



Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors met in the morning. Some of the important topics covered were:

Autism project- It is hoped to gain funding for support of workshops in the three largest cities of Bolivia (La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz) to assist doctors in the diagnosis and treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder and to provide parents with information. Lucy Mendez of UNC already has made a trip to Bolivia to set up initial contacts and assess the need.

American Fellows Program – Jimmy Montaña was accepted. He will come March 5 for a month. Dr. Calvo of UNC has arranged connections for him. Montaña will work with women’s health, focusing on breast cancer.

Sports – With Travis Feezell, we are progressing toward a program in soccer clinics for children and youth who cannot afford membership in a sports club in Cochabamba.

Marlene Mercado, current Cbba Partners president, will be applying for a travel grant to come to NC

Website for the Cbba Partners - Cbbapartners.org – Chris Stalberg is designing a framework for their Website and will turn it over to the Cbba Partners.

Steve Gibson is traveling in January to El Alto (city on the Altiplano near La Paz) on a church mission, then to Cbba.

RAFFE grant: Steve Gibson proposed seeking strawberry varieties that will grow in high regions around Cbba. There is added benefit in producing jams and jellies for diabetics.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Following lunch, Kitty Stalberg opened the afternoon session. March Krotee conducted the election of Board members and officers. Leaving the Board are Lyle Blevins, Cathy Spargo, Judy Page, Bill Hasse, and Robert Pyle; several Board members have been re-elected; newly joining the Board of Directors are Richard Whitmore and John Sabella

Christian Stalberg has assumed the role of Vice President, Kitty Stalberg’s 2-yr term as President ended in December. Ordinarily, the Vice President would move into the position of President, but since Chris has just recently come on board, Sallie Abbas has agreed to serve for one year as President, and Christian will take over at the end of 2012.

A plaque was presented to Kathy Johnson of Interact, the organization which hosted Claudia Jimenez and provided a program for her rich in experiences of the family violence prevention services which it offers to the community.

The Bramham Award this year went to Janet Morales de Villazon, for all the outstanding leadership she has demonstrated as Cbba Partners

The NCPOA Annual Meeting was held December 10, 2011 at the NCSU University Club.

President, and for the tireless work she has done for the projects and travelers from NC, especially the medical team. The plaque had been taken to the POA International Convention to have Elena de Jimenez carry it to Cochabamba, to be presented at their annual meeting in December.

Sallie Abbas gave a report on the Partners International Convention in Medellin, Colombia. [See the article on page 2] Our Partnership had submitted two entries in the category of “It Started with an Exchange” –one by Carlos Vargas, about the many kinds of medical service done by volunteer doctors and other specialists, one by Steve Gibson about

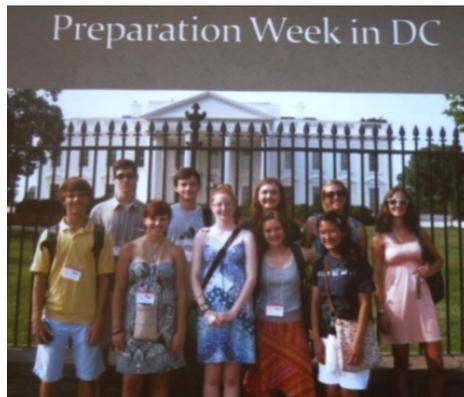


the multiple spin-offs that have happened as a result of the agricultural programs started under Farmer to Farmer. This was the winner! An equivalent plaque went to Cbba.

A report was presented on the very successful visit in NC

of the Teacher in Residence, Clelia Calani from Cbba.

Glowing reports with lots of pictures were presented by the Youth Ambassadors Peter Green (Ecuador), Haley Pratt,



and Michelle Peedin (Chile). Richard Whitmore of Charlotte accompanied the YA’s who went to Chile, and he will assist in the process this year of selecting YA’s to Belize.

Lucia Mendez had traveled to Bolivia to assess the

appropriateness and need for creating workshops and informational sessions about Autism in the cities of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and La Paz. Everywhere she went she found there was much interest among parents and doctors in knowing more of the identification of autism in children, and modes of helping treat persons with the condition. Her report to the meeting explained what she had found and how to proceed in furthering the project. Now what is needed is obtaining funding for the next phase.

Kathy Johnson of Interact acquainted the meeting attendees with the services that Interact provides, and related the very successful visit of Claudia Jimenez.



Steve Gibson told of sharing how to build efficient woodstoves in rural areas; and he reported on the visits jointly with Don Hopkins to beekeepers to improve methods. Chris Stalberg had traveled to Bolivia in August and he described his visit, and the presentations on sustainable architecture at many conferences and schools.



A medical team has been going to Cochabamba for a number of years. While its participants may have varied some each time, Carlos Vargas has arranged for and led the group. He traveled to Bolivia twice this year, once with the medical team in March, and again in August to accompany Dr Joseph Molnar who was invited to participate in the First International Congress of Burn Injuries in La Paz and Dr Carl Westcott, specialist in Laparoscopic and Endoscopic surgery.

