



Friends of México, A.C.

# Newsletter

Amigos de México, A.C.



*"Promoting acceptance among all nationalities"*  
*"Fomentando amistad entre todas las nacionalidades"*

Cost: 5 Pesos

www: mazinfo.com/fom

Email: fom@mazinfo.com

December 2006

## NOTICE

Annual Business Meeting of the  
Friends of México, A.C. will be  
held on January 9, 2007  
La Vinea – The Vineyard Church  
8:30 AM Social & Breakfast  
10 AM Meeting

**It's that time of year again !**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A gentle reminder to our  
members, if you wish to vote at  
our Annual Business Meeting,  
you **must** renew your  
membership ASAP. *New members  
joining on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 are  
NOT eligible to vote at the meeting.*

***Refer to the Special Notice  
in this Newsletter  
for additional information.***

SOME PEOPLE DREAM  
OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS



I dream of a Mazatlán tan

## **General Meeting Agenda**

**December 12, 2006**

1. Call to order
2. Speaker – Salvador Herrera –photographer  
"Beautiful Sinaloa"
3. Approval of December Treasurer's Report
4. Approval of Nov. General Meeting minutes
5. Committee Reports
6. Announcements
7. Attendance drawing
8. Adjournment



Minutes of Friends of Mexico  
General Membership Meeting  
November 14, 2006

A quorum having been established, Majid Mir, the President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. He briefly discussed the purposes of Friends of Mexico, which is to assist needy children in their education and provide activities, services, and events for our members.

Lizzy Bernal then introduced a panel of speakers from *Amigos de la Opera*. The panel was comprised of Jorge Fuentesvilla, Tsutomu Yoshie, Marie José Lopez-Puerta, and Maestro Antonio Gonzáles. The panel spoke about the organization, its purposes and performances. They also answered questions from the floor.

Jackie Peterson introduced several members of the Rotary Club who told the audience about their upcoming fundraising event, *Verbena Gastronómica*, to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Plazuela Zaragoza. Tickets to the event will be on sale at the back table.

Majid Mir then introduced to the members, Gayle Villalobos, the new Volunteer Coordinator. After the introduction Majid Mir asked if there were a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2006, a copy of which was in the newsletter. Ed Poses moved that the Treasurer's Report for October 2006 be accepted, as submitted. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Lynne Hopkins then gave the report for the Foundation Committee in the absence of Jacque Demmer. She noted the Committee Report was published in the

newsletter, but noted that Friends of Mexico is supporting 1,300 children this school year. She then had the volunteers who taught English to the Spanish students both last year and who had agreed to teach again this year to stand. To show the increased support for this year she then asked those that volunteered to teach this year for the first time to stand. There is almost a total of forty (40) volunteer English teachers. Finally, Lynne Hopkins pointed out the article in the newsletter on the group health insurance policy that will be offered to the members. She said that at the December meeting representatives of Plan Seguro would be present to answer any questions the members may have about the program.

Majid Mir discussed a *Little Known Fact about Friends of Mexico*. He said that we now have 187 vendors and service providers participating in our Discount Services Program. Fr. Jim Story then gave the membership report and stated there were 52 renewals today and 23 new members.

Bruce George then gave the report of the Events Committee and announced that the annual Christmas and Anniversary Party would be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Los Zarapes. The price and time would be announced to the membership shortly. Bruce George then recognized Susan Silva for the hard work she had done in putting together the trip to Patzcuaro. He announced that a trip to Tonalá was scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>. The details of the trip would be announced at the December meeting. Bruce George further announced that a trip to Copper Canyon was scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and that details would be announced at the next meeting. Finally, he stated that trip to El Quelite and the petroglyphs were in the planning stages.

Majid Mir announced that at the annual business meeting in January election of officers and committee chairs would take place. He said that vacancies to be filled included Vice-president, Treasurer, and Chairs of the Events Committee and Membership Committee. He asked that anyone who may be interested in serving to contact Diane Hulen, chair of the Nominating Committee.

