

NEWSLETTER

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STAFF MEMBERS



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AFSM Board member Jan Barahona receives the draft bylaws of the new Colombia Chapter from Elmer Escobar during the recent 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference

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ATTENTION: THINGS FOR YOU TO DO!

UN Pension Fund Certificate of Entitlement:

All certificates of Entitlement were mailed to beneficiaries for this current year on 29th October 2007. It is extremely important that Certificates are completed and returned to the UNJSPF as soon as they are received in order to avoid a potential suspension of benefit. Please note that if you have been in receipt of your benefit for less than six months at the time of the mailing you will not receive a Certificate this year but can expect a Certificate in the future.

You must allow up to two months after mailing your Certificate of Entitlement for the on-line System to be updated.

If you do not receive the Certificate by 1 December, or if you have misplaced it, you should call UNJSPF (212-963-6931) to ask for a form, then mail it to:

The Secretary
United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
Room S-635
New York, NY 10017, USA

How to check if your returned certificate has been received by the Pension Fund in NY:

1. Go to www.unjspf.org on the internet and press WELCOME.

2. Select BENEFICIARY.

You will see MY FUND on the left side of the screen.

3. Select CE TRACKING SYSTEM.

4. Click to LOG IN to your SECURE DOCUMENTS PAGE.

If you are a "Registered User," just fill in the information:

RETIREMENT NUMBER (Pension number. This is your user ID).

PASSWORD or PIN.

If you are not a "Registered User," you have to complete a

REQUEST FOR BENEFICIARY PASSWORD (PIN) by providing your

Retirement Number
First Name
Last Name
E-mail address

Finally: SUBMIT REQUEST.

Wait for the PIN to arrive by e-mail and repeat the steps listed above.

Payment of AFSM Dues:

Please look at the label on this mailing and note the date in the upper left corner. This indicates the year through which AFSM dues are currently paid.

If the date is 2005 or earlier, your dues are seriously in arrears and should be paid if you want to remain a member of AFSM and to continue to receive its mailings.

If the date is 2006 or 2007, you are still a member in good standing, but you owe the dues for those years.

In either case, your dues for 2006 are also now due. Once you have paid up your arrears for previous years, you can choose one of the following options for current and future dues:

US\$ 10 to pay your dues through 2006

US\$ 50 to pay your dues through 2016

US\$100 to pay your dues for life

You are encouraged to opt for a 10-year or lifetime membership, instead of annual membership. This way your membership is assured, and the discounts in dues are considerable!

Address Corrections:

Please let us know if there are any errors in your address as shown on the label on this mailing. **Also, we again remind you to send us your e-mail address if you have one, so we can get news to you in a more timely manner.**

Language Preference for Your Copy of the Newsletter:

The Newsletter is published in English and Spanish. It is being distributed to members according to their country of residence. Let us know if you would prefer to receive your Newsletter in Spanish rather than in English, or vice versa.

UNJSPF: TWO-TRACK OPTIONS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES (*Reproduced from the July-September 2007 AFSM-OMS Quarterly News*)

“Two track and surviving spouse benefits: Good to know!”

“As a general rule, the retiree/beneficiary selects for ‘dollar track’ or ‘local track’ at the commencement date of the entitlement payments. Eventually, if benefit were initially on the dollar track, the retiree/beneficiary can opt later for the local track (but once a beneficiary has selected the local track, always on the local track).

“In case of the unfortunate event of death, the widow/widower must elect for ‘dollar track’ or ‘local track,’ provided the renewed proof of residence and the E10 form. Indeed, the widow/widower is a ‘new’ beneficiary of the Fund’s benefits and therefore has the possibility to elect or not for one of both.

“However, it is the Fund’s policy, after carefully checking the widow/widower personal data, and provided the deceased spouse was on the local track, to put the surviving spouse on the local track. For this purpose, the Benefits Assistant reviews whether the mailing address was in the same country as the local track of the main beneficiary or checks the nationality of the survivor (if known). Those issues could cause some ‘alarm bells’ since the survivor might choose to move back to Ghana, for example, from Switzerland and then clearly the individual would need to understand the pitfalls of continuing on the local track.

“If a widow/widower has not provided the E10 and proof of residence for the local track and the deceased spouse had been on the local track we would normally place the survivor on the local track.

“The surviving spouse would be informed by letter sent by the Fund. At the same time the Fund would ask for the proof of residence and the E10 form. If not received within a certain timeframe the Fund would ask again.

“However, once again, few of these persons are elderly and may not understand the issue

at all in which case we are not overly rigid. Management has to exercise judgment and that is why one cannot give a straight cut and dried answer. In some cases, dependent on the age of the survivor and possibly the medical condition the Fund would keep the person on the local track even if the Fund did not have the documents provided that the mailing address and banking information remained the same in the country of residence for the local track.

“In view of the reviews above, the Fund had only had very few cases where the surviving spouse decided not to continue on the local track. In that case, there was an overpayment, what the surviving spouse was advised of, circumstances were explained and the surviving spouse willingly agreed to return the overpayment.

“Most of the cases are fairly cut and dried but as is always the case the Fund must be diligent in the review before putting the widow/widower on the local track automatically.

“UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 15 February 2007”

FOUNDING OF THE COLOMBIAN CHAPTER OF AFSM

The founding of the Colombian chapter of AFSM took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 27 April 2007. It was attended by former PAHO staff members living in Bogotá, Cali, and Medellín, as well as by guests from Santiago, Chile, and Washington DC, and by a representative of the PAHO/ WHO Federal Credit Union.

The highlights of the meeting were:

- The message from the President of AFSM underlining the growth of the Association and its strength as an organization of former PAHO staff members, as well as the significant role it has played in terms of advocacy on their behalf. She expressed the hope that the Colombian chapter will set an example and be a reference point for increasing the number of members and strengthening AFSM throughout the Region.

- The desire to focus on strengthening solidarity among all members and their families and on furthering friendships by promoting cultural, recreational, and social programs.

- The problems faced by retirees in the United Nations Pension Fund resulting from the revaluation of the Colombian peso against the U.S. dollar, which affects the income of active and former staff members, and the interest in the matter shown by the Association of United Nations Pension Recipients in Colombia (ASOPENUC, for *Asociación de Pensionados de Naciones Unidas en Colombia*).

- The work carried out by two women's groups in Bogotá: the national branch of the United Nations Women's Guild and the association of wives of former staff members.

- The relationship between retirees and the PAHO/WHO Federal Credit Union.

- The difficulties faced with health insurance.

Agreement was reached on the following points:

- The Colombian chapter will be run in accordance with AFSM statutes, along with a frame of reference that will encompass the specific features of the Colombian group.

- Use by members of their access to the PAHO Intranet page, which contains the documents published by the Organization and AFSM.

- Membership in the Colombian chapter for staff members who have worked in the Organization for a minimum of five years.

