



**PARTNERS** *of the* **AMERICAS**  
Connect • Serve • Change Lives

## Partners of the Americas Illinois-Sao Paulo Chapter Review of 2016 Accomplishments

Dear Members and Friends:

Thanks to all for your participation and volunteer support of the initiatives sponsored by Partners of the Americas Illinois-Sao Paulo Chapter in 2016.

I hope you enjoy taking a moment to look back at our list of accomplishments; which proudly underscore our POA mission...to *Connect*, to *Serve* and to *Change Lives*:

- **2<sup>ND</sup> MOSTRA**: In March, we presented the 2nd MOSTRA - American Films in Sao Paulo (both Ariani Friedl and Carla da Silva went to **Brazil**).
- **SPRING TALK SERIES**: In April, we held Partners Spring Talk Series at Loyola University downtown with professor Ben Penglase. His book "Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela" was presented and discussed with the public. The talk was moderated by Prof. Carmen Kordick. VP Carla da Silva coordinated the event.
- **TIES**: Mike Lofstrom brought to our attention the possibility of POA IL participation at TIES - a letter of support to the program was prepared and sent to the State Department. Even though our Chapter was not chosen, we were seriously considered, and Mike was thanked for his efforts.
- **RECHARTERING**: 2016/17/18 Re-chartering: Completed by Illinois Chapter with compliments from Washington via email and during the National Convention in Guadalajara. The Illinois Chapter also extended offers of help and support to the São Paulo Chapter if needed to complete their process.

- **BEYOND THE WATERS BEACH PARTY**: On July 24<sup>th</sup>, we volunteered in support of Beyond the Waters Beach Party. Our Chapter not only collaborated monetarily with Open Doors and Kostas Foundation but also by donating traditional Brazilian food and soft drinks, plus volunteering at the event.

- **2016 RIO OLYMPICS and 2016 RIO PARALYMPICS**: In August and September, we had the Olympics and the Paralympics in Rio. Our President attended and served as an Ambassador for POA and "pinned" several people from all over the world. She took the opportunity to talk about POA to 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic volunteers, attendants, athletes, organizers, etc. She also met with Kosta (Constantine Zogrofolopolous) in Rio and he gifted souvenirs from Rio to POA IL.

- **HELLENIC MUSEUM EVENT**: Following the Paralympics, the Illinois Chapter participated at the National Hellenic Museum event (invited by Kosta).

- **CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE**: (Ariani asked us to apply and join the organization). The application was submitted and we hope to engage with the organization in 2017.

- **POA IL BOARD RETREAT**: In September, we held our Board Retreat. Nan Sullivan explained budget, finances and presented points of her treasury reports (POA and MOSTRA). Jan Herzberg talked about POA Washington's general vision, goals, etc. He brought to all a broader view of Partners of the Americas.

- **POA's NATIONAL CONVENTION**: In October Michael Lofstrom went to the National Convention in Guadalajara. He was our representative at the event and was awarded for his initiatives. He brought us an overview of the event and updated us on initiatives throughout the organization.

- **THE YOUTH LITERATURE FESTIVAL / BRAZIL FOR KIDS**: Dr. Vivian Dixon, in collaboration with the College of Education at UIUC, promoted a Portuguese Table/Activities for kids to encourage preservation of the heritage of the Portuguese language and literacy.

- **IBSP** (International Business Sustainable Practice): Franco Franchi visited São Paulo and with Ciro Croce presented several aspects of green initiatives in business.

- **MOSTRA VII**: In November, Ariani Friedl launched MOSTRA VII: Brazilian Film Series in Chicago, Champaign-Urbana, Indianapolis and West Lafayette.

- **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**: In January, 2017 Daniele Deghi coordinated a MOSTRA Volunteer Appreciation Party and we thanked all for their valuable participation.

Thank you once again to all participants and volunteers for making our 2016 POA initiatives a success. Please consider joining us in 2017.

Best regards,

Marisa Moreira Woehlert  
President, Illinois-Sao Paulo Chapter