Bruce George announced that Sharp's Hospital was having an open house and asked that anyone who may be interested in attending, to let him know as he would organize a group to attend. Susan Silva then announced that LaQuerencia Galeria De Arte had invited members of Friends of Mexico to special afternoon of shopping on December 8, 2006. A special discount would be offered to members on that day. Charles Hall announced he had completed a revision of his book, Mazatlan IS Paradise, and copies were available for purchase. Joe Reid then announced that the fundraiser for Desayuno de los Pollos would take place on December 9<sup>th</sup> and he had tickets for sale after the meeting.

Majid Mir asked if there were a motion to approve the minutes of the September and October membership meeting, copies of which were in the newsletter. Ed Poses moved that the minutes be approved, as submitted. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Majid Mir then announced that the membership meeting for December, January and February would not take place at Los Zarapes. The exact location of the December meeting would be announced shortly.

Jane Saborio announced she was having an art showing in the near future and asked everyone to attend. Finally, the regular drawing was held and then Bruce George acknowledged Ethel Stockton and noted that today was her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

After the announcement it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted - Murry Page, Secretary

VOLUNTEER'S CORNER  
By Gayle Villalobos  
Volunteer Coordinator

I have had a busy month organizing the names of those of you who have volunteered these past two years so we can start calling you for help.

Wow, such talent available: 24 musicians, artists, authors; 13 computer techs; 10 with medical experience; 15 teachers and those are just some of the ones who gave us info on their membership forms. Lots more talent out there, I know.

Almost 80 of us are already involved and I know I missed a lot of the behind the scenes help that our board members receive.

For those who volunteered before 2005 [can't find your forms] and those who are now ready to 'get to work' there will be new volunteer sheets on the tables for your input.

Expect calls/emails from now on and if you don't find what you want, suggest something and we'll try to make it happen for you.

Mazatlán appreciates all the good you do for the community and the children [says the mayor and education leaders]. We do impact this special city's future.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Bilingual year round resident to 'champion' our schools. Meet with principal, teachers and students 3-4 times a month [total of 1-2 hours] and assess the school's needs for supplies, help with projects and most important, represent FOM to a 'colonia' [neighborhood]. Write reports and make recommendations to the Foundation chairman for needs.**

**Bilingual year round resident with medical background to assist in finalizing health insurance policy applications for FOM members.**

**Contact: Gayle Villalobos**

**Friends of México  
Statement of Purpose**

To be a non-profit organization of Mazatlán providing community services & promoting better understanding among Mexicans & non-Mexicans.

To accomplish this purpose we will:

- Offer activities, information & services to the members of FOM.
- Contribute to the local community by providing educational opportunities to those in need.

**Friends of México Board Members**

- President: Majid Mir
- Vice President: Dee Hulen – pro tem
- Secretary: Murry Page
- Treasurer: Susan Silva
- Foundation: Jacque Demmer
- Membership: Robert Ryckman
- Newsletter: Sharon Laird & Lee Story
- Member Svcs: Fr. Jim Story
- Discount Svcs: Henri Jarrat
- Events Coordinator: Bruce George
- Volunteer Coordinator: Gayle Villalobos
- Continuing Education: Trish Kennison

**Consulate Numbers**

- US Consulate Agency in Mazatlán:  
Patti Fletcher de Arteaga  
916-5889 [Tel/Fax] [mazagent@mzt.megared.net.mx](mailto:mazagent@mzt.megared.net.mx)
- Canadian Consulate in Mazatlán:  
Wendy Osuna 913-7320 Fax: 914-6655

FOM by-laws are on our website: [mzinfo.com/fom](http://mzinfo.com/fom)



**Annual Christmas &  
FOM Birthday Party  
Thursday December  
21st - 6:30 PM**

**Tickets \$150 MP per person  
Only room for 150 – No host bar  
Lots of raffle prizes & surprises  
Choice of: Arrachera [beef steak] –  
Chicken & mushroom sauce – Pork &  
plum sauce**

**Tickets:  
The Copper Gallery [Golden Zone]  
Mazatlan Reading Library [Centro]**

**SEE YA AT  
LOS ZARAPES RESTAURANT !**

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

**The March 31 Fort  
By Jackie Peterson**

In the Mazatlan chapter of some guidebooks to Mexico, you'll read about ruins on the beach behind the Casa del Marino referred to as the "Old Spanish fort."

Wrong!

