



# Flying Samaritans®



## Newsletter for March 2011

Thanks to everyone who sent me articles and pictures for the newsletter. This month begins a new feature called the *President's Message*. I have been a bit lax in getting first-timer write-ups, and I intend to get improve on that count. Sit back and enjoy the newsletter. There should be something of interest for everyone.

*Carl the Flying Curmudgeon (and Newsletter Editor)*

### President's Message

This is the first of many monthly articles I plan to write to discuss the issues facing our Chapter. The tone of this first message is serious because our Chapter faces some big hurdles. These hurdles focus on two issues: volunteer help and fundraising.

#### Volunteer Help

Our Coordinators and our Board need help. We need active members who actually contribute time on an ongoing basis to help the Chapter run. As you recall, we held a general membership meeting in January to focus on this issue. The good news is that nearly 40 members attended.

While I'm happy nearly 40 members came out to learn about our Committees and where they might help the Chapter, I'm disappointed we did not see more members. Many of those who attended were members of the Board and our Coordinators, so the actual number of members newly willing to donate time was smaller than the gross number would suggest. We also interestingly saw some brand new members who wanted to join and contribute, which was also a great thing.

Some of our committees, such as Membership, formed nice groups to support their functions. However, most of our committees still need help. These Committees include Interpreters, Dental, Medical, the El Rosario and LSI Trip Coordinators, the Pilot Coordinator, the IT and Web functions, and the Newsletter, plus the Board needs a new Secretary.

We also have some short-term need for volunteers. Recently we received a generous donation of sterile gloves over which Judy Austin has taken charge. The gloves are packaged poorly for our purposes and we need to unpack them and repack them properly. This is a job that many hands can make easy but a few hands make tough. So one way you could help would be to give Judy a call right away and make arrangements to have a glove-fest and cover this short term project with her.

Another example of short-term needs is when we prepare our Christmas gifts in December. Again, many hands make this large task manageable. This brings me to my next topic.

### **Fundraising**

Two committees of the Tucson Chapter hold responsibility for fundraising. The first is our traditional “Fundraising Committee,” chaired by Rose Quiroga. The Fundraising Committee until recently brought you the annual golf tournament, and also plans and executes our fundraising dinners such as the traditional spring pig roast and the Christmas party. The second committee is our new “Community Partnership Committee” chaired by Michael Mandig. This Committee is charged with the task of developing community partners in the form of businesses or other charitable entities who will contribute funds to the Flying Sams.

*Unfortunately, our dues do not cover the costs of our two Clinics.  
Additional funds are essential to our continued existence.*

Our Fundraising Committee needs new members to infuse new ideas and energy into it. The Tournament was a huge drain of time and effort yet it always made money for us. Over the years the number of active volunteers supporting the tournament fell to the point where we just no longer had the energy to keep it going. We could revive the Tournament and/or do other things to raise money as well if members would volunteer for Fundraising.

Separately, our Community Partnership Committee is just starting up and I would love to see an active group staffing this committee developing a plan, putting together grant applications, pursuing those applications to funding, and maintaining our relationships with new community partners into the future. Funds are available from groups like the Rotarians, the Gates Foundation, and other companies and individuals – but we need to go after them!

The Flying Samaritans is a true volunteer charity. Our overhead is stunningly low compared to the amount of work we do because we don’t pay anyone to do it. We in Tucson have three great Clinics – El Rosario, Laguna San Ignacio, and Agua Prieta, and with Phoenix we have four. This is a lot to cover. It requires an active support group.

The old guard of active members cannot continue to run this organization in perpetuity. We need our new and newer members to step up and help us out.

Will you? Get involved today! Email us at Board at [boardofdirectors@flyingsamaritansaz.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@flyingsamaritansaz.org) and we’ll find a place for you. Thanks.

John Osborne  
President, Flying Samaritans (Tucson Chapter)  
[president@flyingsamaritansaz.org](mailto:president@flyingsamaritansaz.org)  
520-909-0910

## El Rosario Clinic

We had another very busy yet very fun and interesting clinic weekend. It started on Friday with three planes. Wally Austin left Tucson with 2 “old timers”, Judy Austin and Bob Smith and 2 “first-timers,” Chris Dutra, who is an ER physician from Berkley California, and Vien Belcher-Sawhney, who is a neurology nurse at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tucson. Ken Reed carried his dental crew consisting of Dax Rapp – dental resident, Lupe Quiroz – dental hygienist and another “first timer,” Lilia Bustamante – dental assistant.