- The Board of Directors to be composed of two representatives from Bogotá, one from Medellín, one from Cali, one from Cartagena and one from Bucaramanga. The president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer will be chosen by the Board of Directors at the next meeting, to be held this year, or in a virtual meeting.

- The meetings and the value of membership in both AFSM and ASOPENUC.

- The importance of having all PAHO/WHO retirees living in Colombia contribute intellectually to the writing of a book on the most significant contributions made by each person during his/her working life and the way such contributions helped further the attainment of PAHO/WHO's purpose and goals in the Americas.

- Recognition of Dr. Bruno Moro and Dr. Pier Paolo Baladelli, representatives of the United Nations and of PAHO/WHO in Colombia, for their interest in the results of the current meeting of former PAHO/WHO staff members.

- Relations within the Colombian chapter will depend on the solidarity among its members, the link with Headquarters (Washington), and improved relations with PAHO, both centrally and at the country level, as reflected in a plan of action for 2007-2008 to include:

- creating a directory of Colombian chapter members;

- drawing up a list of former staff members who have not joined in order to actively promote their becoming members of AFSM and the chapter;

- compiling the biographies of the members for publication on the web page of AFSM;

- documenting the experiences with PAHO retirees of former staff members who were PWRs in order to disseminate this information through the web page of AFSM;

- helping members with their problems and needs in connection with health insurance, the Pension Fund, and the Credit Union;

- strengthening links with ASOPENUC, particularly with regard to pensions, and developing joint actions in this respect;

- promoting a more active relationship with the PWR in Colombia;

- drawing up a calendar of social, educational, and cultural activities.

It was concluded that it would be feasible and worthwhile to hold an International AFSM meeting in Colombia, in light of the facilities,

infrastructure, and attractive features offered by the city of Cartagena de Indias.

By unanimous vote, the Colombian chapter was established as a branch of AFSM, whose central headquarters is in Washington DC.

WANT TO GET TOGETHER IN 2008?

Your Board of Directors has started exploring the possibility of holding a third reunion of former PAHO/WHO staff members in 2008.

Discussions are moving along with the newly formed AFSM chapter in Bogotá, Colombia, to hold the III Reunion in Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia, in mid- to late September 2008. Our former colleagues in Colombia are in the process of identifying a tourist agent to handle the logistics of travel, accommodations, and meeting facilities. We will keep you informed, but you might want to think about saving the date. Those who participated in the II Reunion in Buenos Aires will tell you what a great experience it was!

WOMEN (AND A MAN) AT THE TOP!

Now known as "Executive Management," the occupants of the offices on the tenth floor of the PAHO Headquarters Building are:

Director: Dr. Mirta Roses Periago (Argentina) was elected on 3 October to a second five-year term as Director (see related article on the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference).

Deputy Director: Dr. Cristina Beato (USA) was appointed Deputy Director on 2 April 2007, replacing Dr. Joxel Garcia (USA) who resigned the post at the end of October 2006.

Assistant Director: Dr. Carissa Etienne (Dominica) continues in the post of Assistant Director, which she has occupied since August, 2003.

Director of Administration: Mr. Michael Boorstein (USA) was appointed Director of Administration in September 2006, replacing

Ambassador Eric Boswell (USA) who retired from the Organization in August 2005.

REPORT ON THE 27TH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

The 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference was held at the Headquarters Building from 1 to 5 October 2007. The Conference is the supreme governing authority of the Pan American Health Organization and meets every five years.

The 27th Conference was attended by delegates from all 38 Member States and one Associate Member and from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. The new Director of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan, was present at the session.

Among the functions of the Conference is the election of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The term of the Director of PAHO is five years, and that person may not be reelected more than once. The election took place on Wednesday, 3 October. Even though there was only one candidate, the rules required a secret ballot. Thirty-eight votes were cast: Dr. Roses was easily reelected, receiving 36 votes. Two ballots were invalid. Dr. Roses' second term of office begins on 1 February 2008.

In a separate election, Bolivia, Mexico, and Suriname were elected to the Executive Committee, replacing Canada, Cuba, and Venezuela, whose terms on the Committee had expired.

The Conference approved the next 10-year strategic plan for the Organization, 2008-2017, as well as the biennial budget 2008-2009, with a 3.9% increase.

The full agenda included many technical items - dengue, hospitals safe from disasters, malaria (established 5 November as "Malaria Day" each year) - among many others. Some of the more animated sessions took place as lunchtime "information sessions," outside the

actual agenda of the Conference. Among these sessions, one on the Bloomberg tobacco initiative, another on social determinants of health, and a third on public health, innovation and intellectual property, were extremely well attended.

At the Executive Committee that followed the Conference, Antigua and Barbuda was elected to the Presidency of the Committee.

The documents, resolutions, decisions, and final report can be found on the PAHO website by clicking on "27th Pan American Sanitary Conference."

LIAISON WITH THE PAHO ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Luz Marina Barillas, of the Human Resources Management office, has been appointed by the Director to be the official liaison between AFSM and the Administration. The appointment comes at a time when the Association and Administration have found that there is mutual benefit in working and cooperating with each other in areas of shared interests and goals. We look forward to working with Lucy.

THE OLD AND THE NEW!

AFSM was invited by Dr. Mirta Roses Periago to send two members to participate in what has become a biannual event, a breakfast for new Washington staff members.

AFSM President, Nancy Berinstein, and Board Member Jan Barahona, attended on behalf of AFSM, and shared their stories along with the newcomers as everyone around the table was invited to introduce themselves. It was an excellent means by which to become acquainted with new staff, and to share with new staff a little historical perspective of the Organization. The warm and inviting event ended with the retirees joining with the new staff in reciting the oath of office!

It is hoped that a retiree presence will become a permanent fixture in this and other PAHO official functions.

LUNCHEON AT BRETTON WOODS

The AFSM Fall Luncheon was held on 16 October 2007 at the World Bank/International Monetary Fund recreation center, Bretton Woods, in rural Montgomery County, Maryland. Some 35 members and their guests enjoyed the warm get-together and excellent lunch in a golf-course setting accented by the first hint of autumn colors. Despite the distance, those attending would probably vote for this picturesque locale for some future Association activity.

Current Board members were joined by many familiar faces. It was especially heartwarming to greet some long-time members not seen too often (Jim Milam), some newer members who attend from time to time (Richard Marks), some brand-new members (Amalia Ponce), and some retirees who are "just about to join" (Tony Farrington).

It was also good to see Roberto Rivero again, but it was difficult to recognize him without his trademark beard. He says removing it is "a summer thing," so perhaps we will know who he is when and if he attends the General Meeting in November.

But the biggest surprise of all was the appearance at the luncheon of Miguel Bullrich, who had just flown in from Buenos Aires that morning to spend a couple of weeks in the States. And you thought it was a long trip from Virginia!

