vice President Partnership Development*



*The medical team visits with Eva Marcus (3<sup>rd</sup> from rt.)*



*The med team takes a lunch break*



*Charlie Mann dances with a "chola"*

### News on the Autism Project

NC Partners has taken the leadership to develop a collaborative project among the six North and South Partnership Chapters as brokers and catalysts to bring together individuals and resources in the United States and Bolivia in a unique project. The project is to help improve the early diagnosis of autism and provide habilitation and education services to those persons diagnosed with autism. Specifically, Lucia Mendez, a Doctoral student at UNC

Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, will spend several days each in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and LaPaz between August 27, 2010 and September 8, 2010. The purposes of her visit are to meet with professionals, service providers, educators, NGO's, parent groups, advocates, National and local Bolivian organizations and visit agencies to gather information to begin writing a comprehensive report for future long-range programming to deal with the issues of under-served populations diagnosed with autism and to provide information to design a Conference in Bolivia for 2011. (Ms. Mendez was born in LaPaz, Bolivia.)

Ms. Mendez and Bolivian Committee members will also collect data on the number of persons in Bolivia with the diagnosis of Autism, the suspected number of undiagnosed persons with Autism, how many are currently being served, what organizations are available in the cities and rural areas and/or throughout the country, the educational needs of professional and other staff serving this group, diagnostic, education and habilitation services available and needed and any other useful information that my currently exist.

Additional purposes of this Travel Grant are to identify university undergraduates, graduate schools and Medical School students in Bolivia in improve their ability to provide services to persons with Autism; to develop a written Plan and then assist with the implementation of services to increase habilitation and special education in pre-schools, guarderias, and all levels of professional education, to help those individuals reach their highest level of independence in the home and community; and to develop contacts at the various educational institutions represented at the meetings to begin establishing a formal Plan for University Linkages with a variety of appropriate Departments in Universities throughout Bolivia.

The strong collaboration of Partners Chapters in Santa Cruz, President Elvira Chavez, Cochabamba, President Janet Morales and LaPaz President Lizzy Bowles has been instrumental in planning and for Ms. Mendez's upcoming stay in Bolivia. Home-stays, meetings and visit to agencies will be arranged by each Partnership. There has also been strong concurrence from the three US Chapters.

### Youth Ambassadors Program

On August 16, Elizabeth Aucielo of the POA headquarters in Wash. D.C. was here in the area and Hank Graden, Kitty Stalberg, Stephanie Lamm, and



*E. Aucielo, Myra Smith, H. Graden*

Sallie Abbas met with her. In the morning, she and Hank met with Myra Smith the coordinator at Broughton High School for the International Baccalaureate program. They are enthusiastic about hosting another three students as they

have done in the past. There is also the possibility of involving Millbrook that is an IB school as well. YA's would come in April 2011.

The guidelines for the State Departments Youth Ambassadors program have changed somewhat. In this grant cycle, 2010-2011, there will be 9 students sent to the hosting state. (In the past we had three.) These young people (ages 15-18) are now not required to be able to speak English. They will be accompanied by a monitor adult. They will be recruited broadly from Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. An advantage of this is cross-border friendships. They would be selected on criteria of volunteer service, leadership, and civic engagement.

There would be special workshops relating to areas such as environmental education, small business entrepreneurs, etc. Part of the students' day would be at the school, then they would be provided special learning opportunities in their selected area, visiting sites appropriate to the learning of the topic.

In June-July, there will be a north-to-south component with students from NC selected to go to Paraguay, Chile, or Ecuador.

### Other News Briefs

There is continuing discussion on developing a new Partners chapter or "sub-chapter" in the Tarija area of Bolivia. Several approaches have been suggested, among them are having Tarija be an independent chapter and connect them with another area of NC, (since our partnership largely centers around the Triangle); or that they would function as a Sub-Chapter and funnel projects through the Cochabamba Partners. Mariana Paz Zamora is an attorney from Tarija who went to Boston on the American Fellows program. She has been one of the leaders trying to get the Partnership started in Tarija.

