



Friends of México, A.C.

Newsletter

Amigos de México, A.C.



A non-profit organization of Mazatlán providing community services & promoting better understanding among all nationalities

www: mazinfo.com/fom

Email: fom@mazinfo.com

5 Pesos

A VERY SUCCESSFUL JOINT EFFORT

Thanks to Henri and Frances Jarrat, the FOM Foundation and the parents association of Sor Juana School, the air conditioners have been installed and are operational in 3 of the classrooms. This was a great example of members, the foundation and the families working together for the betterment of the school.



ANGELS AND SANTA CLAUSE

It isn't often that two angels swoop to earth but it has happened twice in the past three months. Ted and Katie Carney delivered \$5,000.00 U.S. to the Foundation so that Un Busca De Una Sonrisa could continue the expansion of their wonderful kindergarten in Colonia Ampliacion Valle del Ejido as well as purchase a Christmas gift for each boy and girl.

Do you Know What PHP Stands For?

If you answered *Hypertext Preprocessor* and would be interested in working on Friends of Mexico's new website, please call Murry Page (982-2139) or drop him an email fom@mazinfo.com

If you have website development experience and would like to be part of our website maintenance team, please contact Murry Page also.



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 of January 10, 2006
 7. Approval of the Auditor's Report for the fiscal year 2006
 8. Close of Polls
 9. Friends of Mexico's Accomplishments and Challenges for 2006
 10. Report of Teller's Committee
 11. Election of Officers
 12. Announcements
- Adjournment

Welcome New Members

Welcome New Members cont.

		<u>Mos. In Maz</u>
Ahern, Donna	WA USA	6
Ahern, Rennie	WA USA	6
Aslin, Gail	BC Canada	5
Austin, Cindy	BC Canada	6
Babione, Sally	AB Canada	full time
Babione, William	AB Canada	full time
Bernard, Gordon	Canada	6
Bernard, Rosita	Canada	6
Buhler, Cathy	MB Canada	6
Buhler, Jerry	MB Canada	6
Burton, Bonnie	NV USA	1
Burton, John	NV USA	1
Butler, Kim	AB Canada	5
Cameron, Ian	BC Canada	6
Cameron, Lorraine	BC Canada	6
Capstick, Kenneth	BC Canada	
Carmichel, Gayle	CA USA	full time
Clarke, Toby	BC Canada	6
Cornish, Janette	AB Canada	5
Cramer, Joe	WA USA	6
Cramer, Nancy	WA USA	6
Davis, Ellen	AR USA	5
Donnelly, Betti	WA USA	6
Donnelly, Larry	WA USA	6
Dover, Carol	ON Canada	6
Dover, Dan	ON Canada	6
Driedger, Dot	BC Canada	6
Evert, "Trish"	AB Canada	4
Evert, Roger	AB Canada	4
Gillaspie, Kathie	MO USA	full time
Gillaspie, Steve	MO USA	full time
Gray, Ed		8
Greentree, Paulette	AB Canada	6
Hall, Carole	OR USA	8
Hall, John	OR USA	8
Hall, Pat	ID USA	4
Hall, Steve	ID USA	4
Hrubska, Elena	BC Canada	4
Hubbard, Barbara	NM USA	full time
Jimenez, Leslie	CA USA	7
Keats, George		full time
Kelly, Marilyn	CA USA	4
Kuntz, Betty	NV USA	7
Lee, Virginia	NS Canada	5
Maier, Lynn	WA USA	1
Marier, Yuon	AB Canada	6
Marino, Claire	AZ USA	1
Martin, Carole	OR USA	full time