AWARD TO PRIMO ARAMBULO

(See photo on page 12)

Primo Arambulo III was awarded the Karl F. Meyer-James H. Steele 2007 Gold Head Cane Award for achievements that have advanced human health through the practice of veterinary public health. The award, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and Hartz Mountain Corporation, was presented during the annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association held in Washington DC on 17 July of this year.

Primo joined PAHO in 1978 as Project Manager of the human and animal health project in

Jamaica. In 1980, he was transferred to the Headquarters Office in Washington DC as Regional Advisor in Veterinary Public Health. Primo was appointed as Coordinator of the Veterinary Public Health Program in 1989, a position he held until his retirement from the Organization in October 2001.

Primo is the recipient of numerous other recognitions and awards from different parts of the world for his contributions to veterinary public health. He currently serves as consultant for international affairs and global initiatives on veterinary education with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges in Washington DC.

AGING IN PLACE: CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE DC

In March 2006, having read about the Boston-based organization, Beacon Hill Village, that helps people remain in their homes as they age, activists on Capitol Hill in Washington DC rounded up a group of like-minded neighbors who desired both to prolong a lifestyle they prized and to better organize their later years. A series of meetings ensued out of which quickly evolved Capitol Hill Village, a nonprofit organization founded by local residents to support one another as they grow older.

A local lawyer helped the Village incorporate and achieve tax-exempt status. The group rounded up the necessary startup funds, researched possible services, fashioned a business plan and budget, and began seeking out organizational partners with links to seniors. The board established the annual fees at \$500 for an individual and \$750 for a household. They opened a Web site, www.capitolhillvillage.org.

The board members began a series of community meetings to solicit ideas about what kind of services should be offered. Ideas offered up were the services of a handyman, house cleaning, access and information on health care, tax and financial advice, meal preparation or delivery, transportation assistance, "look-in" services, and some kind of life-

enrichment activities providing social outlets for members.

After an aggressive and speedy year of organizational activities, the group has enough funds to recruit an executive director and establish a small office. The core concept of the Village is that, for a yearly fee, members can call a single telephone number for whatever need they have – a virtual "one stop shopping." The Village hopes to obtain discounted rates for some services and have them carefully vetted for members. It hopes to become fully operational this fall.

Other neighborhoods in the Washington DC area are looking at the Beacon Hill project and some have met under the auspices of AARP's DC office. Areas exploring the idea are McLean Gardens, the Palisades, Watergate, Chevy Chase, and most recently, Cleveland Park, which has held preliminary meetings to test the level of interest.

People are very interested in staying in their own homes as they age, but are afraid of the social isolation that elderly people face. The Village concept is a way of keeping the community together and perhaps avoiding the often unwelcome option of settling into unfamiliar and expensive retirement or nursing facilities.

*Extracted from the "HillRag," July 2007
and the Washington Post, 3 September 2007*

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN ARLINGTON COUNTY VA

Arlington County has a well-established Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI) which offers high quality courses, interesting special events, and enjoyable social activities for anyone over 50 in the metropolitan Washington area (you do not have to be a resident of Arlington or Virginia).

Classes are held during the day at convenient Arlington locations. Course offerings for the fall semester this year include: Alternative Medicine, International Theater, Global Hotspots, Lorca and Modern Spain, Writing about Your Life, and Environmentally Friendly Gardening, among many others.

Course catalogs are available at most Arlington public libraries and senior centers and online at the ALRI website: www.arlingtonlri.org. Annual membership dues are \$55, with each course costing \$45.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR SENIORS: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MD

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services offers some 60 programs to residents. The services are organized by "service areas;" two areas are of interest to senior citizens: Senior Information and Services, and Disability Information and Services.

Covered are the following: abuse, neglect and addictions; information on benefits related to social security, Medicare, health insurance, and prescriptions; assistance with a diverse range of disabilities; health promotion; mental health; food and nutritional programs; housing programs; recreation and senior centers; transportation; energy assistance; and emergency planning and preparedness. Detailed information can be obtained from the Department by e-mail at: hhsmail@montgomerycountymd.gov or by calling 240-777-3000.

Transportation: As of July 2006, the Division of Transit Services of the Department of Public Works and Transportation of Montgomery County set the following Ride-On fares for senior citizens: Seniors age 65 or older with a valid Metro Senior ID Card or with a valid Medicare card and photo ID pay \$0.60, as does an attendant with an attendant-eligible card accompanying the senior.

Travel between 9:30 am and 3:00 pm is free for seniors and attendants. The regular fare is \$1.25.

TIPS FOR WRITING PROFESSIONAL E-MAIL MESSAGES

E-mail writing has become an everyday need for most of us and often we do not think twice before hitting the send or the forward keys. This may lead to embarrassing situations. Recently a high executive officer of a well known airline wrote an angry message giving instructions to one of his assistants on how to

deal with a distraught passenger, and by a "clicking" mistake he sent the message to the complaining passenger, not to the airline representative. This became national news in the USA. Frequently you read anecdotes of something like that happening in relation to office gossip landing on the wrong screen.

Gossip, of course, should be considered off-limits when writing e-mail messages. There are also problems of style, like writing solid blocks of text with no breaks for visual relief, or messages written with capital letters, the digital equivalent of SHOUTING, which is a no-no in e-mail writing.

The following principles for writing professional and courteous e-mail messages are part of PAHO's training material on this subject, prepared by M. Rudick and L. O'Flahavan, partners in E-WRITE, a consulting company.

1. Use conventional spelling and upper/lower case letters.
2. Omit jokes and sarcasm.
3. Use a clear, complete subject line that announces the point of the e-mail.
4. Omit emoticons (keyboard characters representing facial expressions).
5. Only "CC" people who really need to know about the content of the e-mail but who don't need to respond.
6. Use "BCC" only when protecting the e-mail addresses of willing recipients of your e-mail. The only other use of BCC's is "tattling".
7. Ask permission to forward messages.
8. Avoid using e-mail to deliver bad news.
9. Request a receipt only when the message is about time sensitive enrollment or attendance.
10. Use a greeting and a closing.
11. Use conventional, correct punctuation instead of impassioned, extraneous, or creative punctuation.
12. Change the subject line when the topic of the e-mail changes.

13. Whenever possible, incorporate content into the message instead of using attachments.
14. If sending an attachment, refer to the attachment in the message and explain why you attached it.
15. Respond promptly, within 24 hours
16. Use formatting carefully and sparingly. Do not use underlining, avoid italics (use bold instead), avoid ALL CAPS

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Wine and Friendship, from Carlos Hernán Daza

I would like to inform my colleagues in the Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members (AFSM) that for some time I have been participating in some meetings that are held by a very pleasant and amiable group with a common interest in good food and in tasting fine wines. It is a true "gourmet club" composed of former staff members of international organizations in the Washington area.

I am referring to "The Wine Club," which for the past five years has met monthly in the Alpine Restaurant in Arlington VA, to enjoy lunch and taste wines that have been chosen in advance for each meeting. A group of two or three members who are responsible for selecting and purchasing the wines makes a brief presentation about the wine to be tasted, describes its enological characteristics, and shares relevant information about it. The talks are complemented with printed materials for each participant.

Besides serving good Italian food, the Alpine Restaurant allows Club members to take their own wines and provides them with all they need to enjoy them, with excellent service and moderate prices. The atmosphere is most conducive to the enjoyment of good wine and conviviality.

As Juan Luis Colaiacovo, president of The Wine Club, would have pointed out, it is important to draw a distinction between "enophiles" and "enologists." The former appreciate, enjoy, and have an interest in good wine, whereas

enologists are professionals who, by virtue of their training and experience, work in the wine industry throughout all stages, including production, preparation, and marketing.

On one hand, an enologist is almost certainly an enophile, which is perhaps the reason for choosing the profession. However, an enophile is not necessarily an enologist. One thing is certain, though: the members of The Wine Club, whether they are formally "knowledgeable" about wine or not, enjoy and share the rewarding experience of getting together.

Any organization learns and grows as time passes and in that process always strives for improvement. The fact that since its establishment the Club has already held close to 60 meetings with an average of 20 members per session is undoubtedly an indication that it has a strong presence and has become a *bona fide* institution. It is not a small thing to have tasted nearly 700 wine bottles from different regions and countries. Obviously, the interest, steadfastness, and involvement of its members have turned The Wine Club into a great social and gustatory experience.

AFSM members who are interested and wish to find out more about The Wine Club can contact Ezio Vermiglio, Club member, at bononicola@verizon.net. Needless to say, I will be happy to personally assist anyone who feels enthusiastic about the Club and writes telling me so at cardaza@comcast.net

Carlos Hernán Daza

News from Ed Parham

(See photo on page 12)

When I left PAHO in July 2000, I was probably, like most, looking forward to new adventures and relaxation and a bit fearful of having nothing to do. I used to laugh at others who said they didn't know how they ever had time to work because they were so busy in retirement.

My wife Re and I moved to Florida in October 2000. We lived in our travel trailer for seven months, waiting until Re found a job, so that we would know where to buy a house. Re went to work in Rockledge FL, and we decided to

make Cocoa FL our home. After an extensive search of resale houses, we decided to have a house custom built. What was supposed to take five to six months, ended up being 53 weeks from signing the contract to move-in day.

We continued to improve our dream house by adding a heated and air-conditioned workshop, boat garage, and hot tub. We enclosed our patio to a screened porch and enjoyed our midnight skinny dips. All was right with the world until.....Hurricane Charley, Hurricane Frances, Hurricane Jeanne and Hurricane Ivan all decided to pay Florida a visit in 2004.

Besides the hurricanes, which caused us to be without electricity for a total of 26 days - yes cold showers! - we also discovered that everything rusts and that eternal summer does get boring. You have to look at a calendar to know what month it is.

Enough was enough and we moved to my birth state of Georgia in October 2005. My siblings all live within an hour's drive, and my son is a little over an hour away. We bought six and a half acres of woods, across the street from a huge lake. We cut out just enough of the vegetation to put in our house. We love sitting on our front porch and watching the squirrels, birds, and deer feed in our front yard.

Re retired in April this year, and we now have plenty of time to engage in one of our favorite pastimes, fishing. The lake is never a disappointment, and we can always catch dinner and then some. As is our nature, we have not stopped "improving" our home. Recent additions have been hardwood and tile floors. As you can see, I now know what those other retirees were talking about!

If you are ever down Georgia way, please drop in! The welcome mat is always out. But please be sure to call ahead, or we might just be out catching a big one when you show up!!!

Ed and Re Parham, Eatonton GA
reanded@yahoo.com
706-923-0436

IN MEMORIAM

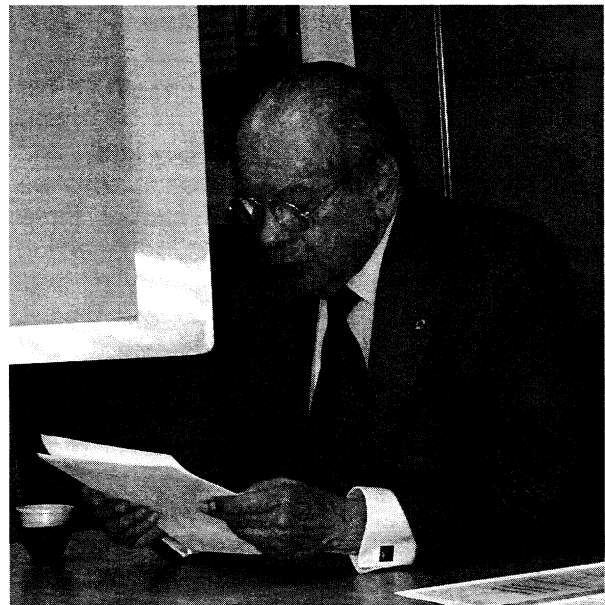
| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Julio Araujo Mesquita | 26 March 2007 |
| Arnold A. Aarons | 27 March 2007 |
| Gaby Escajadillo | 5 June 2007 |
| Francisco Carmona | 16 June 2007 |
| Ester Jaramillo | 26 June 2007 |
| Gusman Garcia Martin | 2 July 2007 |
| Robert F. Knouss | 10 July 2007 |
| Robert D. Heath | 17 July 2007 |
| Noris B. Figueroa | 26 August 2007 |
| Marina Meena | 14 October 2007 |
| Joe H. Held | 29 October 2007 |
| Merlin L. Brubaker | Date unknown |
| Felipe Ruiz Silva | Date unknown |

REMEMBERING COLLEAGUES

**Francisco Antonio Carmona Marulanda,
1919–2007**

"The only ones who die are those who are forgotten."

Ramón del Valle Inclán



Francisco Carmona, as he was known in PAHO, was born in the city of Pereira in Colombia's coffee-growing region. He was the second of ten siblings. His family later moved to Manizales, the capital of the Department of Caldas, where Francisco graduated from high

school. He obtained his college education at Universidad Nacional (Bogotá) and in 1953 earned a medical degree *cum laude*. His thesis, titled "Paraphrenia and Hysteria: Rorschach's Psychodiagnosis," received an award. He went on to specialize in Public Health and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health of the University of Chile.

When he completed his studies, he worked in the country as a public servant. He became the mayor of his native city, as well as the founder and director of the Integrated Health Institute [Instituto Integrado de Salud] in Pereira, Secretary of Health of the Department of Caldas, a researcher at the National Nutrition Institute, and the author of several articles on his area of expertise.

In 1966 he joined the Pan American Health Organization and worked in Guatemala, Uruguay, Argentina, and in Headquarters in Washington, where he retired in 1980.

When he returned home, he was appointed advisor to the Minister of Health and subsequently became a researcher at the National Health Institute, where he spent the rest of his working life.

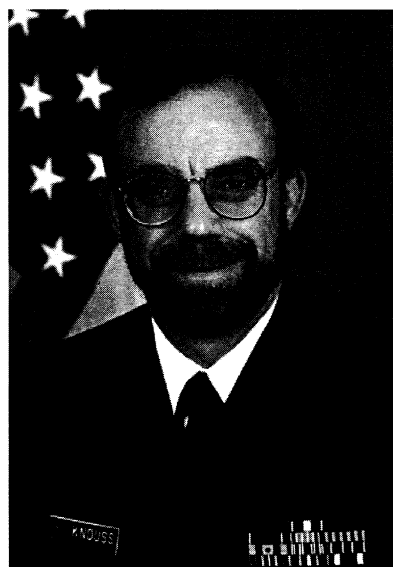
He became a member of the National Academy of Medicine and assiduously attended its meetings until the week prior to his unexpected demise. His 87 years of age did not prevent him from continuing to pursue research, and in fact he passed away at six in the afternoon on 15 June, while he sat at his computer writing about the rise in suicide rates among Colombian youth.

A week before he passed away he attended a meeting of former PAHO staff members that was held in the Organization's headquarters in Bogotá for the purpose of discussing issues surrounding the establishment of a Colombian Chapter of the Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members. The photo shows him speaking at that meeting.

A few months before his death he wrote the following to one of his grandchildren who was living abroad: "Where you live, springtime warms the bones and restores energy. Here, the cold and old age hurt the lower back and knees. Walking becomes slow and dragging. Still, I love life and reach out in search of a century of existence..."

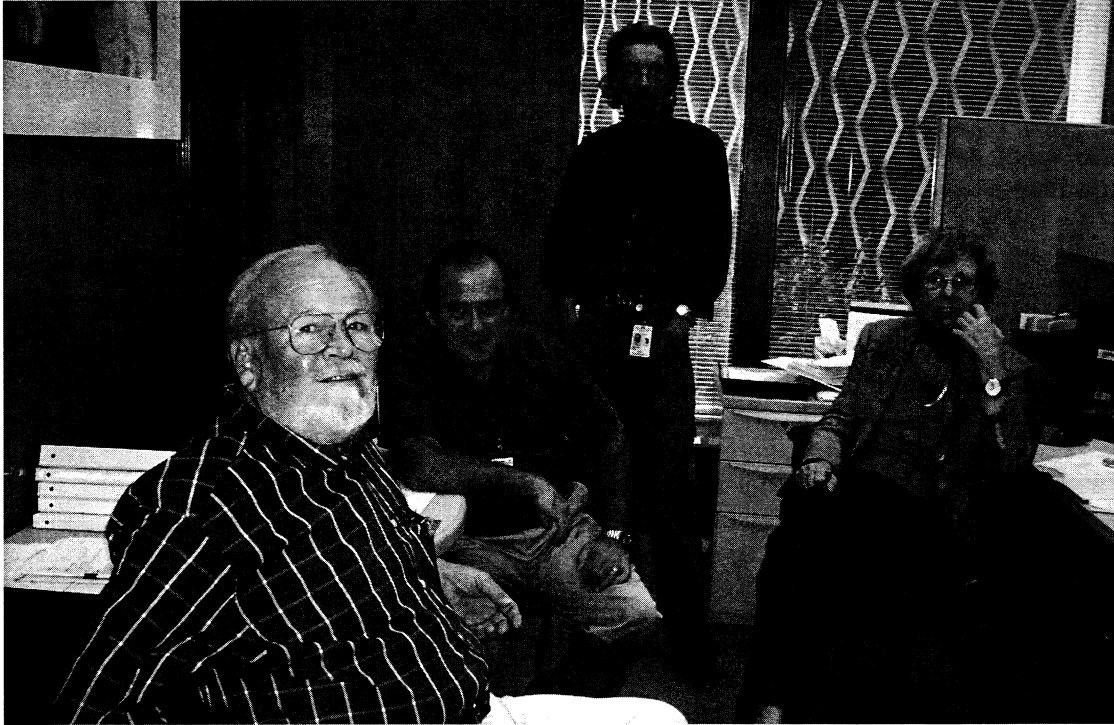
- Written by Jaime Ayalde based on information provided by Margarita Carmona

Robert F. Knouss, 1944-2007

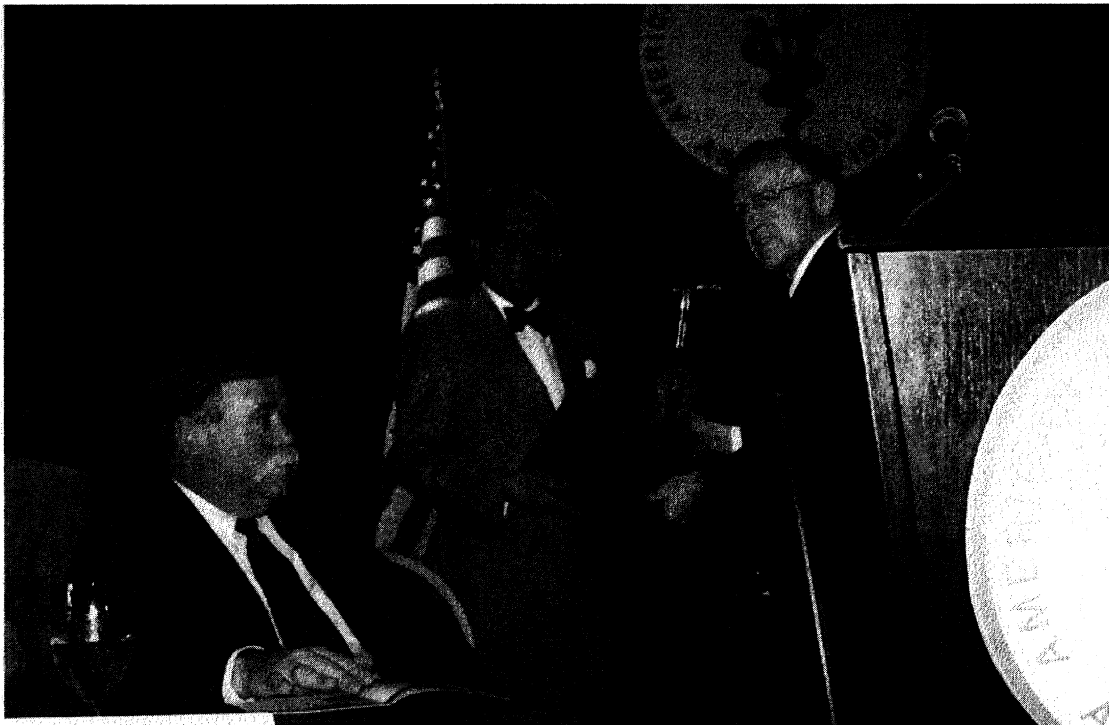


Former PAHO Deputy Director (1985-1995), Dr. Robert F. Knouss, died on 10 July 2007 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Dr. Knouss devoted his life to the advancement of public health and the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. He served in a variety of positions including Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness; his service with the Corps culminated with his leadership of the Transformation of the Commissioned Corps into the 21st century.

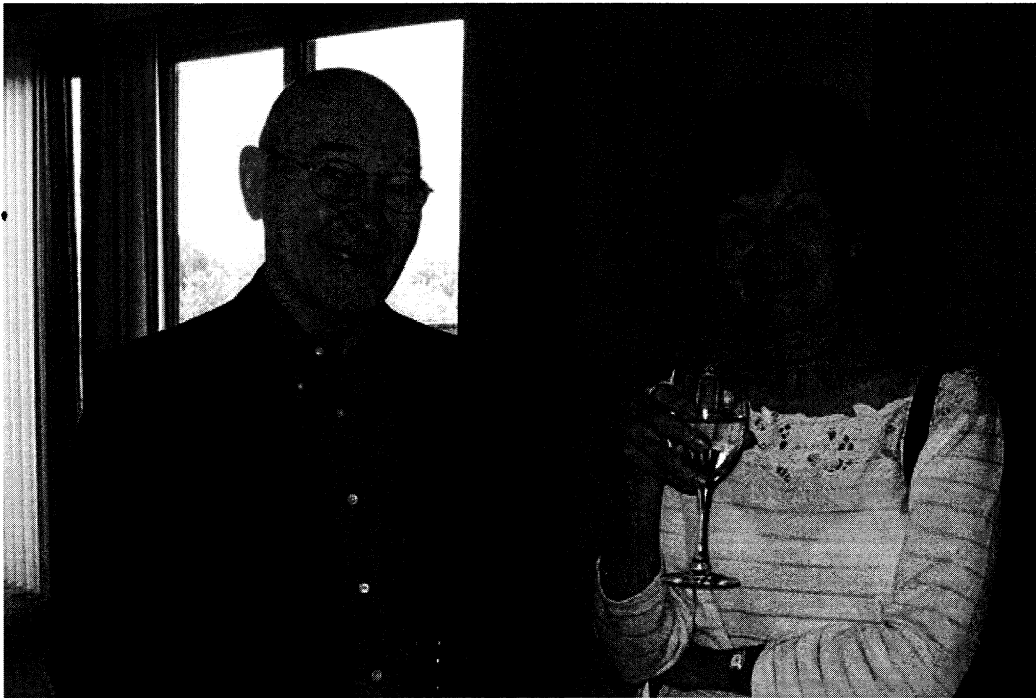
Dr. Knouss worked in the field of public health for nearly 35 years. He was a visionary, who was known for his hard work and tenacity. He leaves behind a wife, Martha, and two children, Becca and Chris.



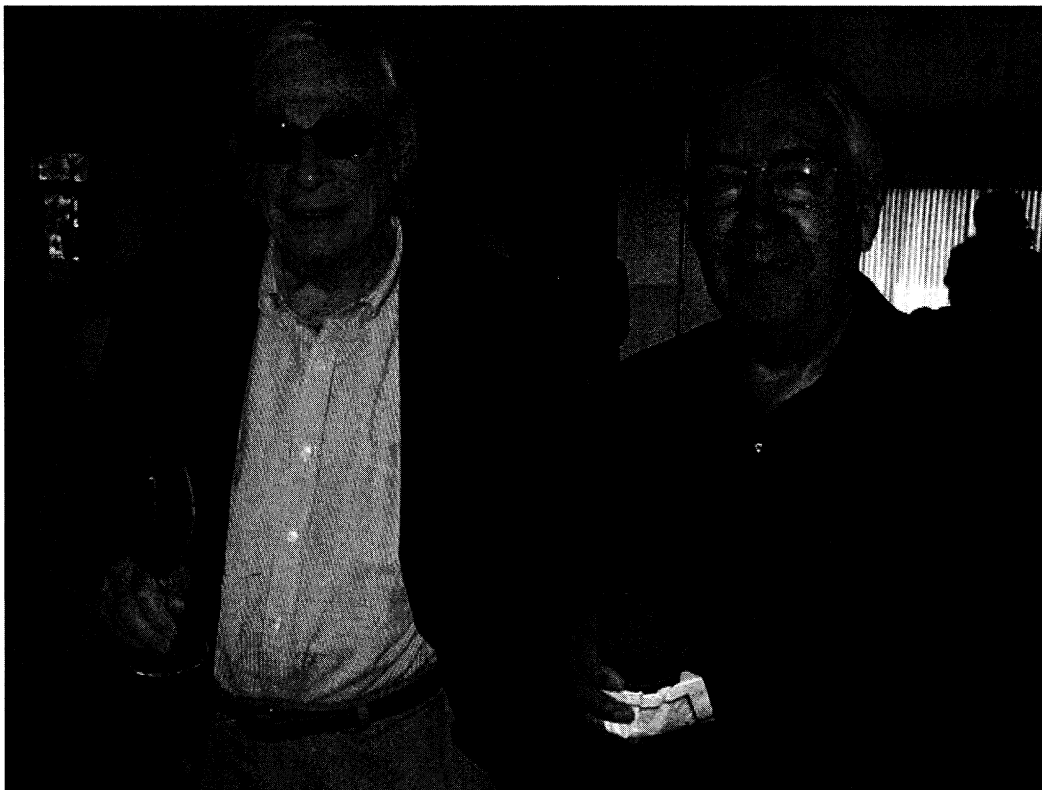
Ed Parham drops by his old office during a visit to Washington from Georgia. From left to right, Ed Parham, Sergio Chacon, Rickey Harpster, Jan Barahona.



Primo Arambulo is awarded the James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award for 2007.



