

Partners of the Americas
Florida Chapter
Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 1, 2021

via Zoom

Board Business 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

- I. Called to Order: 10:00 a.m.
- II. Attendance:
 - Patricia Galbreath, Executive Director
 - John Schoch, Chapter President
 - Chantri Daise, Chapter Vice President
 - Harold Silva, Chapter Secretary
 - Marcy Galbreath, Webmaster
 - Barbara Bloch, Senior Membership Advisor, POA
 - Thea Kayne, Vice President of Human Resources, POA
 - John Schorr
- III. Approval of the Minutes: Harold reviewed the minutes of the last chapter meeting. Chantri motioned to approve the minutes. John Schoch seconded it, and it was approved with revisions unanimously.
- IV. Reports:
 - A. Officers:
 1. Executive Director: Patricia provided the Executive Director report. She will be following up with the board with the Two-Year Plan. She reported on new membership, David Barry, Gloria Schoch, and Trish Schoch.
 2. Treasurer: Patricia reported the Treasurer Report. The most financial activity took place in December and February. Certain expenditures were explained. She explained the incurred fees incurred due to being provided the wrong account information for grant funds sent to Colombia. It was close to \$200 in costs and charges. It was recommended that the transfer fees need to be covered by the grantee. And not be covered by the chapter treasury. The account balances are as follows, PNC Bank \$2,890.50, and PayPal is \$2,248.96, a total of \$5,139.46 as of April 30, 2021. Harold motioned to approve the Treasurer Report; it was second by Chantri. It was approved unanimously.
 3. Chapter President: John Schoch would like to have in-person meetings and see the chapter re-energized. He explained that projects are an essential component for the chapter to stay active. Various projects were highlighted, including the Art Therapy Workshop for the physically challenged. He mentioned the POA HQ's newsletter April edition, highlighting a funded project by the Citizens Diplomacy for Action Fund. The Emotional Workshop Grant submission is pending from POA. He reported that PATH will like to do more things with Partners. He needs to get the Finance and Grants Committee active again. He shared that Anita

from the Bogota Chapter was hospitalized due to COVID-19, and there is less communication from the counterpart chapters in Colombia.

B. Regions:

1. Northern Colombia Region: No report.
2. Eastern Colombia Region: John Schoch reported during the President's Report.

C. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Chantri shared she has been working with five prospective members to get them to join the chapter. John Schoch emphasized that everyone in the chapter should be recruiting members, and it is not solely responsible for the Membership Committee. Chantri is working on sending reminders to renew their annual membership. Patricia encouraged members to renew their membership on the website, as there is a setting for recurring yearly payments.
2. Website: Marcy asked for any information such as events, news, and pictures to be posted on the website.
3. Projects: Harold reported that the committee and the board approved two processes, Vetting Project Process and the Project Profile Sheet. The former will provide a vetting process for new projects to be considered for the chapter. The latter is to capture critical information such as project lead, objectives, and project needs.
4. Archiving Our History: Patricia shared that she had the opportunity to meet once with Sue since the last meeting. Both are looking forward to the summer to continue on the project. She reported that job posts for interns and volunteers had been posted. However, no interest has been received. She will post again for the summer.
5. Finance and Grants: John Schoch had no report.

V. Old Business:

- A. Florida Partners of the Americas 2020- 2021 Plan Review: Patricia reported during Executive Director's report.

VI. New Business:

- A. No New Business.

VII. Public- General Session:

A. Public Meeting Participants:

- Patricia Galbreath, Executive Director
- John Schoch, Chapter President
- Chantri Daise, Chapter Vice President
- Harold Silva, Chapter Secretary
- Marcy Galbreath, Webmaster
- Barbara Bloch, Senior Membership Advisor, POA
- Thea Kayne, Vice President of Human Resources, POA
- David Berry
- Jay Carver
- Dina Castro

- Liz de la Vega
- Fabian Gonzalez
- Sarah Konops
- Nury Penagos
- Trish Schoch
- John Schorr

B. POA National Update: Barbara and Thea provided an update from the national office. Thea is the new Vice-President of Human Resources, which is a new position for POA HQ. Barbara shared that POA HQ focuses on Colombia as much funding has been provided for various projects. Barbara explained the unique structure of membership levels. Chapters have three designations, traditional, student campus chapters (Stetson University was the first chapter to open in the USA), and associate. Another designation is affiliates, which can include organizations/institutions and individuals. Barbara mentioned a questionnaire that POA HQ would like for members to complete to understand why members become part of Partners. Regarding grants, Barbara is waiting to know what funding is available for exchanges. She emphasized possible funding for virtual events, as there is no travel right now. POA has been funded for a *Juntos Aprendemos* (translation in English: together we learn). There will be sub-grants available for chapters working in Colombia. A field office in Bogota will be opened and will be hiring for numerous positions. Thea shared this is her first chapter meeting; she joined Partners a month ago. She reminisced when her home city had a sister city partnership with Nicaragua and how she raised funding. Partners' history fascinates her due to its deep roots. POA HQ counts with a 50 staff team and another 50 throughout the region. She shared how POA HQ is centralizing Human Resources for field staff. The focus is equality, compensation scale, health, support and security for employees, and other concerns.

C. Introductions: everyone introduced themselves and shared how they either joined or connected with Partners.

VIII. Next Meeting: The Executive Board scheduled a Board Planning Meeting for Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 10 a.m. and the Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

IX. Adjourned: 11:56 a.m.

Respectively recorded by Chapter Secretary Harold Alexander Silva.

Document Current Status: **DRAFT** | IN REVIEW | APPROVED

Approved on: **DFDFDE**