Lizy Bowles of the La Paz Partners was in the Washington DC recently. Hank Graden traveled there to meet with her and Partners of the Americas staff at the POA office in Washington, DC July 13 and July 14, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to further solidify strong working relationships between the NC/Cochabamba and the LaPaz/Utah Partnerships.

Follow-up on NC and LaPaz Arts and Culture Travel Grant we coordinated in 2009; determine if there are future projects with POA, LaPaz and North Carolina; Lizy stated that Maritz asked if Art Waber was going to follow-up with any of the recommendations and things discussed at the "workshop/seminar" in LaPaz during his visit;

The LaPaz Partners do not have an Arts and Culture Committee, but when they do establish one, she would like to have Art Waber to have direct contact with the Chairperson. Lizy anticipate that Evette Garzon will be the next Arts and Culture Chairperson;

Lizy said that she would like to know what Arts and Culture Projects are being discussed in the CBBA Partners as a follow-up to Art Waber's visit to CBBA. Continue to coordinate efforts between the 6 US and Bolivian Partnerships to develop a Travel Grant for the visit of Ms Lucia Mendez to travel to Bolivia in December, 2010, and meet with parents, therapists,

Medical Doctors, Parent Groups and others as a preliminary activity in preparation to a Autism conference in Bolivia for 2011;

Bolivian Partnerships would like more clarification about the composition, purpose, structure of meetings and size of the "Focus Groups;"

Find other ways to cooperate on traveler's to CBBA, by including stop-over to LaPaz

Discuss final details for LaPaz Partners to host Teacher-in-Residence Ian Brailsford for 2 days on his way to participate in a month-long Teacher-in-Residence project at the CBA in Cochabamba;

Lizy made arrangements for several LaPaz Partners to host Ian Brailsford in LaPaz while enroute to his TIR assignment in CBBA

Carlos Vargas obtained the oral mirrors for Marlene Mercado project of prevention of oral cancer. In Bolivia the cost for 700 mirrors is \$1,400. By searching several hours for the best price. I found 1,440 mirrors for \$265.20.

### News from the Cochabamba Partners

#### Sudden Change of CbbaPOA office location; message from Janet Morales, Pres. CbbaPOA in July

*Compañeros y Compañeras. Este viernes pasado fuimos al Instituto de Audiología para hablar con Nicolás, el director que nos citó para una reunión. Allí estuvimos Marlene y yo. El nos explicó que desde que como este actual gobierno puso de moda el control social, los representantes de padres de familia, han tomado el control de muchos aspectos del Audiológico y han cuestionado que nuestra oficina no cumple ningún rol social..... y que debemos desocupar la oficina para que ellos puedan disponer del espacio.....*

*Nicolás explicó a todos que nosotros ayudamos bastante a su Institución, les mencionó que gracias a Compañeros varias profesoras fueron a Carolina del Norte para aprender sobre educación para sordos, les dijo que el Dr. Mann cooperó con sus alumnos como médico, les explicó que durante estos dos años pasados yo le estuve material escolar y miles de hojas para su fotocopiadora y su impresora, mencionó también que le dimos este año 4 audífonos de donación... etc..... Pero nada de esto les interesó, mucho más cuando algunos cuestionaron la ayuda americana... Así que hoy me llamó y me dijo que debemos desocupar la oficina hasta este viernes.*

Partners This past Friday we went to the Instituto de Audiología to speak with Nicolas, the director. Marlene and I were there. He explained to us that given the current government put in place social control, the family representatives have taken the control of many aspects of the Audiológico and they have questioned that our [Partners] office fulfills no social role..... and that we should vacate the office so that they can have the space. .... Nicolas explained to all that we help significantly his Institution, mentioned that several Companions teachers went to North Carolina to learn about education for the deaf, told him that Dr. Mann cooperated with his students as the doctor, explained him that during these two past years I provided school equipment and thousands of sheets of paper for his photocopier and his printer, mentioned also that we gave him this year 4 donated hearing aids... etc. .... But nothing of this interested them, all the more when some they questioned the American aid... So today he called me and told me that we should vacate the office this Friday.