Martinsen, Dennis	WA USA	6
Martinsen, Dona	WA USA	6
Maxwell, David	CO USA	5
McCaw, Kathi	ON Canada	6
McKinlay, Trudy	WA USA	5
Miller, Penny	MT USA	6
Morgan, John		full time
Neal, James	CA USA	full time
Neal, Patty	CA USA	full time
Norton, Patrick	CO USA	
Odom, Marilyn	WA USA	1
Pelzman, Sam	CA USA	full time
Peterson, Bob	AB Canada	4
Reeh, Hazel	WA USA	5
Reno, Santiago	NV USA	full time
Richardson, Naomi	NM USA	full time
Robertson, Charles	AZ USA	1
Ruzich, Mary	AR USA	5
Skofield, Mark	NY USA	full time
Stoker, Joan	UT USA	8
Stout, Will Porter	CA USA	6
Terrana, Charles	NJ USA	7
Tipman, Kathryn	AB Canada	6
Tipman, Robert	AB Canada	6
Tsuji, Celeste	NJ USA	7
Turnbull, Bill	ON Canada	6
Vega, Jose	CA USA	3
Walmer, Margaret	AK USA	5
Warden, Maureen	BC Canada	1
Wedler, Harry	CO USA	6
Willms, Ed		6
Willms, Linda		6
Wolf, John	AR USA	2

Your ad could be here

Friends of Mexico - Notice of Annual Business Meeting

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 Proxy

I, _____, do hereby appoint
 [Name of Member]

-----as my proxy to
 [Name of Proxy]

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 _____, _____

Signed: _____

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

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; 1st-Carol McCrossin; 2nd-Joe McDonald; approved
5. Motion: Approve 12/31/05 treasurer's report; 1st-Angel Weeks; 2nd-Jerry Lippman; approved
6. Motion: Approve January 2005 Business Meeting minutes; 1st-Jacque Demmer; 2nd-Helen Loman; approved
7. Motion: Approve Auditor's report of the 2005 financial records; 1st-Joe McDonald; 2nd-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, 23rd article: limiting an elected office to 2 terms; vote: 111 for & 8 against. Change Chapter 6, 24th article: allowing absent board members to have a signed proxy at board meetings; vote: 79 for & 8 against

16. Vice President - Joe McDonald asked new members to stand & welcomed them

17. Foundation chairman - Jacque Demmer presented a slide show of FOM accomplishments

18. Lynne Hernandez thanked the volunteer English teachers

19. Announcements of forthcoming events

20. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully submitted by Lee Story
 for Diane Schultz, retiring Secretary

**PLAN SEGURO, S. A.
 Health insurance - information is
 available for interested members
 Before & after the meeting**

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 Georges Taco & Grill - Restaurant & Bar
 Heather's Place - Restaurant & Bar
 Mexico By Design - Gift Shop
 Casa Etnika ·Arts · Crafts · Nature
 Gary's Kitchen - Restaurant**

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE
FOUNDATION SO THAT WE CAN HELP MORE
OF THE LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN OF
MAZATLAN.***

Many thanks to two members, who wish to remain anonymous, for once again making a very generous donation to the Foundation. Thanks Rob and Carol Griffin who donated a monitor and Paul Sullivan who donated a t.v. and computer parts to help with the school projects; Muchas Gracias to Peggy and Jack Sieber, who made a donation in honor of Stella Bell; the Trinity United Church, Nanaimo, BC and Jack and Val Moreau and also to Bea Garay.

*Your generosity is very much appreciated by the
children in our project schools.
Muchas Gracias!*

**FOUNDATION REPORT
December 27, 2006
By Jacque Demmer**

Those committee members who are in town over the holidays, Majid Mir, Fr. Jim Story, Marg Deane, Lee Story and Jacque Demmer met briefly this month. Jacque announced that the 2007 budget had been approved by the FOM Board of Directors. We're going to need a very active fund raising season to meet these goals.

The annual brunch with the directors of our schools is set for January 12, 2007. Spending time with the directors has been very beneficial in establishing the best way for Friends of Mexico to impact the education of the students at their individual schools.

Since the schools have been closed for the holidays and many of our committee members and champions are out of town, there was not a lot of business to discuss.

Sor Juana: A sixth grade teacher has been hired at Sor Juana. The original teacher has been quite ill and unable to work for some time and as a result of this, the 6th grade missed several days of class until a new teacher could be assigned.

Jose Felipe Valle: Through a joint venture between the City of Mazatlan, FOM and the parents and faculty

at this school, new windows have been installed in the 3 classrooms that have the encyclomedia equipment. The FOM English teachers gave each child a pencil as a gift and Helen McIsaac and friends gave each child a gift wrapped package as well as providing a huge cake for everyone to enjoy. Beginning in January, every classroom will have a volunteer ELS teacher. Thank you English teachers one and all!!

