REFORMA Colorado

Officer’s Meeting

August 26, 2014

Athmar Branch, DPL

10-12pm

**Minutes**

In Attendance: Camila Alire, President; Simone Groene-Nieto, Past President; Orlando Archibeque, Treasurer; Nicanor Díaz, Vice President/President Elect; Rita A Puig, Secretary/Historian; Heidi Becker, Ross Callender, Robert Ayala, Mary K Dodge, Viviana Casillas, Theresa Ortega, Lisa Murillo, Cecilia S Hem Lee, Nicholas Newlin

Virtual Attendees: Jimena Sagas, Judith Valdez, Karen Alfino, Katherine Kerber

1. **Denver as a city to house immigrant children (Camila and Lando)**

Denver has applied for a grant to host unaccompanied children that have recently crossed the border, but it has not been approved yet. The Northeast states have also applied and received grants for this purpose. REFORMA Colorado is allowing the NE REFORMA Chapter to take the lead in providing assistance with this effort. Depending on what they do, REFORMA Colorado might replicate or do something else instead.

Lando gave an update on the Children in Crisis Project. The President of REFORMA National put out a call to raise funds for this project that would provide the unaccompanied children with backpacks filled with books and other educational material. He was happy to announce that the members of REFORMA Colorado donated a total of $360. In addition, the chapter donated $300 for a total of $660. This is the equivalent of 22% of the total funds collected. It was suggested that a message should be sent on the national listserve to congratulate the Colorado chapter.

1. **Treasurer’s report (Lando)**

Total current assets: $1451

Lando mentioned that we are in a solid financial position to contribute to RNCV.

A discussion ensued on the 501(c)3 status of the chapter. Currently the chapter does not have this status. It is being worked on.

1. **Schedule meetings for the whole year**

The membership meetings, which are always on Tuesday from 10-12pm, were scheduled for the entire year as follows: October 28, December 16, February 10, April 28, June 22.

The following locations were volunteered for these meetings: Jefferson County, Regis University, Auraria Library, Denver Public Library (Both Woodbury Branch and the Idea Lab), and Ft. Collins.

1. **2015 Mini-Conference Brainstorm (Simone)**

The 3rd REFORMA Colorado Mini-Conference will be held Friday, May 1st from 1-5pm. The conference is expanding to include 6 slots for breakout sessions this year. In addition, it is confirmed that Senator Jessie Ulibari will be a keynote speaker. And if Simone gets her way, he will also lead us in a session of Zumba. A membership meeting will be included in the conference to increase engagement and collaboration by current members and to recruit new ones.

The evaluations from the last Mini-Conference were incredibly positive, although many participants remarked that Hilos Culturales what too passive a program to wrap things up. This year the programs should be more active and engaging. Maybe tracks can be incorporated to this year’s conference.

There will be six 50 minutes sessions, and perhaps outside folk can be invited to present. The goal is to have 120 participants. Simone suggested the lawyers group that Ghada has worked with in Boulder as possible guests.

A call for volunteers to subcommittees ensued will the following results:

* PR Committee – Camila(Chair), Mary Dodge, Judith Valdez, Jimena Sagas
* Programming – Officers plus Cecilia Hem-Lee & Lisa Murillo
* Local Arrangements – Nicanor(Chair), Cecilia Hem-Lee, Viviana Casillas, Ross Callender volunteered to manage virtual presentations.
* Before and After Committee – Lando(Chair), Judith Valdez, Mary Dodge

Each subcommittee will do their own call for volunteers. There will be no Volunteer committee.

Simone facilitated the group through a brainstorm session asking the question, “What are you currently grappling with?” All ideas were documented on a white board. These ideas were then categorized and synthesized to produce broad topics. Final options for topics will be sent to the membership for a vote.

Roberto Ayala volunteered to present on the significance of language and how we label in-groups vs out-groups.

Camila suggested making the Mini-Conference a full day conference. Simone suggested adding two more breakout sessions. The officers will discuss it further.

1. **RNCV Fundraising (Lando)**

National REFORMA has issued a call to the chapters for donations to RNCV. The REFORMA Colorado chapter must decide how much to donate. Lando will find out how much CLiC donated to RNCIV in 2011. REFORMA Colorado donated $500 to RNCIV. CLiC donated $300 to the Mini-Conference last year. A discussion ensued on recognition to the chapter for individual donations of members of REFORMA Colorado. Perhaps a request can be made that individuals that donate add “In honor of REFORMA Colorado”.

Katherine asked if we were considering crowd-funding. Lando mentioned that national should take the lead on something like that. The RNCV committee is progressive and open to new ideas. In fact, the pre-conference is completely funded and will be free for anyone interested in participating.

It was noted that the CLiC Spring Workshops in Pueblo will be September 3-4, 2015.

There is a deadline to be recognized in the conference program. The donation amount will be decided after the Officer’s meeting.

1. **Member Testimonials (Simone)**

The purpose of the member testimonials is to give a voice to why you want to become engaged. It should be a mix of new and old members. REFORMA Colorado is the only association representing people of color in Colorado. Rita suggested allowing members to give a verbal testimonial. This idea was turned down due to time constraints. Simone also mentioned that she would really like to see the membership contribute content to the website.

Camila challenged all members to send a testimonial in by the next membership meeting in two months’ time. The word cap is 500. It could include a visual element.