Partners International Convention, Medellín, Colombia

Following a very successful Youth Conference in Barranquilla, Colombia*, the Partners Convention was held in Medellín from November 8-12.

Of our NC-Cochabamba Partnership, our representatives at the convention were Sallie Abbas (NC) and Elena & Raul Jimenez (Cbba).



Sallie Abbas at lunch conference with Elena and Raul Jimenez

There were presentations by some participants from the IAVE Youth Conference, who were very enthusiastic about the experience and what it had meant for them. Learning leadership was an important aspect of the Youth Summit.

One of the sessions was a presentation by Sonia Vasquez-Mejia of the Medellín City Council and Mauricio Valencia-Correa, director of the Medellín Administrative Department of Planning.



Sonia Vasquez-Mejia (center) and Steve Vetter, POA President (right)

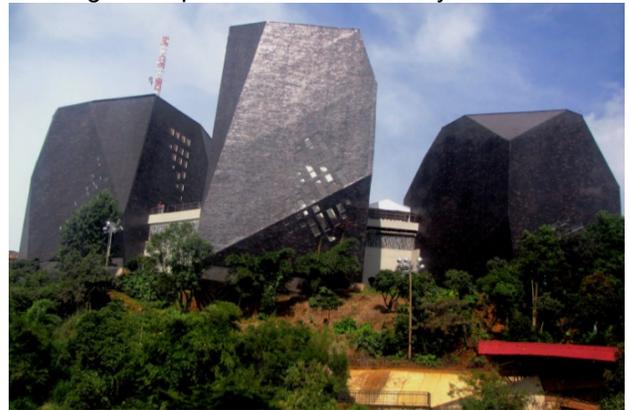
Because experience in the region shows that it is at the local level that policies and action play a significant role in achieving results to prevent and control violence, the IDB financed together with the Municipality of Medellín the project called *Modelo Medellín*. This initiative systematizes the example of the city and identifies its achievements and challenges as a model for other urban centers.

The project studies the transformation of the city in six areas: social urbanism, citizen security, economic development, social inclusion, art and culture, and quality education; through four mechanisms: citizen participation, finance and transparency, public communication and internationalization, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Ride the funicular with a group from Partners of the Americas: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhPjs4XJ8U4>

In the afternoon of Day One of the Partners Convention, participants visited the famous metro cable car (teleferico) system of Medellín to witness first-hand the public works project that transformed a city and changed lives. The cable car system connects this once-isolated region to the main part of the city, making it possible for the people there to improve their economic life.

I visited the community of Santo Domingo, which had been one of the worst areas for its crime and violence, related to poverty and drug-trafficking. Now, however this zone has clean sidewalks, nice sports fields, parks, and a spectacular building of striking architecture, the Biblioteca España. This library was the winning design selected in a competition. It provides for this community not only books, but computers to use and many programs for the children, youth and adults of the community. Best of all the people can now take pride in their community to collaborate in maintaining the improvements and safety.



Biblioteca España in barrio Santo Domingo



Gabriel Marquez, Pres. of Antioquia Colombia Partners and Steve Vetter.



One of the special colorful traditional performances

See part of Board Chairman Tasso Lugon's opening remarks on Day One of the Partners Convention in Medellin, Colombia. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Box5MvAYVbY

Paul Teeple of POA gave a passionate presentation of the A Ganar program underway in several countries. This program uses futbol (soccer), not to teach sports, but to teach life lessons. See it on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJMPa7cY1M&feature=relmfu

Lots more about the Convention at

http://www.partners.net/partners/2011_Partners_Convention.asp

New Initiatives from POA

Partners of the Americas has established a number of new initiatives in order to keep itself vital and current. Here are some of them:

PARTNERSCampus – an innovative model for creating student-led, campus-based chapters of Partners of the Americas to engage the next generation of youth leaders in service and development projects and strengthen and expand the Partners volunteer network. Currently in a pilot stage, the first chapter was begun at American University. A resource for starting a student chapter is available at <http://www.partners.net/partners/PartnersCampus.asp>

Partners Blog In an effort to actively involve discussion and information-sharing, a blog is available at <http://www.partnersoftheamericas.net> Topics have included success of the Farmer to Farmer program in Guyana, stories of exceptional volunteerism, and a story in 3 parts of “decisión, dedicación, y trabajo” of how Lesly Zerna, a Youth Ambassador from Cochabamba got to go to the Youth Summit in Colombia in November.



PartnersConnect as a way of linking communities of volunteers as individuals, chapter, corporation, non-profit organization, or university.

Grants Available from POA

Educational and Culture Exchange grants –75 per year- for volunteers and Chapters are unlimited for any chapter. (10-day minimum for participant). These can be in the performing and visual arts, professional development of educators, Ethics education, Judicial improvement/reform, promotion of rights of minorities and indigenous people, environmental protection and climate change. There are even grants available for learning first-hand about another chapter's success in an area of mutual interest.

