Minutes of the SCP Annual Meeting March 16, 2020, 7 p.m. Via GO TO MEETING

Present: José Marroquin, Chair; Gina Auel, Marcia Carlson, Linda Gentes, Stein Goering, Maggie May, Elizabeth Pflug-Froh, Marilyn Rinehart, Aaron Wunnicke.

Guests: Barb Duerksen, technical support.

The meeting was called to order by board president José Marroquin. Stein was delegated to conduct the meeting.

Minutes of last year’s annual meeting - Read and approved.

Treasurer’s report - 2019 Annual Report – the Gribble donation of course makes the balance look very good.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>$54,548</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>7,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burrito Supper</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua Overhead</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Fees</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Funding</td>
<td>43,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chacocente</td>
<td>43,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Overhead</td>
<td>2,425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage &amp; Publications</td>
<td>1,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees &amp; Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burrito Supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Fling</td>
<td>1,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividends</td>
<td>2,079</td>
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2019 Net: $23,768
President’s Report - Jose read from a November 2019 article in the Havana Times. The economy in Nicaragua is predicted to contract further in 2020 in this 3rd year of recession, with widespread poverty, unemployment, and decreased purchasing power. More than 2 million people will live in poverty, with levels predicted to be $1.76/person/day by the end of the year. The article said that internal and external factors, like worldwide recession would have even greater consequences.

Projects in Santa Teresa and Chacocente
2019 was a good year, thanks to our donors, supporters and our tireless hard working SCP board members. We are currently working in 6 communities in the area of Chacocente: Escalante, El Terrero, La Chota, El Papalón, La Poma and Aguas Calientes.

This year of 2019 we accomplish these projects in our communities:
...28 Latrines.
...3 Wells, 26 well covers, 27 well rope pumps, 4 accessories or repairs for the wells.
...Repairs for the clinic of La Pita.
... Bio intensive gardens for some families in Chacocente.
...Support for women that want to start or to better a business in La Chota.
...Support for 18 alcaldia workers.

We gave 47 water filters, 8 workshops to 8 health promoters, medicines to MINSA to be given (as needed) to the people in our communities, dental material to the dentist, food for one month to 15 community park rangers during turtle nest season in Chacocente, equipment for park rangers, like: boots, back packs, rain ponchos, flashlights, pens, batteries and notebooks.
...12 workshops of environmental education to teachers and students of 5 schools, 40 scholarships to students, 230 packets of school suplies to students, 10 months of food supplements for 230 Students, school materials for 10 teachers, like 5 acrylic chalk boards, books, and cleaning suplies for our 5 schools.
95 farmers were benefited with funds to plant sesame seed and Jamaica.

Support for a MOSSI station and the study of migrating birds.
We also did some projects in these communities:
Ochomogo: 1 Rope pump.
These are only some of the many projects that we did in 2019.

*To maintain income growth thru (donations, grants, gifts, fundraising activities etc.)
* To start working with a new village.
* To strengthen relationships with organizations like: (Fundación San Lucas, Paso Pacífico, Minsa, Marena, Alcaldia etc.)

As the current president of the Richland Center- Santa Teresa Sister City Project, I would like to thank our generous donors, friends, supporters, Alma Susana (our coordinator in Nicaragua), our family members and especially our board members who help so much in making life a little easier for the poor people of Nicaragua. I hope that we can continue working together for many years to come in this noble cause. Thank you very much. Muchas gracias a todos y todas!!!!And thank you for putting up with me while I was the president of the SCP.

Committee Reports
Agriculture - Aaron - Statistics as above. Goals for 2020 to continue support based on requests of farmers. Use of urea has been discussed and will be supported, since this is necessary for the depleted soils in the region. Biointensive gardens will be encouraged. Fruit trees and a tree nursery have been discussed.
Health - no report. See the José’s report above.
Environment - Barb read this report from Jane: The environmental projects for 2019 were focused on Chacocente’s sea turtles and birds. There was also a reforestation program the Ag committee will cover.

**Sea Turtles**

Although the final figures for the olive ridley sea turtle nesting season at Chacocente are not compiled before all the eggs hatch, the 2019-20 numbers were average, with 5 *arribadas*, 50,000 nests, and over 300,000 hatchlings. MARENA (Nicaragua’s DNR) had increased the staff for protecting the *arribada* beach, guarding new areas, and also ran marine patrols. SCP helped with providing guards’ supplies, such as flashlights, rubber boots, and field notebooks. One month’s emergency food was provided. Beach cleanup was done.

This past season there was no leatherback sea turtle hatchery because Fauna and Flora International (FFI) was on bad terms with MARENA, and did not get a permit. A new FFI director is mending fences, and this fall we will again partner with them to help protect this disappearing species. Our funds from 2019 are still with Alma.

SCP coordinator Alma Susana Chávez has been involved in municipal turtle events shared with other organizations; the fourth Santa Teresa Sea Turtle Festival (Which SCP helps fund), and a Turtle Carnival, where a drama with large puppets, “Journey to the Center of the Carapace,” was presented. Students from a Managua university and MARENA personnel helped Alma do environmental education this past year. In addition, primary and secondary school students were taken to visit the *arribada* beach to see and release sea turtle hatchlings. Her focus is that the students of the Chacocente schools know the biological and ecological importance of the place where they live.

**The Bird program**

Seven Bird classes/workshops were given in 2019, in 5 primary schools and for 8 secondary school students. Ornithologist Pablo Sommariba helped Alma with the first few, but after a falling out, she worked with local men who staff the MoSI station, and with MARENA people. The students learned to identify the bird species in their community and monitor which are migratory. They were taught not to kill the birds with slingshots, but to appreciate and protect their birds. Classroom time was combined with bird walks and a snack. This was a popular program and will continue this year. Children also visited the MoSI station.

Paso Pacifico’s MoSI bird-banding and monitoring station ran a couple of days per month in January through March, and October through December, although it was raided and closed down in December because Paso Pacifico had not received a MARENA permit. Alma’s efforts with the new MARENA delegada got permits for January through March of 2020, but we are still waiting for the tourist co-op to receive a permit for the fall MoSI season.

Education - Marilyn - See above. We have a major increase in requests for secondary and post-secondary scholarships in 2020, significantly above what we budgeted in January. Post-secondary requests are in areas of nursing, teaching, agriculture, business, and tourism.

**2020 Board Membership** - Sally Dahir has resigned as board member. Otherwise membership continues as in 2019. Thanks to Sally for many years of being a very active member through her trips to Nicaragua and her major work on the budget!

**Nomination and Election of officers** - The nominating committee offered the following slate:

- **President** - Marilyn Rinehart
- **Vice President** - Maggie May
- **Treasurer** - Stein Goering
- **Secretary** - Marcia Carlson

Approved per raised hand function on GOTOMEETING.

Stein expressed thanks to José for his 3 years as president of the Sister City Project.

The meeting was adjourned.