## NEWS FROM POA WASHINGTON

[I got this too late to include in the Spring newsletter]

### **He Connected, He Served, He Changed Lives**

We are sad to report that one of Partners' founders, Jim Boren, passed away at age 84, April 24th. Watch Jim explain Partners' beginnings :

[www.youtube.com/user/partnersamericas#p/u/5/r3gVstvp6Dg](http://www.youtube.com/user/partnersamericas#p/u/5/r3gVstvp6Dg)

Boren received a State Department appointment to South America after working on John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign. His lifelong interest in Latin American affairs took root there, and he conceived of the idea for Partners of the Americas, a volunteer organization.



Read more from this Tulsa World article at

[www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100427\\_11\\_A11\\_USSena884501](http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100427_11_A11_USSena884501)

### **Nominations for POA Board positions**

This year, 2010, five (5) people will be elected by our chapters to three-year terms as members of the Board of Directors of Partners of the Americas. While nominations are received by region, elections are conducted at large – that is – all officially rechartered chapters are eligible to vote for candidates in every region in which there is an open position.

The open positions in 2010 are:

One position for South America: Northern Region  
(Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru)

Two positions for Brazil

Two positions for the U.S.

### **The procedure for nominating candidates:**

Any chapter may nominate candidates for director. Each nomination must be made on the Nomination Form established by Partners, must be signed or endorsed by the chief executive officer of the chapter or, if the chief executive officer will not be that chapter's voting delegate, by the person designated in writing by the chapter as its official Voting Delegate. Each nominee must meet the Requirements for Office established by Partners of the Americas and must complete the following forms: Biographical Data, Statement of Purpose, and Willingness to Serve. The Elections Committee must receive nominations, and the required forms, on or before **October 8, 2010**.

### **Peer Learning Event in Mexico!**

October 27-29, 2010, in Guadalajara, Jalisco. The purpose of the meeting is to strengthen the network of Mexican Chapters and their U.S. counterparts, and to promote international cooperation across the Partners Network.

Who should attend? Members of Mexican Chapters and their U.S. counterparts, and Chapter Members anywhere in the Partners network who want to share best practices and participate in a strategic visioning discussion, as well as potential new members or collaborators. Apply by September 15; \$100 fee for food and local transport.

For more information, contact

Michael Sayre ([msayre@partners.net](mailto:msayre@partners.net))

or Barbara Bloch ([bbloch@partners.net](mailto:bbloch@partners.net))

## **Dennis R. Shaw Memorial Scholarship**

A Dennis R. Shaw Memorial Scholarship has been established to honor this man who gave so much to Partners.

"Dennis Shaw was a valued member of the Partners of the Americas team in Washington DC starting in 1996. His lifelong passion for education and cultural exchanges and for the Youth Ambassadors program, which he coordinated for Brazil from 2003-2007, were contagious to all that met him. Prior to working for Partners, Dennis served with the US Department of State in several countries-but it was his love of Brazil that brought him to Partners of the Americas after he retired. In addition to his involvement at Partners headquarters, Dennis was also an active member of Partners' chapters in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia.

The Shaw Memorial Scholarship will assist young people of limited financial means who

- 1.) Have traveled on a Partners of the Americas administered grant or program or
- 2.) Are members of a Partners of the Americas chapter

The purpose of the Scholarship is to cover expenses associated with pursuing higher education at any university in the Western Hemisphere. Examples of potential academic expenses include:

- a) Travel expenses to and from university;
- b) Textbooks and supplies;
- c) Course fees that are not covered by scholarships or other financial aid;
- d) Opportunities for travel or study abroad that the student would not normally be able to pursue for financial reasons

A minimum of two awards will be given in 2010, for a minimum of \$250 each. At least one award will be given to a youth from Brazil. Award amounts may be larger, depending on availability of funds. Award winners will be determined periodically by the Partners Foundation. Youth may only win a Shaw award once.