Small grants (max. \$3,000) are available. Some in the past have been used for art exhibits, cultural presentations, curriculum development, vocational training, logistical support for a seminar.



Newsbits

Agriculture: Don Hopkins and Jennifer Keller traveled in December to Cbba on a continuation of bee keeping projects.

Medical: A certificate from NC Medical Association presented in January to Carlos Vargas along with other medical personnel.

The medical team will be traveling to Bolivia this year March 16-24.

Arts & Culture: Cecilia Moreno, choreographer from Cochabamba, is being issued an invitation to come to participate in the American Dance Festival (Durham, NC) this summer. Her program is being coordinated by Art Waber and Silvia Quiroga, chairs of the NCPOA and CbbaPOA Arts & Culture sub-committees, respectively.

Carnaval in Bolivia

Carnaval in Bolivia this year takes place from Feb 18- 21. In Bolivia, Oruro, Santa Cruz, Tarija and La Paz hold carnivals but the carnival in Oruro, is the most famous. It takes place for the eight days preceding Ash Wednesday. The big parade is on Saturday and always begins with the *diablada* or devil dance. In Cochabamba, there is also a spectacular parade, with many of the same kinds of dancers, and it occurs on the Saturday following the one in Oruro.



At <http://bolivianisima.com/carnavales.htm> there is a nice description of the Carnaval celebrations in various cities, Oruro, Tarija Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Potosí, etc., including some videos.

Where does the name CARNAVAL come from? In Spanish (which comes from Latin) the word "meat" is "carne". In Latin "carne levare" means to "take away the meat" which was traditionally observed during Lent. In Bolivia, the 40-day meatless tradition is not observed.



Google Alerts for News from Bolivia

Christian Stalberg suggested a great way to remain current with events in Bolivia. It is called Google Alerts. At your subscription request they will email you breaking news and information about Bolivia (or Cochabamba for that matter) as it happens. There is no charge for this service. Go to http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en&gl=us&source=alerts_mail&cd=WhCDho5I3IY&cad=CAEQARgAQJDZ8_cESAE and enter the keyword 'bolivia'. You can create as many alerts as you like.

Here are some samples of items that have come through:

- *The justice system in Bolivia*, from The Economist
- *Exterran Selected to Develop Gas Processing Plant in Bolivia*
- *Bolivia offers to remove some French breast implants*
- *Bolivia: Women Weaving Hope in El Alto* · Global Voices

Pay your dues easily online now! Go to the Website ncboliviapartners.org, go to the DONATE page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!

NCP History

Years ago a small committee put together a history of our partnership, which was founded in 1976. Kitty Stalberg as Past-President is writing the summary of her two years as president.

The history is available in digital form

NC Partners Website Visit our Website at www.ncboliviapartners.org to see news, calendar, photos, past issues of the newsletter, and more! You'll find Partners International at www.partners.net

Dues and other payments and donations may be made at our Website through PayPal.



Wreaths Fundraiser

Thanks again to Rodney Swink, coordinator, NCPOA made about \$1500 in this annual fundraiser.

Beth Carroll, MaryAnn Brittain, Karen Brown, Sallie Abbas, Hank Graden, Ward Patrick, Rod Brooks, Rodney Swink were top sellers. Thank you to all who participated!

Cell Phone and Printer Cartridge Fundraiser

We continue to send in the used printer cartridges and "old" (no longer needed) cell phones for some modest, but easy money for the partnership. Thank you to Mary Helen, Heike, Rodney, and some others for helping collect these! Collect your own, ask at your office, or any groups with which you're associated, and connect with Sallie Abbas.



Board meeting, NCPOA Annual Meeting, December 2011



North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:

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Kitty Stalberg and Mary Helen Ferguson, co-Secretaries, h 919-
Newsletter Editor: Sallie Abbas
Judy Gibson, Treasurer
h704-487-4228 hbgibson@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden (chair), Karen Brown, Mary Helen Ferguson, Virginia Freedman, Stephen Gibson, Judy Gibson, Hank Graden, Don Hopkins, March Krotee, Heike Meissner, Larry Nelson, John Sabella, Christian Stalberg, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson.

Subcommittees and Chairs:

Culture and the Arts - Art Waber, Martha Keravouri, 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 - Virginia Freedman
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

President: Dra. Daysi Marlene Mercado V.
mar_daysi@hotmail.com
President-elect: Arq. Rosario Claros
General Secretary: Lic. Victor Morales Bardales
Treasurer: Ms. Lesly Sandra Zerna
Immediate Past President: Dra. Janet Orieta Morales B. de Villazón jamobar@gmail.com

On the Calendar (2012):

Executive Committee meeting	Jan 9, Feb 13,	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 17	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	April 9 May 14	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year meeting	June 9	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	August 13 (20?)	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 8 or 15	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	October 15 November 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	December 8	NCSU University Club, Raleigh

*Quarterly Board Meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30-12:00