

Board Meeting AFSM WDC 28/10/2021

Developing AFSM Colombia Chapter
History, progress, achievements, challenges

Alberto Concha-Eastman
President JD AFSM CC 2021-2023

Brief Historical Note

- **First meeting in 2006, Buenos Aires, Argentina, initial ideas to form AFSM CC. Initiative of various former staff members, public health leaders with credibility in Colombia and in PAHO/WHO.**

Other meetings:

- ✓ **Cali, formalize the creation of AFSM CC;**
- ✓ **Cartagena (2007): Action Plan and Bylaws**
- ✓ **Subachoque (2008, near Bogotá): name Board and define annual dues**
- ✓ **Cartagena (Sept. 2008), International AFSM meeting and presentation “Why and For What a Colombia Chapter?” (Helena Restrepo)**
- ✓ **Bucaramanga (June 2009), Bogotá (Sept 2009 and January 2010)**
- Deepen relation AFSM CC/PWR/Documentation Center**
- ✓ **Medellín (June 2010) National Faculty of Public Health, AFSM supports reform**

Brief Historical Note

- **Ibagué (July 2011), with ASOPENUC, Double system adjustment**
- **WDC (Dec 2011) delegate of CC to AFSM meeting**
- **Coffee Axis (2012): present international participants and former staff members from other countries**
- **WDC (Dec 2012) Virtual participation in AFSM**
- **Bogotá (Oct 2013) National meeting, PWR participates**
- **WDC (Dec 2013) Virtual participation in AFSM. Since 2006, 15 national assemblies and monthly Board meetings**

Components of AFSM CC Development

1. **Intangible:**
 - **Comradery, desire to maintain friendship, fellowship; support during crisis and suffering, remember those who passed, participation of spouses**
 - **Feeling of belonging**
 - **Active and efficient Board, Secretary, Treasurer are fundamental**
 - **Function by not responding to formal obligations with the organization, rather a sense for belonging and solidarity, maintain ties with the PWR**
 - **Have current Bylaws, review when needed, adherence**
 - **Contact other UN agencies such as ASOPENUC.**
 - **Interpersonal communication for virtual and in person contact**

Components of AFSM CC Development

- 2. The tangible or daily: Actualization and training in**
 - a) Health care, SHI, refunds, emergencies, etc.**
 - b) Pensions, certificate of entitlement**
 - c) Link and relations with FCU: manage account, orientation, assessing, solution of de impasses**
 - d) Last assembly 1 October: 37/48 (77%) active members residents in Colombia or abroad. Attract more members is a constant motive**
 - e) Each year there is a review of the annual dues by the assembly, payments received, exempt above 90 or with discapacity**

Components of AFSM CC Development

3. Experience and teachings in PAHO/WHO

- We are public health workers with experience and ethical and humanist education, solidarity has intrinsic value
- Our interest is community life, socially
- Propose to maintain high interest in national, regional and global public health. (i.e., Covid-19 pandemic).
- Good use of the experience of former staff members, i.e., GHIA technical with regional and global interest, continue consultancies with PAHO/WHO
- AFSM CC interact and meet with PWR
- Constant interactions with the Representation of PAHO/WHO Colombia

Components of AFSM CC Development

- 4. Cultural social activities and national gatherings**
 - a) In person annual reunions (pre pandemic) brought us together, were motivating, outings and cultural activities included**
 - b) Periodical Cine Club organized by qualified cinephile member, excellent event, in AFSM Action Plan**
 - c) “Breakfast with history”: virtual and daily, other associate**
 - d) Support social projects**
 - e) Stimulate intellectual technical discussions**
 - f) Using WhatsApp facilitates communication**

Components of AFSM CC Development

Constant challenges:

1. **Maintain high levels of knowledge, reading PAHO/WHO documents concerning the analysis of national and international public health problems**
2. **Know the interests and needs of the members**
3. **Maintain AFSM CC beyond political and religious differences**
4. **Attend opportunely the requirements, complaints, concerns, or proposals of members**
5. **Strengthen relations with AFSM WDC**

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION