

**Amigos Center Advisory Board Minutes
St. Michael's Lutheran Church & School
January 30, 2006 - 4:00 PM**

Members Present: Bob Selle, Jon Zehnder, Charles and Audrey Mueller, Eulalia "Lala" Troncoso, Veronica Culbertson, Diego Grisales
Participation with Telephone Conference Call: Denny Brown
Absent with excuse: Julio Estremera, Marve Ann Alaimo, Leonardo García
Special Invited Guest: Sarah Paganés

- Opening prayer/oración de abertura: led by Rev. Mueller
- Our Misión Statement / El propósito del Amigos Center
 - **Amigos Center's mission statement is to provide the Hispanic immigrant community and migrant workers of Southwest Florida with the tools necessary to succeed in the USA.**
- Minutes from last meeting / Acta de la última reunión: Approved unanimously.
- 2005 Financial and Statistical Report / Informe financiera y estadísticas: Written report attached and approved by Board. We finished 2005 with a surplus of \$30,000. Rev. Mueller posed the question of how many of our clients have progressed to the point that they no longer need our services.
- Election of Board: All board members attended or had at least 75% attendance last year and qualify for reappointed. All board members are reappointed by unanimous vote of those present.
- Director's Report / Informe del Director Ejecutivo

Past business

- Accreditation renewal for Christina Leddin reapplied: Marve Ann submitted a written report stating:

"FYI to everyone, in addition to applying for Christina's accreditation at Bonita Springs, we have also applied with the Board of Immigration Appeals for recognition of the Fort Myers and Naples offices as for Christina's accreditation at those locations. Per your instructions, we did not make any application for the Immokalee site."

Denny suggests that nothing will be lost if we contact Mr. John Bulger, past District Director of USCIS to see if he can intervene in the reaccreditation application of Christina Leddin. Selle will follow through with letter to Bulger.
- Personnel policy concerning vacation time and sick days: Staff was unable to make time to prepare a recommendation. This matter was tabled until next time.
- 2005 Newcomer's Guide will go to print soon (Minuteman Press)
- Selle proposes that Amigos Center establish an endowment fund so that potential donors can be assured that their gift will be used as they wish. Board approves this proposal. Staff will investigate a dual track of establishing an endowment fund with both the St. Michael's Foundation and through the LCMS Foundation (this will expand the network of contacts of potential donors.)
- Sarah gave an update concerning her participation in a Development Executive Course she took recently in Orlando.

New business

- Hurricane Recovery Committee: Diego gave a report about Phase I of our Hurricane Wilma recovery efforts to help the poor in Lee County and Immokalee to recover

from the hurricane. Selle reports that last weekend's Phase II, directed at migrant farmworker employees of Gargiulo Farms succeeded in helping 89 families, we had planned for 200. The shortfall was that rumors of immigration roundups were circulating throughout the county during the past week and continued through our event. This probably discouraged many from leaving their homes. A positive development was that 22 Hispanic volunteers from Pastor Selle's Hispanic congregations helped organize the event on Saturday and 28 Hispanics helps during the event held at the church in Bonita Springs.

- Immokalee Ministry Center: Selle gave a presentation of vision for beginning outreach work in Immokalee. Two reasons for considering it now: 1) Hurricane Wilma opened a door for ministry in Immokalee, 2) Lutheran Services Florida wants to sell or lease its 7,500 sq. foot building in downtown Immokalee.
- Fundraising Banquet, Friday, March 24, 2006 (Doug Molloy, Keynote speaker: Human Trafficking) Plans for banquet are on track. Buffet dinner will be offered with pulled pork, pasta, vegetables, rice, chocolate cake and Caesar salad.

Closing prayer led by Rev. Zehnder.

Next Meeting / Próxima reunión: Monday, April 24 / Lunes, 24 de abril, 2006