In addition, we had an old favorite of ours, Dr. Chuck Schroll who brought down health educator Gail Emrick and her son, Monty Montgomery, who is an interpreter and student pilot. Chuck was the perfect person for Monty to fly with as it seems Monty did more flying than Chuck and I don’t think there were any complaints from anyone on board! Even though we had a good number of workers on Friday, we were noticeably short on interpreters, which made for a stressful day for those of us that are not so talented. Vien worked triage which is not the easiest job, and Dr. Chris was seeing patients with very little assistance. They both have some knowledge of Spanish and those skills were really tested on Friday. A special thanks to both of you and please know that it isn’t always that hectic.

With only one dental assistant to work with Dax and Dr. Reed, sterilizing became really backed up. I had done this several years ago and gave myself a quick refresher course once I realized they were soon going to run out of instruments. We plan to train some of our helpers to sterilize as we now are aware of one more way that Mary Kay is missed and something needs to be done. Hopefully, this will help to keep things running smoother in dental. We served 65 dental patients and Dr. Chris did a great job seeing about 40 patients during the two-day clinic.



On Saturday our ever faithful Paul Rowley flew down with Linda Elmquist, RN and dental assistant Gloria Salas. In addition to their primary skills, we now had three more interpreters as Paul is also fluent in Spanish. We were also surprised by a visit from Tomas Sanchez and his daughter, Rosie, who is almost 16 years old. They were both so helpful with translating. Saturday's clinic went much more smoothly and we were able to see all of the medical and dental patients who signed up. However, many dental patients who were not signed in were told to come back next month. We knew after Friday that we would not get to them. It seems that there are more and more needs in this community and we just keep getting busier trying to meet those needs.

A particularly interesting little girl showed up on Friday with her parents who traveled over 1000 kilometers by bus to our clinic because they heard we had someone who could help their severely developmentally delayed 9-year old daughter. Unfortunately, we did not have such a person at clinic but Vien did a very thorough assessment and Gail is already working through channels she has to see what and how much can be done. Thanks you so much Gail and Vien for the great job you have done and continue to do with this very sad situation. If she only had some resources available to her she could most likely be doing so much better.



We met up with the Mother Lode Chapter at dinner Friday night and learned that they had two medical students with them and no doctor to see patients at their clinic the following day. Because we were feeling guilty about having two doctors, Chuck graciously agreed to help them out the next day. We really missed him at ER and regretted volunteering him even more Saturday night when we found out how much he enjoyed himself at the Robertson's Ranch clinic.



Both evenings were beautiful. Dinner was delicious and we celebrated two birthdays – Monty 18 and Rosie 16. Dr. Chuck also gave a group of beach walkers an excellent astronomy lesson – laser and all!

Thank you everyone for all your hard work and dedication.



### **A Special Note from Peggy**

Thank you to everyone who was instrumental in assisting with my care during my January 'trip' to El Rosario. As the true professionals you all are, when one of your own 'tripped up' and got hurt, you all calmly did what needed to be done and managed to get me home safely. Today marks eight weeks from my severely sprained ankle and it finally feels like I will have a complete recovery. Thanks again, and I look forward to my next clinic trip.

Peggy Clementi, Helper

### **For our Valued Interpreters**

¿Cómo están todos?

¡Espero que todos se encuentren bien!

Spring is in the air 🌸, so I thought that we could meet for an informal get-together on Saturday, March 19th, 4:00 p.m. at Casa Molina on Campbell and Blackledge.

I would like to meet some of Flying Samaritans' interpreters that have experience interpreting for FS's clinics, also those that are new and have had limited experience or have not been able to go to one of the clinics.

It will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and get to know each other!

Please RSVP to Olivia Sanders by Thursday, March 17!

[interpreters@flyingsamaritansaz.org](mailto:interpreters@flyingsamaritansaz.org)

¡Muchas gracias a todos, y espero verlos pronto!

### **Website**

There are no major changes to the Flying Samaritans Arizona Website. Your faithful [Webmaster](#) did purchase some Web authoring software, which makes maintaining the site a bit easier. Please visit the Tucson Chapter website is at: <http://www.flyingsamaritansaz.org/Tucson>. The combined Arizona website is at [www.flyingsamaritansaz.org](http://www.flyingsamaritansaz.org). From the entry page, you can select either the Tucson or Phoenix chapter, and then follow the links to the various pages.

