

Minutes – FL-CO Partners Quarterly Meeting –January, 31, 2015 – Stetson University – Rinker Environmental Learning Center

Participants:

- At Stetson: Tony, Abbott, John Schoch, Patricia Galbreath, Jeanne Coyne, Clemencia Ruiz, Sue Mahan, Marcelo Trujillo, Mathias Haugner, Daryl Hardy, Claudia Ehringer.
- Meeting started around 10:02 AM.
- October 2014 meeting minutes were not available at the time of the meeting for approval.
- Treasurer’s report presented at the meeting:
 - Period of July 1st 2014 through December 31st, 2014 was submitted via email post-meeting. Checking balance was \$380.57; Business Savings balance \$4,358.43 for a total balance of \$4,739.00.
 - CD is unrestricted funds. Changed checking acct. to Sun Trust.
- Patricia Galbreath – Exec. Directory
 - Lead introductions of all participants.
 - Will be updating the annual plan. Will look for input from members.
 - Introducing a new award structure going forward.
 - Call for board members for the POA International Board.
- Sue Mahan – Northern Chapter report:
 - Northern Colombia chapter report – many attended the POA convention in Brazil, some youth traveled to the convention. They had an exchange with South Carolina for handicapped kids, organized by Oscar Mejia. “Cátedra” with Fellows leaders from the community, 18th anniversary, 1200 alumni. National Encounter for volunteerism. Full report available at our website from Sue Mahan.
 - POA 50th Convention, Florianopolis, Brazil – combined with Habla – Binational Center: Language classes, cultural events. 50th anniversary focus, looking forward to the next 50 years. From Colombia many members attended, lots of students.
- John Schoch – Central & Eastern Chapter:
 - Bilingual education focus – Fabian Gonzalez’ “English as a Second Language.” More institutions involved with POA in different programs.
 - No official report for our Central Colombia partners.

- Juan Camilo Benavides leadership persistent on making the ESL project a success.
- Youth Ambassadors –
 - 12 kids and a mentor from Colombia came in the fall 2014, 3-weeks at the chapter – Oct 12-Nov. 1st, classes with host family peers plus broad exposure, government, non-profits, etc.
 - For future hosting will need to strengthen relationships with the public education system and host families. Full report available from John Schoch.
 - A long month of work. Stressful on leadership. John Schoch dedicated fully (24-7) to the project. Last minute hosting emergency resolved through Tony Abbott's help. Requires volunteers who do not work full-time or at all.
 - Three week program; student couldn't go to public schools with peers more than four days total.
 - Worked with Father Lopez for school and host family coordination.
 - 2 vans were rented to collect the kids for transportation and logistics.
- Will pursue with John Parker and Darryl Hardy 501-C3 tax-exemption paperwork to re-submit to the state of Florida.
- Sekajipo sent in a report from Miami, available online. Continues to stay involved with Hip-Hop projects.
- Darryl Hardy – w/The Gemini Foundation - Played professional basketball throughout Latin America. Met Edgar Moreno from Chocó in Colombia (2002) wanted to use Basketball to reach out to poor kids/youth at risk. Around 2005 started Gemini Foundation, partnered in 2007 w/NBA to distribute used equipment to Latin America.
- Patricia Galbreath presented a brief South Florida report: set meeting not always on Saturdays, maybe week nights; would like having a quarterly meeting in Miami to support the South Florida chapter.
- Website – Marcy Galbreath – working session
 - Need content
 - Tabs design – Home, About Partners, Contact Us, Projects & Program, Calendar /Current Events.
 - Become a member – work-in-progress.
- Our Birds Project update

- No activity recently. Hope to reactivate soon. Nury remains active through a (new) connection with to a school in MA.
 - Climate Change Fellow program. Desire to continue from last year's summit.
- We need to spend more time on Partners Connect and social media platforms as the younger generation looks for our presence on these.
- Youth in Action from Mexico, was a 2-week visit of exchange students suggested for the FL-CO Partners which we declined at this time.
- Next meeting will be on April 2015; possibly meet in Miami, FL.
- Tony Abbot was recognized for his volunteerism and commitment in 2015 to the Florida-Colombia Partners chapter with a proclamation and an appreciation gift.
- With all issues discussed as well as time permitted, meeting was adjourned around 2:10 PM.