Vicente Guerrero: There are ELS teachers at this school also. They gave each child an individual bag of candy for the holidays. They need a teacher for either the 1st or 2nd grade because the volunteer that had this class had to leave Mazatlan.

Josefina Osuna Perez There are ESL teachers for each of the two classrooms in grades 2 through 6. As per the directors request only the 4, 5, and 6th grades in the afternoon classes have ELS volunteer teachers.

The volunteer English teachers and school Champions have done a wonderful job of establishing a relationship with the kids, teachers and directors. Thank you Champions and volunteer teachers. You have done so much for so many.

**NEW SINALOA BLOOD BANK OPENS
Noroeste (Dec. 12, 2006)**

The new \$5 million dollar state of the art blood bank for all of Sinaloa was dedicated in Culiacán this month. It is called "Unidad de Hematología Y Banco de Sangre de Sinaloa" and is headed by José Alberto Gonzalez Valdez.

The larger hospitals (Seguro Social, ISSSTE, Hospital General and Hospital Civil Hill) have the greatest inventory and can act as centers for distribution to other facilities. "Not are we only going to give services for blood of the highest quality and safety, we'll have capacity for 150 units monthly and expanding to 300 to 500 units" said Director Gonzalez Valdez.

Ribbon cutting ceremony included Blood Bank Director, Gonzalez Valdez, representative from Universitaria del Hospital Civil, UAS (University) and Sinaloa Secretary of Health.

They are asking for volunteers to donate blood with the following guidelines: ages 15 to 65, no health problems (such as history of HIV, Hepatitis B or C, or infections such as chicken pox or typhoid fever).

Other services planned for this new venture are consultation, out-patient transfusions and bone marrow transplants.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for more detailed information on blood donations in February's newsletter.

Friends of México Board Members

President: Majid Mir
Vice President: Dee Hulen
Secretary: Murry Page
Treasurer: Susan Silva

Committee Chairpersons

Events Coordinator: Bruce George
Foundation: Jacque Demmer
Membership: Fr. Jim Story

Board Appointed Coordinators

Continuing Education: Trish Kennison
Discount Svcs: Henri Jarrat
Membership Svcs: Robert Ryckman
Volunteer Coordinator: Gayle Villalobos
Newsletter Editors: Sharon Laird
Lee Story

Mazatlan Consulate Numbers

US Consulate Patti Fletcher de Arteaga
Canadian Consulate Wendy Osuna

Volunteer's Corner **By Gayle Villalobos**

Twenty-four volunteers participated in December, between helping with greeting, ticket sales, hand-outs, new membership and renewal forms at our General Meeting held Dec. 12th 2006 and at two work groups: One at Mary Carlson's putting together ESL teachers supplies, one of the group states "it came as no surprise that many of us were cut and paste challenged." The other group at Gladys Kreib's to wrap Christmas gifts for the party where a great talent of bow-making was shared.

Thanks to each of you for your participation. Again this month there will be volunteer forms at the meeting. Let us know what YOU want to do. (12 new volunteers from December meeting were added to our list).

Our group is getting organized for a productive 2007 and we'll need YOU, so expect a call or e-mail.

Friends of Mexico – December 5, 2006 Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting (Summary Only – The complete minutes are available on the back table)

The following Board members were present in person: Majid Mir, Diane Hulen, Susan Silva, Jacque Demmer, Fr. Jim Story, and Murry Page. The following were also in attendance: Sharon Laird, Lee Story, Lynne Hernandez, Trish Kennison, and Gayle Villalobos.

A quorum having been established, the President, Majid Mir, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Majid Mir announced he had appointed Fr. Jim Story to the position of Chair of the Membership Committee until the election of officers and committee chairs in January due to the resignation of Robert Ryckman.