To apply for the Shaw award, eligible youth must submit a statement of academic purpose, recent transcript or letter/ proof of admittance, and description of what they intend to use the Scholarship for. Financial necessity is a consideration and students should address their merit as a part of their application. Students must submit their paperwork for consideration to Michelle Nicholson at [mnicholson@partners.net](mailto:mnicholson@partners.net).

***Partners Counts*** Don't forget to continue to register your volunteer hours for Partners Counts. For our own future as an organization, we must be able to show the true value of the time we, as volunteers, put into our activities.

Partners Counts enables us to say that for every dollar donated to Partners, we mobilize 5, 10, or 20 times that value in volunteer time. This is a powerful statement to government and other donors of the nonprofit sector in the hemisphere. Register your hours via Internet through the website [www.partners.net/partnerscounts](http://www.partners.net/partnerscounts) or send in the time sheet by email ([partnerscounts@partners.net](mailto:partnerscounts@partners.net)) or regular mail to the addresses at the bottom of the timesheet.

## Partners of the Americas to Host 2nd IAVE World Youth Summit in 2011



Partners of the Americas has been selected by the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) to host the 2nd World Youth Summit, to be held Nov 3-5, 2011 in Barranquilla, Colombia. With the Universidad del Norte, Partners and IAVE will bring youth together from all corners of the world to explore ways to increase social inclusion and civic participation through volunteer service. This site was chosen because of the active work in teaching volunteerism at this university by Gina Pezzano de Vengoechea, former member of POA's International Board.

### Partners of the Americas International Convention

The **2011 International Convention** takes place in Medellin, Colombia in November, sometime after the IAVE World Youth Summit. More detailed information will be forthcoming as the time approaches.



### From the 'net

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-10725314>

Boliviana de Aviacion (BoA), Bolivia's state-run airline is aiming to make air travel affordable for the masses.

Nathaniel Loewentheil, writer for [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)  
Exploring Bolivia's politics and resources /Posted: Aug. 6, 2010

### Thirsty Cows, Poor Nations and Other Ironies of Climate Change

Today, every office in the small South American nation of Bolivia is closed as the country celebrates its 185th Independence Day. Every office, that is, but the tiny, sparsely equipped mayoral office of Pasorapa. A small municipality of 5,000 in the heart of Bolivia's Andean valleys, the town recently declared a state of natural emergency. Though never a lush region, a drought has slowly set in over the course of the last decade as annual levels of rainfall have declined and temperatures have risen. This year, their water reserves were emptied earlier than ever, leaving their taps dry, their crops withered and their cowherds -- by the hoofs of which beat the town's daily rhythm -- mooing in thirst. The recently elected mayor has pledged to keep the office open until a solution to the drought has been found; at this moment, she's hard at work, searching for some way to help her community and its desiccated lands find new life.

Pasorapa is not the only community in Bolivia suffering from water shortages. As a variety of mainstream media outlets have reported, the drinking supply of the capital city of La Paz is gravely threatened by the melting of regional glaciers in the surrounding mountains, putting the metropolitan population of 1.5 million at serious risk. Scientists have linked regional warming patterns directly to global climate change; their research shows

that the families of Pasorapa, and their thirsty livestock, have the unlucky distinction of being among the first communities to experience the effects of global warming.