While it looks something like a fort, the crumbling pile with its pair of rusting cannons was never a fort. It was installed during the time of Porfirio Diaz, who ruled Mexico as a dictator from the 1880s until his overthrow in the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

El Presidente Diaz ordered the construction, which was called El Fuerte 31 de Marzo, to commemorate the historic Battle of Mazatlan which had taken place two decades before, on March 31, 1864. During that battle, a handful of locals on the slopes of La Vigia (Lookout Hill) fired enough cannon shot to repel a horde of invading troops during the French Intervention.

Diaz honored their bravery by gifting the city with the ersatz "fort," but time has not treated the monument kindly. Now, more than 120 years later, the folks at City Hall see it as a terrific view spot and they want to fix it up as a

tourist attraction.

Every year the Port of Mazatlan provides funding for a community project, and the city plans to appeal to the port authorities to come up with the funding to turn the "fort" back into the glorious reminder of battle it was meant to be.

Of course, that battle is never forgotten really. It's the inspiration for the ship-to-shore fireworks that burst out over Olas Altas on the Saturday evening of every Carnaval Mazatlan. ?

### SUDOKU NUMBER PUZZLE

**Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain ONE of each digit. So must every column , as must every 3X3 square.**

**GOOD LUCK !!!!!!!**

2	7			3		6		
3		9			6			
	8	4		1		2		
				9	3		2	1
4		2	6		1	8		9
1	9		8	7				
		7		4		1	6	
			9			3		7
		3		6			8	2

### MEXICAN GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE BECOMES AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE FOM MEMBERS

FOM is pleased to announce to its members that group health insurance will be available for eligible FOM members. This insurance is being provided through PLAN SEGURO, S.A. Plan Seguro, a Mexican company, has been in business for 10 years and has grown to the largest private health insurance company in Mexico. Its principal clients are TELEMEX, Banco de Mexico, State of Morelos, Spanish Embassy, employees of Mexican ports, etc.

Unlike other private health insurance companies here in Mexico, health insurance coverage via Plan Seguro is available to healthy individuals over the age of 65. For individuals age 60 and over, a physical examination, and some medical tests would be necessary as part of the application process. Specific details about existing conditions and those health issues which would preclude eligibility can be discussed with the agent during the next few FOM general meetings or by making a private appointment with him to discuss the application process. This coverage won't work for all of FOM's members, some already have extensive coverage in Canada and the USA, and want to keep it; some have more severe or chronic health issues and won't be eligible despite their age; some will feel they are better served by continuing with another carrier or IMSS. This coverage would be a great benefit for those who are not old enough for Medicare and want to have major medical coverage here. It will also benefit those of us who qualified earlier for individual health insurance programs here but want to take advantage of the group rate, which is sometimes 40 to 50% less than current premiums.

This policy would include inpatient treatment at Sharp Hospital, Clinica del Mar, and Divina Providencia here in Mazatlan. It also covers up to \$50,000 USD in emergency or accidental care outside of Mexico. And it has a percentage participation or co-pay fee for various prescribed outpatient services.

For additional information, please look for the Plan Seguro table at the December meeting, and spend some time with the agents to get more details or to schedule a private appointment. They will be available from 9-10 and 11-11:30 at the December meeting.

*Submitted by Lynne Hopkins de Hernandez*



# DEPORTES

## VENADOS BASEBALL

Dec.		Vs.	
19	Tues.	Culiacán	8 PM
20	Wed.	Culiacán	8 PM
21	Thurs.	Culiacán	8 PM
28	Thurs.	Obregon	8 PM
29	Fri..	Obregon	8 PM
30	Sat.	Obregon	6 PM

End of the normal season  
We hope that you experienced at least 1 game  
[[www.venadosdemazatlan.com](http://www.venadosdemazatlan.com)]