Majid Mir reported that everything required to continue the status of Friends of Mexico as a Civil Association had been completed. Fr. Jim Story moved that Friends of Mexico spend from its administrative account, an amount up to

\$3,500 pesos, to print the English version of the revised brochure. The motion was seconded and it was approved

Susan Silva reported flu and pneumonia shots were given on November 25th and that thirty-nine flu shots and nine pneumonia shots were given.

Majid Mir then discussed the Friends of Mexico Golf Tournament. Lynn Hopkins discussed the handouts to be used by Plan Seguro, which had previously been furnished to the board. Representatives of Plan Seguro will be at the membership meeting on December 12th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Jacque Demmer moved that Friends of Mexico pay out of the foundation account an amount equal to \$30,000 pesos as a contribution to the patio/activity area cover for Jose Felipe Valle and further that should the school fall short of the \$50,000 pesos needed by them that Friends of Mexico loan the school an amount equal to the short fall. The motion was seconded and it was passed. Jacque Demmer then stated that the Breakfast Meeting with the directors of the schools we support would take place after the first of the year when school begins again. The date will probably be January 4th or 5th.

Majid Mir then presented the first draft of an administrative expense budget. He said he would add the income portion to the budget. He requested that everyone provide him comments within the next week.

Susan Silva then gave the Treasurer's report. Murry Page noted that the funds given by Katie and Ted Carney should be set up in a funded reserve and not be a part of the general income.

Jacque Demmer gave the report of the Foundation Committee. Fr. Jim then gave the Membership Committee report and the report for Member Services.

Diane Hulen then reported on the activities on the nominating committee. She stated that as of this date Rudy Villalobos is the only candidate for vice-president, that candidates for Treasure include Bob Story, Susan Silva, and George Keats. A discussion followed as to whether George Keats was a member or not. Fr. Jim Story said he had no record of him being a current member. Diane Hulen then reported that Fr. Jim Story was the only candidate for chair of the

Membership Committee and Stella Bell was the only candidate for chair of the Events Committee.

Diane Hulen then reported to the board that Bruce George had informed her by telephone that he resigned as chair of the Events committee. Diane Hulen moved the board accept his resignation. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Fr. Jim then moved that Friends of Mexico accept applications received during the month of December 2006 with no membership dues for 2006 and new members joining during the month of December 2006 need only pay \$100.00 pesos for their membership which shall commence on the date of acceptance and continue until December 31, 2007; and further that Fr. Jim Story have the authority to extend this 2006 waiver of membership dues to those who submitted their application in November of 2006, if he determines that is in the best interest of Friends of Mexico. The motion was seconded and was passed.

Jacque Demmer moved that the budget for the Foundation Committee, a copy of which is to be appended to the minutes of this meeting, in the total amount of \$584,161.50 pesos be approved. The motion was seconded and after a lengthy discussion it was approved.

Murry Page then discussed the need for a retreat for the Board to review our bylaws, corporate governance, and the board meeting procedures. Murry Page moved that the Board of Directors hold a retreat to review the bylaws; discuss corporate governance; and review procedural issues for board meetings. The retreat will take place at Casa de Leyendas from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23rd. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$50.00 per attendee. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Murry Page then submitted to the Board a proposed Notice, Proxy, and Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting to be held on January 9, 2007. Murry Page moved that the Board of Directors approve the agenda for the annual

business meeting of the membership to be held on January 9, 2007; and that the notice, proxy, and agenda be published in the December newsletter; and that they be appended to the minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Majid Mir then moved that the Board of Directors have an orientation meeting to be held on January 16, 2007, at the home of Majid Mir from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to orient current members and new members to the Board of Directors to the overall strategic themes, directions and ongoing issues. The motion was seconded. Majid stated he would prepare an agenda for the meeting and distribute to the board at the January meeting. Upon vote the motion passed.

Majid Mir then moved that the Board of Directors retain the services of a new accounting firm to represent Friends of Mexico for all financial matters arising on or after January 1, 2007, and that the Treasurer recommend to the Board of Directors for its consideration at its January 2007 meeting the name of such firm to be retained. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

The need for a Teller's Committee was then discussed for the upcoming elections in January. Majid Mir appointed Diane Hulen to chair the Teller's Committee and Ruthann Spiegelhoff and Joe Reid to serve on that committee, if they are willing to serve. the Majid Mir to pick and deliver the monitor.

