

Minutes – FL-CO Partners Quarterly Meeting –September 26, 2015 – Stetson University – Sage Hall.

Participants:

- At Stetson: Tony & Barbara Abbott, John Schoch, Patricia Galbreath, Marcy Galbreath, Mathias Haugner, Jean Coyne, Marcelo Trujillo, Valentina Castanella
- Meeting started around 10:15 AM.
- April 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approval.
- Treasurer’s report presented at the meeting:
 - Period of April 1st through September 4th, 2015 was submitted via email before the meeting. Business checking balance was \$1,808.53; Business Savings balance \$2,858.72 for a total balance of \$4,667.18.
- Patricia Galbreath – Exec. Directory
 - Opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda for today’s meeting
 - Reviewed, discussed, and updated the FL-CO Partners bylaws as needed ... <...>
- Tony Abbott – President’s Report
 - Process of pursuing better campus connections, i.e. students in Partners Campus, has been underway.
 - Working on more vibrant connections between Stetson and existing FL-CO Partners projects like “Our Birds”, i.e. Rajni Shankar-Brown, couldn’t get visa in time for iEarn in Colombia.
- Youth Ambassadors – Valentina Cantinella & Sophia Semensky
 - Went to Washington D.C., Colombian Embassy – initial immersion into Colombia, the country and culture. Was introduced City Year non-profit.
 - Bogotá – great reception from other Youth Ambassadors; partnered up with a buddy (Alejandra) who helped with initial Spanish language barrier issues.
 - Visited, stayed, and experienced the life with the kids at Fundación Formemos; Sophia is looking at a possible school-to-school exchange with Formemos.
 - Also visited Centro Educativo Miravalle. Casa de Nariño – presidential house.
 - Cartagena – old historic city. Puerto Colombia. Importance of art in their culture.
 - Barranquilla – Visited Universidad del Norte, warm welcome. Universidad del Atlántico.

- Marcy G. regarding our website has done some updates since the last meeting; goal was to change the website tools, hasn't been able to do so yet. Ongoing
- Virtual meetings desired regarding social media strategy.
- John Schorr will be working with John Parker on the 501-C3 tax-exemption.
- New "postal – P.O. Box" will be reestablished by Tony Abbott.
- New Business
 - Nomination/Election of officers:
 - Restructuring the two presidents - North and Central Colombia - into a single president with two liaisons for the two chapters in Colombia. Two president approach has not worked well in practicality. Will check bylaws for possible amendment. All in favor after voting.
 - President position open, up for nomination. All other positions were reviewed. Tony Abbot was unanimously voted as the new president. Newly elected board was welcomed. John Schoch presented Tony with a mini-bottle of aguardiente as the official "torch" of the president.
 - John Schoch and Sue Mahan were presented with gifts of appreciation for their wonderful leadership and volunteerism as co-presidents.
 - Youth Ambassadors joined us from Colombia and gave us a progress report.
 - Next meeting will be in January/February 2016 at Stetson University;
 - With all issues discussed as well as time permitted, meeting was adjourned around 1:52 PM.