## Welcome New Members

		Annually in Maz
Blackburn, Gail	?	full time
Bush, Harvey	OR USA	5 mos
Carr, Irv	MN USA	4 mos
Carr, Kay	MN USA	4 mos
Castro, Juan	Mazatlán	full time
Elke, June	MB Canada	?
Friend, Elaine	BC Canada	?
Gallacci, Loretta	Mazatlán	full time
Goblirsch, Bill	MN USA	3 mos
Goblirsch, Sandy	MN USA	3 mos
Gonzalez, Santiago	Mazatlán	full time
Gunn, Larry	?	?
Howell, Jocelyn	BC Canada	6 mos
Kernan, Toby	TX USA	full time
MacDonald, Sam	AB Canada	5 mos
Martinez, Marlis	CO USA	full time
Mazur, Alan	AB Canada	6 mos
Mazur, Shirley	AB Canada	6 mos
Prengel, Drena	AK USA	6 mos
Ruth, Kae	AZ USA	10 mos
Schmitt, Janet	ID USA	7 mos
Soltis, Billie	FL USA	6 mos
Story, Janice	OR USA	6 mos
Story, Russell	OR USA	6 mos
Sullivan, Paul	Mazatlán	full time
Town, Lynda	BC Canada	5 mos
Town, Ron	BC Canada	5 mos
Williams, Patricia	WA USA	7 mos

## FOUNDATION REPORT DECEMBER 5, 2006

The committee met on November 29th to prepare the 2007 budget for approval by the board.

It was decided that we will fund scholarships to the top graduating boy and girl at all the project schools. (in the past this was just done at Sor Juana).

Since the Champion incentive program was such a success at Sor Juana it too will be expanded to all the schools.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Josefina Osuna (M) and all the students at Josefina Osuna (V) will be the ones to attend the Aquarium this year as all of the other students were able to visit last year.

It will be requested that Sor Juana and En Busca schools and neighborhoods receive eye exams this year as the other school participated last year.

The Champions at some of the schools will contact the President of the PTA about the possibility of FOM and the parents starting a tortilla and bean breakfast for the students. Mary and Jacque are going to ask local businesses to participate in this project.

The committee also discussed the possibility of FOM volunteers teaching art, dance, etc. at the schools.

And if funds are available the committee would like to provide support to an additional school.

With funds donated in memory of Ben Niessen, Marg Deane is going to provide a much desired library at Jose Felipe Valle School. If anyone would like to donate children's book in English or Spanish they would very much be appreciated.

The directors and students at ALL of the schools are thrilled to have FOM volunteer ESL (English) teachers at their schools.

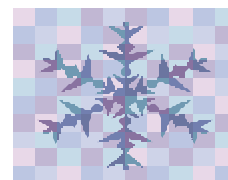
The School Champions will be asked to check the supplies in the First Aid kits at each school so that the kits can be restocked as needed.

A tentative date of January 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> has been set for the breakfast with the school directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Demmer

Thank you to Lee Story for taking the minutes for this meeting.



## BIRTHDAYS

- 12/12 Dorotea Camarena  
Garry Fieseler
- 12/15 Laura Meyer  
Jeri Pfister
- 12/16 Stella Bell
- 12/17 Marylou Maxwell
- 12/18 Judy Wofberg
- 12/19 Vivian Ruth Morrison  
Jeannette Sarrasin
- 12/21 Bob Wolfberg
- 12/22 Frances Jarrat  
Lynn Renard
- 12/23 Ellen Anderson  
Midge Pettler
- 12/24 Gail Lantaff  
Paul Lee
- 12/25 Al Hall  
Linda Kaeser  
Carol McCrossin  
Paul Sullivan
- 12/26 Juan Castro  
Luka Chaschin
- 12/29 Leigh Ann Baker
- 12/30 Lee Crawford  
Drena Prengel
- 1/2 Louise Shewfelt
- 1/3 Sharon Smith
- 1/5 Katy Hall  
Bob Lane  
Mike Phillips
- 1/6 Rebecca Caven  
Jon Jennings  
Mary Ann Lukas
- 1/7 Voldemars Skrinda
- 1/8 Olga Le Duc Rubio

2	7	1	5	3	4	6	9	8
3	5	9	2	8	6	7	1	4
6	8	4	7	1	9	2	5	3
7	6	8	4	9	3	5	2	1
4	3	2	6	5	1	8	7	9
1	9	5	8	7	2	4	3	6
9	2	7	3	4	8	1	6	5
8	1	6	9	2	5	3	4	7
5	4	3	1	6	7	9	8	2

## THE FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR DONATIONS

Katie and Ted Carney  
Chuck and Katy Hall  
Umlarian Universalist Fellowship of  
Laguna Beach California  
Jeanne Schlasko  
Miguel Ochoa and Gisela Gonzales  
at Intercam

### FOM bus trip to Morelia

By Majid Mir

Every time we looked out the windows of the bus the our eyes feasted on a buffet of wildflowers that defies description; if you can imagine wave after wave of yellow and lilac flowers blanketing every hill, valley and dale, then you have come close seeing the Michoacán countryside in full bloom in late October.

