

**Amigos Center Advisory Board Minutes  
St. Michael's Lutheran Church & School  
January 29, 2007 - 4:00 PM**

Members present: Bob Selle, Charles and Audrey Mueller, Jon Zehnder,  
Present teleconference: Denny Brown, Julio Estremera, Marve Ann Alaimo  
Special invited guest: Sarah Paganas

Absent: Leonardo García, Diego Grisales, Veronica Culbertson, Eulalia "Lala" Troncoso

- Opening prayer/oración de abertura: Led by Pastor Charles 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:  
Reviewed and approved minutes from July 31, 2006 meeting  
Reviewed and approved minutes from October 30, 2006 meeting.

- Financial and Statistical Report / Informe financiera y estadísticas: Denny Brown reported that Amigos en Cristo ended 2006 with a surplus of \$89,845. He noted that our balance sheet shows an increase of our Total liabilities & Equity from \$158,522 in 2005 to \$907,554 in 2006. This is because of the acquisition of the Immokalee building and associated LCEF loan of \$584,000. This underscores the need to revamp our administration and organization. Charlie Mueller noted the increase in our size and potential stating that in 2005 we were like a pickup truck, now we are a dump truck. (2006 budget variance report for Amigos en Cristo attached)  
The board reviewed and approved our 2007 budget (budget attached to minutes)  
Statistics for 2006 reveal a marked increase in unduplicated clients over previous years. We expect another solid increase during 2007 because of the addition of Immokalee Amigos Center. (report attached to minutes)

### **Past business**

- BIA accreditation and recognition of Fort Myers office and Golden Gate office.  
Marve Ann reported that the district director of USCIS recommended recognition of our Fort Myers Immigration office and partial accreditation for Christina Leddin in that office. We are still waiting for final approval from the Board of Immigration Appeals. The same district director did not recommend partial accreditation for Eulalia Troncoso sighting a lack of documented training for her. Selle reported that Eulalia is going to Chicago next month for a three day training seminar, she also will participate in the LIRS web based training offered on a monthly basis. Eulalia received her certificate from LIRS for a web based training she did in 2006. Marve Ann asks that the certificate be forwarded to her so she can act on it.  
No action was taken by his office yet concerning our petition for recognition of our Golden Gate office.

- Board reorganization (see attachments)  
The board reviewed the document prepared by Denny Brown entitled: Amigos en Cristo Management & Board Organization (attached to minutes). Board was unanimous that we should expand the board for AEC from current three members to be more representative of clergy, donors, and people with technical expertise. Our reform includes adding two steering committees (one for Immokalee the other for the rest of Amigos Center) and reconstituting the current Advisory Board

into a donor based advisory board. Unanimous approval for hiring a Project Manager (20 hours/week) to oversee the existing Amigos Center staff and programs.

Denny Brown will contact SW FL Community Foundation about providing funding and a facilitator who can work with us on the best way to reorganize.

By acclamation, all advisory board members are reelected for another term of service.

Board members were encouraged to enroll in a Training seminar offered by FGCU and United Way on March 21 at the South County Regional Library. Call 590-7815 to reserve space.

### **New Business**

- Margarita Morales: Language Program Coordinator

Selle announced that he hired Margarita to serve as Coordinator of our language program.

- Banquet 2007

Place: Broadway Palm Theater, Monday, March 12, 2007

Selle gave out a copy of our sponsor packet and encouraged Advisory Board members to share it with potential sponsors.

**Next Meeting / Próxima reunión: Monday, April 30 / Lunes, 30 de abril, 2007**