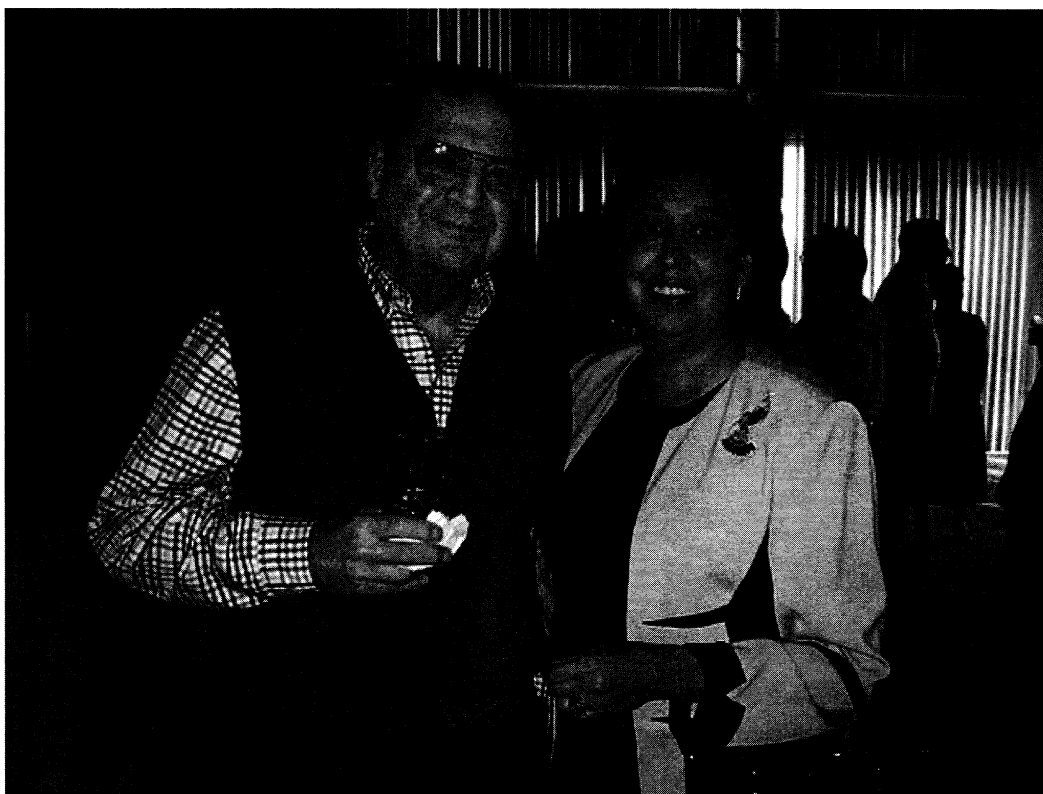
Jerry Hanson, Patricia Peterson



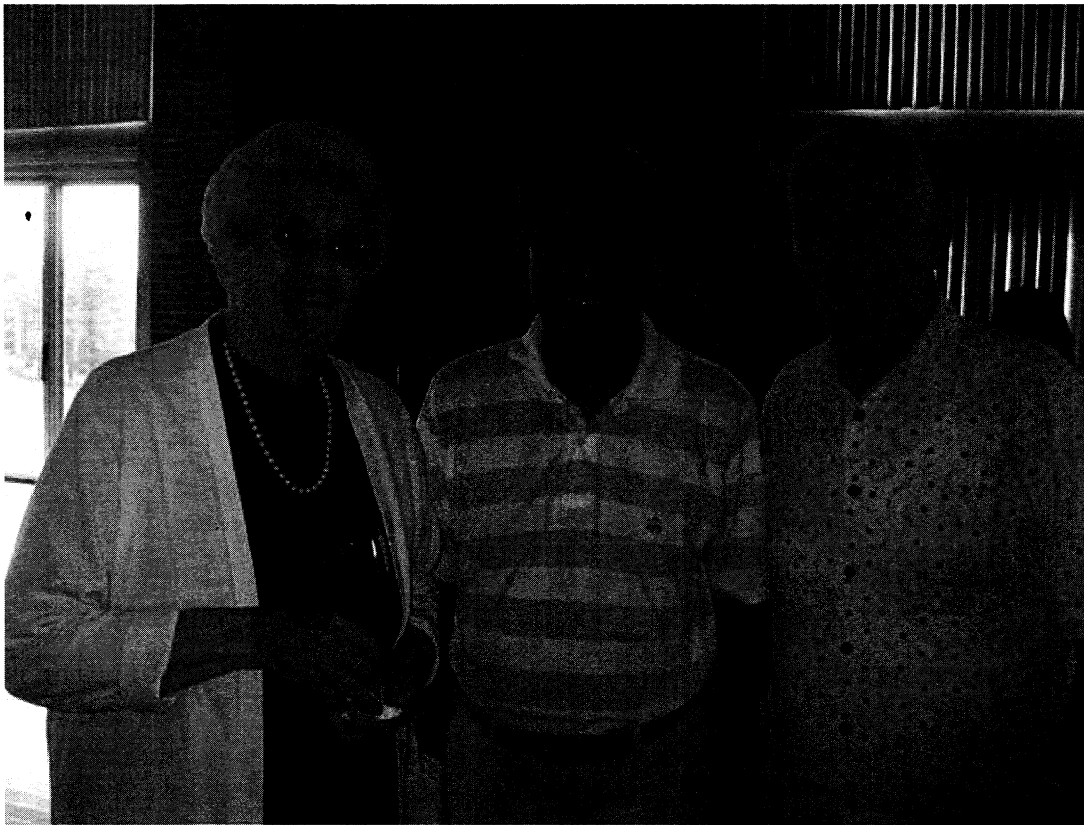
Jim Milam, Guillermo Dávila



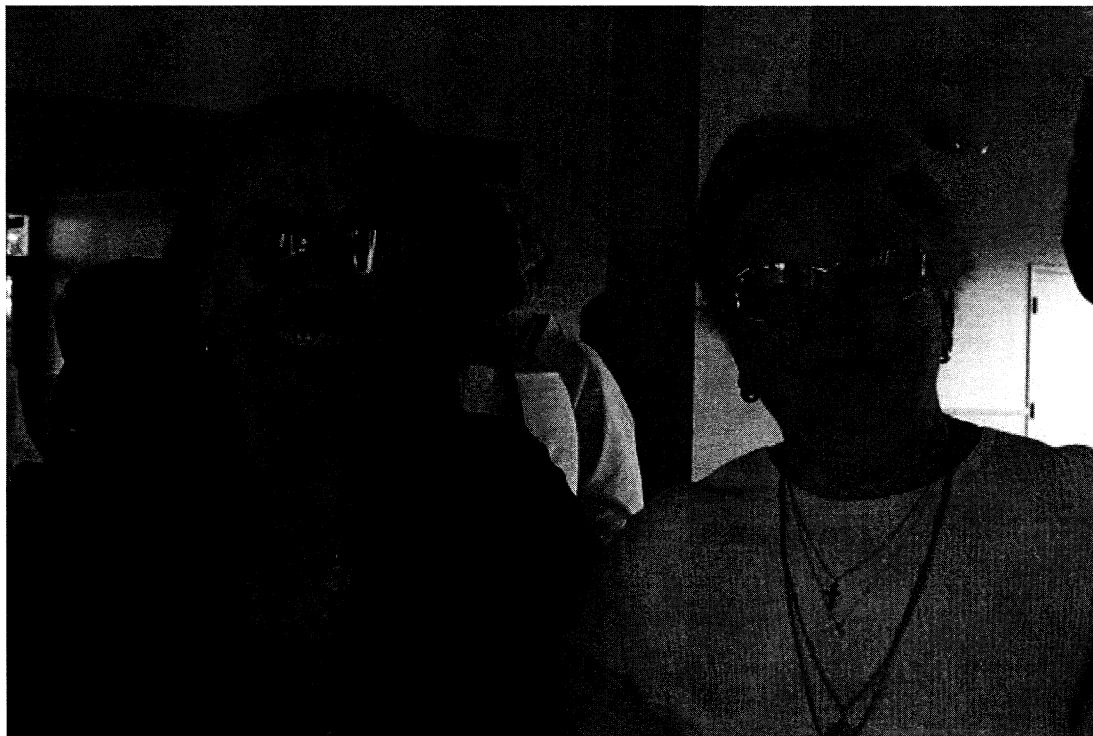
Jim Milam, Jean Surgi, José María Salazar