Of the most unexpected and pleasant surprises that we experienced on the Friends of Mexico trip to Morelia and Patzcuaro, the wild flower bonanza is just one example. The trip for Morelia departed Mazatlan on October 31<sup>st</sup> for Morelia. After traveling overnight we arrived in Uruapan a town near Morelia around 10:30am in the morning. After a nice breakfast in Uruapan members had time to explore the quaint zocalo and enjoy the colorful floral shrines in honor of the Day of the Dead. In the zocalo, each surrounding community had a shrine to honor their dead with competing shrines from local Uruapan high schools. In the afternoon we went to the Parque de Agua Nacional in Uruapan. Members had a chance to enjoy the water features that are nestled in the rolling hills of Uruapan.

After exploring the wonders of the Parque de Agua Nacional we headed to our hotel in Morelia. The hotel San Miguel located on the western fringes of the historic district of Morelia

served as our base of operations for the next four nights. Morelia is the capital of Michoacán and is a charming and well preserved colonial city with beautiful colonial era cathedrals and public and private buildings. Members had plenty of time to explore the colonial charms of Morelia which is an impressively well maintained and clean city. In fact, what impressed us throughout our trip to Morelia and Patzcuaro is the well organized and efficient ambiance of Morelia and seemingly the whole state of Michoacán. The streets are free of trash, the city is well lit, all the side walks are paved and the sidewalks don't change levels at random.

Morelia is a city of rich history, culture and dining. Our experience in Morelia was doubly joyful because of the vast number of floral shrines in plaza Morelos and through out the historic district. On the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> there was a major free performance honoring the dead with music, dance and poetry in the plaza in front of the main cathedral.

Over the next three days we visited the nearby towns of Patzcuaro, the island of Janitzio Tzintzuntzan and Quiroga. At Patzcuaro we had the chance to enjoy the annual Tianguis Mercado in the zocalo in Patzcuaro with arts, crafts and merchandise from all over Michoacán and surrounding states. The trip to the island Janitzio, which is located in the middle of lake Patzcuaro involved a boat ride to the island docks. This island is a trip into the ancient past of Mexico because the island is reserved for Purepecha indigenous people who have preserved their separate culture and languages despite hundreds of years of Spanish domination. A highlight of the trip to this hilly island was the visit to the statute of Morelos that crowns the very summit of the island. On the way to Janitzio members were entertained by Purepecha fishermen demonstrating their native fishing techniques which accurately is named butterfly fishing named after the butterfly wing shape of the net used.

Finally we visited Tzintintuan and the historic Mayan ruins that are called Yacatas. These ruins are reportedly some of the best preserved and important Mayan ruins dating back as far as 1500 years. The view of the surrounding countryside from atop the Yacata site is breathtaking. Members had a chance to explore a cemetery adorned with literally tens thousands of marigolds. I can safely say that our

members on this trip saw more marigolds in Morelia and surrounding locations adorning Day of the Dead shrines and cemeteries than is possible to see in many life times.

We ended our sightseeing in the town of Quiroga, which is famous for its Carnita's and our members did justice to Quiroga and the zocala vendors of Carnitas.

This was my first trip to this area and I am absolutely in love with Morelia in particular and Michoacán in general. The fact that Friends of Mexico timed this trip with the celebration of the día de los muertos absolutely multiplied the charms of this region.

I can confidently say that this trip will be offered many more times by Friends of Mexico...so mark your calendar for the end of October 2007. I know Diana & I will be going again!

