

MINUTES  
IOWA-PARTNERS QUARTERLY MEETING  
Saturday, Aug 21, 2021  
Potluck at Ken's cabin  
Zoom hosted by Jeff Wilson

Attendees: Jeff Wilson, Sorrel Brown, Janet Secor, Ken Choquette, William Edwards, Jane Edwards, Brent Parker, Rick Exner, Sara Huddleston, Niah Howard, Marissa Hirschman, Matt Monroy, Sara Monroy, Robin Fortney, Rebecca Hoepfner, Deb Wooldridge, Jim Wooldridge, Allan Goldberg & Cesar:  
Zoom participants - Dana Silverman, Elias Alcocer, Ober Anderson, Judy Fitzgibbons.

Sorrel started meeting at 10 AM and welcomed everyone and those participating with Zoom.

Sorrel asked for approval of the May 1, 2021 minutes. Approved Jane/Robin

**Financial Report:**

- William Edwards stated there isn't much change in our financial status from May 2021 with \$14,962.69 in checking account. This includes dues, donations, the Hunger Hike (HH) allocation and the Janet Obando memorial fund.
- The Yucatan Chapter has \$1,690.44 unrestricted funds and IA has \$6,121.05 unrestricted funds available. Including a \$10,343.04 CD, we have total funds of \$26,396.53
- We received \$1,150 from HH for 2020. In the past we have received \$2000, but due to the pandemic overall donations have decreased. At our last meeting Sorrel suggested that we make up the difference to \$2000 for donations to Yucatan charities from our unrestricted funds and this was Approved.
- Sorrel contacted Heberth Obando to discuss how to use the \$2,658 collected for the Janet Obando memorial fund. Heberth's response,  
"Since Janet was an avid education supporter, I think the money collected can be used on education endeavors. However the committee can decide which program or programs to support. One of her attributes was flexibility to adapt to many circumstances without any complaints, the money collected can be used to support any program, our family is very happy that Janet supported the Iowa Yucatan and the many pleasures that she got for knowing people with the same philosophy "To help people in need".
- Discussion followed on using some of the funds for a TV at *Hogar de Angeles*, a place in Merida for parents and children to stay while children are undergoing cancer treatment (similar to Ronald McDonald house). This motion passed and Elias Alcocer, President, Yucatan Chapter, was in agreement. Sorrel suggested using the remaining funds to support an online cultural exchange program that young members of Yucatan Partners are interested in creating. A Spanish major from Simpson College, Colbee Cunningham, contacted Sorrel (through ISS) with a strong interest in Yucatan. We will put Colbee in contact with Yucatan Partners to work with them in developing this project.
- Financial report approved Brent/Janet

**Betty Emerich Tribute**

Betty passed away on July 4, 2021 at 94 years old. Sorrel shared a couple of stories that celebrated Betty's vibrant personality.

## Hunger Hike

- Ober Anderson stated that the October 10<sup>th</sup> date for the Hunger Hike has been set but wasn't sure whether it will be virtual or in person. Our usual allocation is \$2000 but we received \$1,150 as our HH allocation this year. Sorrel encouraged members to send donations to Ober for HH.

## 2022 Immersion Tour to Yucatan

- Brent Parker discussed the 2022 Cultural Immersion trip proposed from January 21-31, 2022. The tentative agenda is more about cultural interaction and visiting sites off the beaten path. There is no estimate of cost but in the past, excluding airfare, the immersion trip was about \$1300.
- Brent stated plans are still going forward with these dates and if there is a change in dates due to the uncertainty regarding Covid, it will probably be toward the end of 2022. Brent will miss the trip this year and that William Edwards or Janet Secor should be contacted for anyone interested.
- See the attached tentative itinerary. A flyer for the Yucatan Cultural Immersion trip will be forthcoming.

## Yucatan dinners in Iowa

Janet Secor said the Central IA Culinary Institute in Ft Dodge is interested in participating again. But due to Covid surge, we will postpone this effort until 2022.

## Yucatan Partners on Zoom

- Due to hurricane Grace, Elias was unable to connect through Zoom, however he previously sent a Powerpoint which is attached separately as a pdf. Prior to the meeting he sent this message to Ken and Dana:

*Hi Ken, first of all, I want to thank you on behalf of the Yucatan Committee of Compañeros de las Américas Yucatán AC, for all the support you have given to the Oxygen Concentrator project that Dana proposed. I must explain that we consider this project very important. What we did was make sure that the project had everything it could possibly do to be successful. We made sure that the project was well connected with the local doctors and also that it had every chance of being successful. Therefore, we have constant communication with Dana as the person in charge of the project and she has informed us of her progress, which we will present with some photos tomorrow.*

*By the way, I hope we do not have many problems connecting since here in Yucatan, we have just received a hurricane visit and until today there were in many parts of Yucatan, several failures in the power lines and in the internet service. Anyway, we have sent a full presentation with all our advances, and these will be presented tomorrow.*

*I hope to be with you and with the Iowa Partners next November, but we will see how the situation will be at that time.*

*Hasta pronto amigo, Elias*

- Dana Silverman also thanked Partners and Ken Choquette for the donations for the oxygen concentrator. Two people used the apparatus under the care of a doctor in Muna. Dana stated

they are working with local doctors to see if there are other medical needs for the community as they have \$150 from local donations available for other projects.

### **Jose Casares Retirement**

Doris and Sorrel discussed options for recognizing Jose Casares retirement after 35 years in Partners and his commitment and contribution to the health needs of children in the Yucatan. Doris and Sorrel will decide on a fitting recognition that includes Mercy Hospital, and perhaps a certificate signed by Gov. Branstad, who was in office when the Mercy children's heart project was started in 1975. Sorrel suggested donating funds to the Yucatan Red Cross in Jose's name. Elias will be asked to provide biographical background on Jose.

### **Social Media Update**

- Matt Huddleston discussed sharing and storing documents on Google Drive and then sharing the documents on Iowa Yucatan's Facebook page. He suggested posting our agendas, minutes, the Yucatan Powerpoint there. The link to IA Partners' Google Drive link: <https://drive.google.com> To be continued...

### **New business**

- Sorrel nominated Jane and Doris to be on the nominating committee for new officers. William stated that he will stay on as Treasurer for another year, so the committee needs to nominate candidates for President, Vice President and Secretary.
- Sorrel appointed Marisa, Sara and Deb to be the annual meeting committee, tentatively set for **Saturday, November 13, 10am to 3pm at Jester Park**. Marisa will talk to Gabriel Espinosa (Central College music professor) for entertainment. As in the case with other upcoming projects, holding a F2F meeting depends on how the Covid surge progresses.
- Sorrel noted that Iowa Sister States has a professional Zoom license which IA Partners (identified as the Yucatan Committee) can use for future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM. All present enjoyed the usual great food and conversation at the potluck. Thanks to Ken for hosting and grilling!