## February Meeting Minutes

Present were: Judy Austin, Acting President for the purposes of this meeting as John Osborne was not present; Wally Austin, Richard Razo; Carl Foster; Pat Hartowicz; Bob Smith; Jennifer Treece; Gena Damento, U of A; Ruben Ramirez; Gloria Salas; Chuck Schroll; Vincent L. Lacsamana, Secretary; Linda Bacon; Bob Kee. There was no quorum so no official business could be conducted.

Approval of January Minutes : Judy Austin had some corrections regarding the Dental Seminar held at La Paloma, it was not a Medical Seminar but a Dental Only Seminar.

A. President's Report (John Osborne). Since the President was not present there was no President's Report.

- i. Coordinator/Officer Interviews -
  1. Meetings with Gloria Salas, Pat Hartowicz, Judy Austin, Mike Mandig, and Jennifer Treece.
- ii. Report of changes in Membership Committee and thanks to Susan Warren for her hard efforts.

B. Treasurer's Report (Jennifer Treece)

- i. General update. Operating Account \$684.32; Savings Account has 5,406.22; the U of A account has 1,761.51; and Fundraising has \$197.76 in the account. One Thousand (\$1,000.00) was moved from Savings to Checking.
- ii. Concerns about reconciliation of membership dues paid to the FS IBOD. We received \$235.00 from the IBOD for people who have signed upon the IBOD website. We have no names or further information. We will get monthly payments from IBOD for on-online sign-ups. Wally Austin was contact the IBOD to have them change the website to direct Arizona signups to the new FSArizona website.

C. Old Business

- i. El Rosario Report (Judy Austin)
- ii. LSI Report (Pat Hartowicz). It was a small clinic. Twelve people were seen in the Dental Clinic. The clinic was closed at 2:30 p.m.
- iii. University of Arizona/Agua Prieta Clinic Report (Alexis Smith/Jillian Moore). Report by Gena Demento, future Co-President w/Jillian Moore, reported on the U of A activities. She did not have the numbers for numbers of patients seen at the last clinic. Their last meeting had 50 people attending. The U of A Club had a function on the U of A mall to recruit members and they are planning to have a bake sale this weekend. There is a Social Gathering at Student Health Center. The next Agua Prieta clinic is scheduled for February 26, 2011
  1. Changes in leadership at the U of A Club. Gena Demento will share Presidential duties with Jillian Moore.
  2. Status on President's desire to attend a U of A Club meeting. Maybe the President can attend the Wednesday Social Gathering at 5:15 this week.

- iv. State Board Report (Wally Austin/State Delegates – Bill Hunt & Alexis Smith are the remaining members appointed to the State Board of Directors. Wally gave the report of the last meeting held in Tucson. There was a meeting held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the Executive Terminal at TIA. Safety issues were the predominant topic. Also discussed were the status of efforts to itemize accidents/incidents for review by the State Board Committee on flight safety similar to effort accomplished by Craig Albright. Tax exempt status update (Michael Mandig). No updates, no information.
- v. Coordinators' Reports (including results of General Membership Meeting for formation of volunteer groups).
  - 1. Membership Report (Judy Austin). Ms. Austin did not have Ms. Warren's report but she did state that she has taken over Ms. Warren's responsibilities for membership and a new committee has been formed that consists of : Judy Austin: Membership Coordinator: Jennifer Treece, Bill Hunt and Linda Bacon, Richard Razo (Membership Badges), and Mary Kay Bush and hopefully Peggy Clementi will serve as back-up and alternate for anyone who cannot help. Bill Hunt needs to send/FWD all future membership correspondence to Judy Austin.
  - 2. Interpreter. (Olivia Sanders). Not present; no report.
  - 3. Dental (Richard Johnson/Gloria Salas/Pat Hartowicz). Gloria Salas made a report about conserving and preserving dental supplies so that we do not duplicate Dental clinic supplies. Judy Austin reported on an organization she heard about that specializes in Medical and Dental supplies--Southwestern Medical Aide (SMA). Once we know what we need it might be worthwhile to contact SMA. Gloria reported on her co-worker who is a dental assistant but a licensed dentist in Mexico: Yolanda Cabrera.
  - 4. Medical (Lourdes Munoz). Not present; no report.
  - 5. Pilots (Bill Hunt). Carl Foster reported on this week's efforts to find enough planes for the El Rosario Clinic. Bill Hunt is sick. Once Bill has the list he will juggle and finalize the rosters for this week's clinic.
  - 6. Fundraising Committee Report (Rose Quiroga or designate). Bob Smith reported that we are not yet sure about the status of planning for March event at the Outback Restaurant and what price concessions we will receive for our fundraising efforts.
    - a. Planning for Dental Conference Fall of 2011.
    - b. Planning for expanded Christmas Party.
  - 7. IT & Webmaster Reports. Carl Foster reported on his efforts. Carl is trying to help the Phoenix webmaster coordinate efforts so our Tucson website efforts are not duplicated when our two chapters separate from the International Organization (IBOD). Mr. Foster is still looking for someone who has graphics or art background that he can post to the website to "snazz" it up. Mr. Foster reports that we still need new/recent pictures to post to the website.