\* \* \* \* \*

In the book "Las Viejas Calles de Mazatlan", the author, Osés Cole, wrote about Constitucion Street:

" On the southwestern corner of Constitucion where it crosses Ninos Heroes, there is a large two story building that was constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century by a Spanish businessman, Juan Tames. It seems that the government offices of the State of Sinaloa were here when Mazatlan was the state capitol. In 1898, but without being able to say from which date, the Post Office and Telegraph were located on this property. In the middle of the twentieth century, the lower floor was occupied by various renters and the upper floor was small hotel. Later, the property was acquired by a Catholic religious order who installed the College of Guadalajara. However; lack of funds during its reconstruction caused the property to be sold. It was turned into an assisted-living facility for foreigners and renamed Casa Melville – for Herman Melville, who visited Mazatlán in March, 1844. Today the Melville is a boutique hotel.

By Mary Navarrette

**Advice for the month:  
Don't ask a three year old  
to hold a tomato.**

# **SPECIAL NOTICE**

## **Friends of Mexico,A.C. Notice of Annual Business Meeting**

Date: January 9, 2007 Time: 10:00 a.m. At: The Vineyard Church – Camaron Sabalo #335

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### **Friends of Mexico Proxy Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name of Member] [Name of Proxy]

as my proxy to represent me at the Annual Business Meeting of Friends of Mexico A.C. to be held on January 9, 2007, and to vote in my stead on all matters coming before the members.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature of Member]

NOTE: Members who have paid their 2007 dues and do not attend the Annual Business Meeting may designate a proxy in writing. No member attending may hold more than 3 proxies. New members joining on 1/9/07 are NOT eligible to vote.

Friends of Mexico  
Agenda  
Annual Business Meeting  
January 9, 2007

1. Call to order
2. Establishment of a quorum
3. Nominations
  - a. Report of Nominating Committee
  - b. Nominations from the floor
4. Vote will be taken by ballot
5. Approval of Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2006
6. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held on January 6, 2006
7. Approval of the Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006
8. Close of Polls
9. Friends of Mexico's Accomplishments and Challenges for the Year 2006
10. Report of Teller's Committee
11. Election of Officers
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

**Friends of México, A.C.**  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**January 10, 2006**

18. Announcements of forthcoming events  
19. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully submitted by Lee Story for Diane Schultz, retiring Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order at 10 AM
2. A quorum was established
3. Henri Jarrat reported on field trips of the schools to the Aquarium
4. Motion: Approve the December 2005 General Meeting minutes; 1<sup>st</sup>-Carol McCrossin; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Joe McDonald; approved
5. Motion: Approve 12/31/05 treasurer's report; 1<sup>st</sup>-Angel Weeks; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Jerry Lippman; approved
6. Motion: Approve January 2005 Business Meeting minutes; 1<sup>st</sup>-Jacque Demmer; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Helen Loman; approved
7. Motion: Approve Auditor's report of the 2005 financial records; 1<sup>st</sup>-Joe McDonald; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Angel Weeks; approved
8. There was an explanation of the by-law changes on the ballot.
9. Cliff Brown announced the candidates on the ballot; President – Majid Mir; Secretary – Murray Page; and Events – Bruce George
10. Nominations were requested from the floor for each office; there being none, the candidates were elected by acclamation
11. Henri read a note from President Majid Mir
12. Henri explained the goals of the FOM Foundation
13. Joe McDonald called the board members to the stage and Jacque Demmer presented outgoing President – Nancy Blakeslee with an appreciation gift
14. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. Events – Bruce: Reported on forthcoming events
  - B. Discount Services – Henri: 175 services
  - C. Member Services – Jim Story: Blood donor program was used again to help fulfill a request
  - D. Continuing Education – Trish Kenison: There are openings for Intermediate Spanish classes & a cooking class begins on 2/20/06
  - E. Membership – Cliff: 467 current members Jerry Lippman introduced new members
15. By-law changes voting tally: Delete Chapter 6, 23<sup>rd</sup> article: limiting an elected office to 2 terms; vote: 111 for & 8 against. Change Chapter 6, 24<sup>th</sup> article: allowing absent board members to have a signed proxy at board meetings; vote: 79 for & 8 against.
15. Vice President – Joe McDonald asked new members to stand & welcomed them
16. Foundation chairman - Jacque Demmer presented a slide show of FOM accomplishments
17. Lynne Hernandez thanked the volunteer English teachers