Miguel Bullrich, Gloria Khokhar



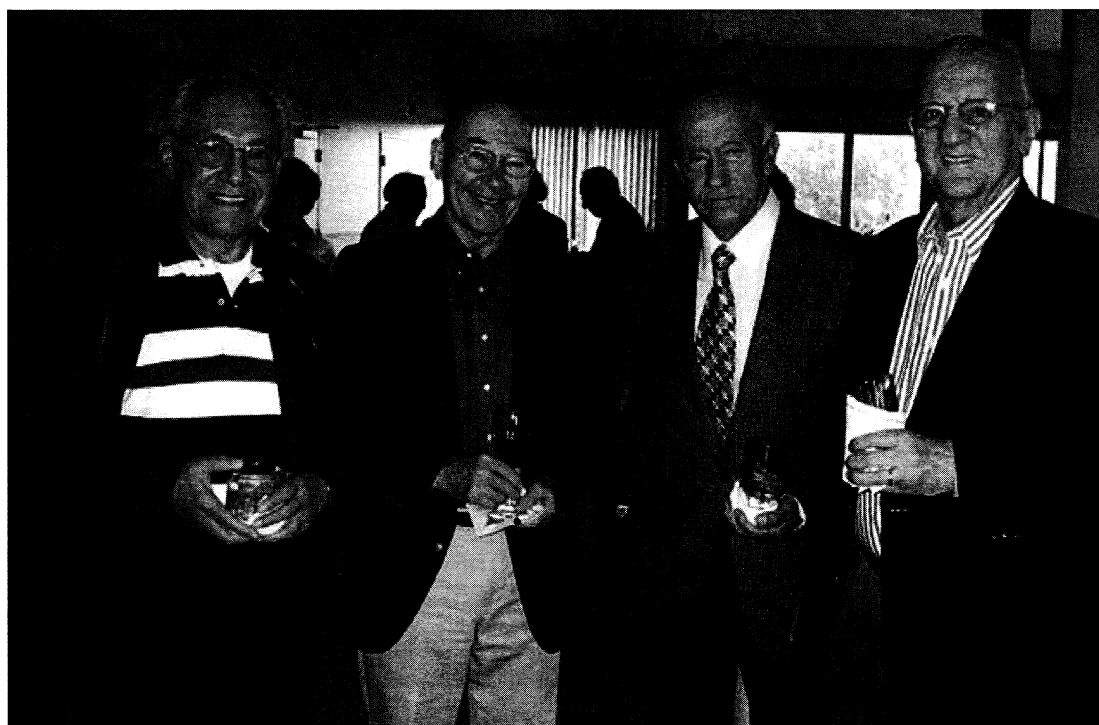
Jean Surgi, Primo Arambulo, José María Guerricagoitia



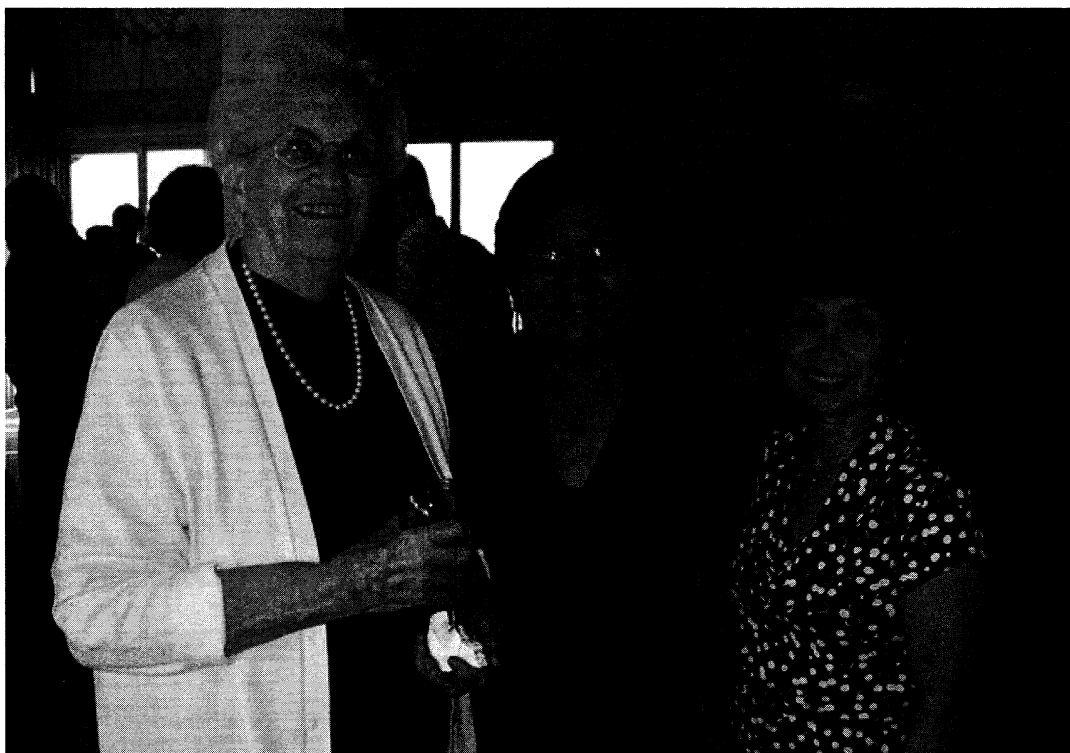
Amalia Ponce, Elsa Ochoa



Brenda Simons Gilliam, Amalia Ponce



Carlos Daza, Jerry Hanson, José María Salazar, Jorge Litvak



Jean Surgi, Toni Farrington, Melinda Arambulo



Richard Marks, Flora Early

THE BACK PAGE

The AFSM board and committee coordinators would like to know about the needs of its members. We might not be able to solve all your problems but we have resources that

could be utilized. We would also like to have your input to the Newsletter, either in the form of articles for publication, or in comments on the contents.

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Note: The term of each member of the BOD expires in December of the year in parentheses.

Membership and Sociocultural Activities

Coordinator - Hortensia Saginor
Member - Luzmaría Esparza

Staff Association and Credit Union

Liaison - Luzmaría Esparza

Field Activities

Coordinator - Germán Mora
Members - Jaime Ayalde, Mario Boyer

Editorial Committee

Coordinator - Jan Barahona
Members - Jaime Ayalde, Egla Blouin, Mario Boyer, Jean Surgi

Health and Health Insurance Committee

Coordinator - Jorge Litvak
Members - Jaime Ayalde, Jan Barahona, Mario Boyer, Gerald Hanson

Pensions

Jaime Ayalde, Mario Boyer