8. Newsletter Report. (Carl Foster). If you send Carl anything he will get it in the Newsletter. Judy suggested that all new members be listed in the Newsletter, as well as all Honorary Members.
  9. SEAHEC report. (Gail Emrick or e-mail report). None
  10. Policy & Procedures Committee (Wally Austin/Jennifer Treece/Jack Harris) - Status. Carl Foster reported that these are posted on the website in the newsletter section.
  11. Community Partnership Committee status. (Michael Mandig/JEO). No Report.
  12. Tucson Chapter Retreat – reminder it will occur on May 7, 2011 at place TBD.
- vi. Status of thanks for our Christmas gift sponsor, the Roman Catholic Church of the Ascension in Fountain Hills, AZ., Father McDonough, and David Bryman. Ms. Austin reported on the preparation of a plaque with pictures for the church that is being prepared to acknowledge them and thank them for their efforts in providing Christmas gifts for the clinics.
  - vii. Status of replacement for Carl Foster of portable oxygen unit for emergencies donated by Carl Foster (\$300-550?) by Wally's Rotary. Carl has a new Oxygen tank and there are portable oxygen tanks for LSI and the ER Clinics.
  - viii. Status of efforts to find treatment for Blanca, Rocky Point Airport Administrator Alonso Dominguez Ruiz's former secretary, who has Nasal Melanoma. Ms. Austin reported that she has not heard back from Dr. Mark Kartchner on what we might be able to do to help her nasal melanoma problem.

#### D. New Business

- i. Offer by Ken Reed who has offered to donate his time in conducting dental seminars (Continual Education) to our Chapter.
- ii. Peggy Clementi's suggestions for fundraising (email). Ms. Clementi suggested smaller efforts to get money for our Chapter so that we focus on a volume of small contributions and smaller efforts such as rummage sales, etc.
- iii. Additional new business. Dr. Chuck Schroll suggested that our chapter pool all resources of people and supplies between the two chapters. Phoenix has flown to clinics with empty seats that could pick up Tucson people to staff and volunteer at their clinic in Lopez Mateos.
- iv. Wally Austin discussed that the Physician who is flying in this weekend from Berkely, CA and there is a physician from Spokane, WA who is Justin Racht who was a previous and active member when he was stationed in Yuma, AZ.

#### E. Adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

#### NOTE: CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

1. Vice-President
2. Secretary - Interim Secretary, Vince Lacsamana.

3. Newsletter Editor (Acting – Carl Foster)
4. Optician – as per Jim Parks’ report at November General Membership Meeting.
5. Program Committee. What should we do with this Committee?
6. U.S.-Mexico Liaison. What should we do with this Committee?
7. Honorary Membership Committee. What should we do with this Committee?

2010-2012 Officers:

John Osborne, President  
Jennifer Treece, Treasurer  
Vince Lacsamana, Secretary

Medical Coordinator:

Lourdes Munoz (ER)

Pharmacy Coordinators:

Judy Austin, RN (ER)  
Jennifer Treece (LSI)

Directors:

Wally Austin  
Linda Bacon  
Peggy Clementi  
Carl Foster  
Jack Harris  
Bill Hunt  
Richard Johnson  
Michael Mandig  
Ruben Ramirez  
Richard Razo  
Alexis Nicole Smith  
Bob Smith

Pilot Coordinator: Bill Hunt

Webmaster: Bill Hunt

Honorary Members

Mary Kay Bush  
Gary Cluff  
Libby Cook  
Tom Greninger  
Greg Hatch  
Liza Hoover  
Jimmy Jimenez  
Doug Jones  
Nancy Lefco  
Bill & Angie Merodious  
Bob Netherton  
John Osborne  
Thomas Sanchez  
Dan Shoemaker  
Mike Still

Membership: Judy Austin

Newsletter Editor: Carl Foster

Fundraising:

Ruben Ramirez  
Bob Smith  
Rose Quiroga

Trip/Clinic Coordinators:

Judy Austin (ER)  
Pat Hartowicz (LSI)  
Alexis Nicole Smith (AP)

Dental Coordinator:

Richard Johnson, DDS