

SAN DIEGO/LEON SISTER CITY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Hello San Diego/Leon Sister City members. We have had several exciting events over the past few months and the future promises more. Mark your calendar and plan on scheduling time for activities you can attend.

The San Diego Leon Sister City Society was well represented at the US /Mexico International convention held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. Present were our President Sandra Allen and daughter Megan, Don and Connie Goertz, Ernest and Laura Shiwanov, James and Laura Guadalupe Wendell, and Ray and Lydia Stewart. Adding to the representation from San Diego were our counterparts from Leon, Gto. Mexico, the President of the Leon /San Diego Sister City Society Carlos Barajas and Richard Sheffield a long time member and currently the Curator General of the Zoo in Leon, Gto. Mexico. They contributed significantly to the success of the convention and the campaign for the International President of the US/Mexico International Sister Cities Society. We all had a fantastic visit to Tuxtla Gutierrez and were fortunate to see many local treasures.

Our visit to the Miguel del Toro Zoo Park was very enlightening. As we entered the grounds there were Monkeys in the trees, not in a cage, wild birds and even deer roaming around the grounds out in the open. The park is built right in the jungle and you have the feeling as you walk around that you are in the wilderness. Lots of trees and ground cover and everything is green.

We left early in the morning on the 11th of August to visit the El Chiflon Waterfalls. It was a bus ride of several hours and a hike up a steep hill to see the falls up close. Again it was like walking through the jungle. Once up close the water was falling over a cliff with such velocity that the surrounding area was like walking into a shower. Everyone that got close was immediately saturated with moisture. Wet! A great adventure.

We visited the San Juan Chamula area that was inhabited by an Indigenous community of people that practice customs going back many years. Of interest were the local church and the farmers market in the area where fruits and vegetables of all kinds were available.

On the agenda was a visit to the city of San Cristobal de las Casas. This was a modern clean and traditional community that had lots of markets and shops. The ladies had a great time and especially in the jewelry shops.

During the afternoon of the 12th of August the group visited the gorgeous lake of Sumidero Canyon. We hopped into very fast boats, donned our life jackets and proceeded up the lake surrounded by extremely high rising mountains. Everything

was green and beautiful. We pulled into a restaurant and had a fantastic traditional lunch with plenty of cervesa provided.

The absolute highlight of the US/Mexico International Convention was that our very own candidate Don Goertz was elected as the US/Mexico International President. Don and Connie have been very active in Sister Cities organization and are members of several San Diego/Mexico Sister Cities and other US \Mexico Sister Cities throughout the state. Both are active in the US/Mexico Sister City Association, Inc. with Don serving as the Treasurer and Connie as the Vice President. They are well deserving of the success in the election and will enhance and provide future growth to the entire Sister Cities organization.

Future events:

San Diego/Leon Christmas Party December 2006

San Diego/Leon Annual Membership brunch February 2007

US/Mexico National SCS Conference in Laredo, Texas. January 2007

Mexico/US National SCS Conference in Tijuana, Mexico. April 2007

US/Mexico International SCS Conference in El Paso, Texas. August 2007

It has been a super year and we look forward to the remainder of 2006 and what looks like an eventful 2007.

**Raymond Stewart, Editor
San Diego/Leon Board Member.**