There being no further business to come before the meeting up motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Murry Page Secretary

**Minutes of Friends of Mexico
General Membership Meeting
December 12, 2006**

A quorum having been established, Majid Mir, the President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Majid Mir reminded the members that the Annual Business Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the Vineyard church. He discussed the items that would be on the agenda for that meeting, including the election of officers and committee chairs.

Majid Mir then told the members that Friends of Mexico was offering a group health insurance plan to its members. Although Friends of Mexico is not endorsing the health insurance plan being offered, it is using the organization as a group in order to obtain for the members a better premium rate. The plan is being offered by Plan Seguro and representatives of the company are located at the back of the room to answer any questions members may have.

Majid Mir introduced Salvador Herrera Espinosa, a professional photographer. Mr. Espinosa presented a slide show of his photography, which included photographs of flora and fauna located throughout the State of Sinaloa, which he had taken over the past four years.

Majid Mir then told the members the annual Christmas party would be held at Los Zarapes on December 21st. He introduced Stella Bell who gave the details of the party.

Majid Mir asked if there was a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, as published in the newsletter. Jackie Peterson moved that the report be approved. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Jacque Demmer gave the report of the Foundation Committee, which was published in the newsletter. Jacque Demmer thanked Frances and Henri Jarrat for the air conditioners for Sor Juana School, Katie and Ted Carney for the Christmas gifts to the students at En Busca, and Lizzy Bernal for the books she had donated to Friends of Mexico.

Susan Silva gave the report of the Events Committee. She said the trip to Tonalá would take place from January 19th to January 22nd. The cost is \$1,800 pesos per person. Seats are limited so decisions need to be made soon. Susan Silva also noted that a sign up sheet was available for the upcoming trip to Copper Canyon. Finally, she stated that Friends of Mexico would have its first golf tournament to be held in February and details would be made available shortly.

Henri Jarrat gave a brief report on the Discount Services Program and then Fr. Jim Story gave the report of the Membership Committee noting we had fifteen (15) guests present at the meeting; ninety-eight (98) members had renewed their memberships during the month and sixty-six (66) new members had joined, which brought the membership to over six hundred (600).

Majid Mir announced that Bruce George had resigned as Chair of the Events Committee and the vacancy would be filled at the elections to be held in January. Jerry Lippman announced that the American Legion was having its annual fund raising dinner on January 11, 2007, and he had tickets that members could purchase. Finally, Chuck Hall announced his revised and updated book *Mazatlan is Paradise* is available for purchase.

After the drawing Majid Mir asked if someone would like to make a motion to approve the minutes of the November membership meeting. Angel Weeks moved that the minutes be approved, as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

It was then moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted; Murry Page, Secretary

Events Calendar January 9 - February 12

JANUARY 9 - 31



15: Martin Luther King Day



17: Feast Day of de San Antonio de Abad
19: Tonalá Trip

Feast Day of de San Antonio de Abad is a religious holiday during which the Catholic Church allows animals to enter the church for blessing.

January Birthdays – Happy Birthday!

- 10 Kontny, Dennis
Marquez, Hector
Town, Lynda
- 11 Mariah Anders
Lippman, Jerry
- 13 Vince Deveney
- 14 Behning, Richard
Liebman, Larry
Watson, Ray
- 16 Austin, Cindy
Johnson, Michelle
McFarland, Don
Mitchell-Mayes, Linda
Willms, Linda
- 17 Carlson, Mary
Laxen, Nadine
- 20 Altman, Anne
- 21 Fannin, Sharon
Roiz-Briones, Myriam
Simpson, Joe
- 22 Goering, Tony
Wentzell, Marlene
- 23 Mennenoh, Sandy
- 24 Clarke, Toby
Hall, Vickie
Harkness, Donna
Yonda, Marge
- 26 Bush, Harvey
Poyser, Alice
- 29 Stout, Will Porter

NEW DISCOUNT SERVICES BUSINESSES

Tequila's Pub
across from Costa de Oro
Golden Zone

Essence Pa
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Centro

Details are at www.mazinfo.com/fom