That Bolivia should be among the first nations to suffer the impacts of climate change is a tragic irony. Ironic because Bolivia's natural wealth, like the natural wealth of so many developing nations, was plundered by Western powers, beginning with Spain, over the course of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It was these resources of Bolivia and other South American countries, extracted in the context of repression and slavery, that helped propel the European economy into the industrial age. And, of course, it was this industrialization itself that led directly to the current challenge of climate change. An historical cycle is being repeated; as in the past, the West is putting its economic growth ahead of the wellbeing of developing nations. We no longer live in the age of conquistadors, slaughtering with sword and musket; today's damage is being done by our factories and our farms, our highways and our houses. But it is the same countries that suffered historically from the West -- countries like Bolivia, located in fragile environments and lacking public infrastructure -- that will bear the brunt of climate change, communities like Pasorapa, lacking both the most basic public services and any responsibility for climate change itself, that will be the first to suffer. These consequences of our economic growth and carbon emissions are no less serious for being unintended, the suffering of Bolivia's people no less our responsibility. It is a responsibility on which we must act, and on which we can act. Not only by limiting our carbon emissions and halting the process of climate change, but also by providing funds to deal with the damages already done. With a mere \$22,000, the municipality of Pasorapa can buy plastic tubing to redistribute water across its central valley, letting families bathe and cows drink. With an additional \$25,000, they can purchase a badly needed cistern truck to reach more remote communities. Rather than providing aid, however, the US recently revoked all climate change adaptation funding for Bolivia. At a time when one of the poorest countries in South America needs and deserves our aid, we've decided to punish them further. We have a chance, now, to stop ourselves from repeating a tragic history of disregard and exploitation. While it will take awareness, resolve, and action, the first step is easy -- let's support Pasorapa as it works to save its cows, its people and its culture.

### Spanish immersion program in Sucre, Bolivia

<http://www.onlineprnews.com/news/43043-1277390196-full-spanish-immersion-program-at-sucre-spanish-school-bolivia.html>

**NCPOA seeks Vice-Presidential Candidate**

Our Chapter is hoping to soon identify a person who can assume the role of Vice-President/President-Elect. The Vice-President's role is to exercise all of the functions of the President if that person is unable. It is a 2-year term, in this case, ending in December of 2011. At that time, it is assumed that the VP/President Elect would move into the position of President. In addition, the Vice-President/ President-Elect coordinates Program Subcommittees. If you would like to propose yourself or some other member for this position, please connect Kitty Stalberg.



*Willma Vargas with the presidents of the 3 Bolivian Partnerships*



*Stephanie Lamm, Hank Graden, Elizabeth Auciolo, Sallie Abbas, Kitty Stalberg meet to discuss the Youth Ambassadors program for 2011.*

**North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:**

Kitty Stalberg, President Vice-President  
 h 919-942-7882; kit@mindspring.com  
 ---Vice-President – position temporarily vacant  
 Carlos Vargas, Past President/Advisor  
 h 704-825-0586; cvargas@mindspring.com  
 Sallie Abbas, Secretary, Newsletter Editor  
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 Judy Gibson, Treasurer  
 h704-487-4228 hbgibson@hotmail.com

**Board Members:**

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden (chair), Don Hopkins, Rod Brooks, Lyle Blevins, Cathy Spargo, Martha Keravuori, Heike Meissner, Rodney Swink, Larry Nelson, Ben Timmons, Steve Gibson, Bill Hasse, Celia Fuller, Stephanie Lamm, Virginia Freedman, Judy Page, Mary Helen Ferguson, George Wilson, March Krotee

**Subcommittees and Chairs:**

Culture and the Arts -Martha Keravouri, Art Waber, Lee Moore  
 Health and Clinical Practices-Carlos Vargas, Ben Timmons  
 Agriculture -Steve Gibson  
 Emergency Preparedness- Steve Cohen  
 Education –Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes  
 Sports -March Krotee  
 Membership - Celia Fuller, Cathy Spargo  
 The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.  
 We are in need of someone to lead the Social Committee

**Officers of the Cochabamba Partners**

Presidenta: Janet Morales [jamobar@gmail.com](mailto:jamobar@gmail.com)  
 Vice-Presidenta: Marlene Mercado [mar\\_days@hotmail.com](mailto:mar_days@hotmail.com)  
 Secretario: Guillermo Zubieta [quichyzv@gmail.com](mailto:quichyzv@gmail.com)  
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 Past-Presidenta: Elena Daza: [elediime@gmail.com](mailto:elediime@gmail.com)

**On the Calendar (2010):** dates and locations of some future events are tentative

Executive Committee meeting	August 9	Cyberspace, via Skype
Executive Committee meeting	September 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting	September 18	Home of Heike Meissner
Executive Committee meeting	October 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Executive Committee meeting	November 8	Cyberspace, via Skype
Annual Meeting	Dec. 11	TBA