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## President's Message - USMSCA

We hope you attended the International Conference in Irapuato, Gto. this past October. Sister City President Salvador Lee Chavez and his committee presented a very fulfilling and exciting conference. There was much to explore and learn about the city and surrounding area. The Children's Hospital "CRIT" was a real experience. This very contemporary hospital uses the very latest techniques to rehabilitate children. Our delegation was given a complete tour of the facility and then invited to lunch. The International Board besides a monetary donation gave uniforms to the girl's orphanage and new shoes and athletic equipment to the boy's orphanage. Some of the children attended the luncheon and thanked us for our thoughtfulness and donations. None of this could have been accomplished without the tireless efforts of our Irapuato Sister City Committee.

Our newest sister city member, Green Bay, Wisconsin was there in mass to sign a sister city agreement with Irapuato. Mayor Jim Schmitt and his sister city committee thoroughly enjoyed themselves and resolved to invite us to Green Bay for a conference which they are in the process of preparing a bid. As this is being written, three Irapuato Police Officers are in Green Bay now receiving advanced police training. This is a typical example of what sister cities is all about.

The entire conference was very busy with education and cultural experiences for all of us. Presidente Mario Turrent, Mayor of Irapuato was very thoughtful in giving us his full attention while we were there. If you plan to go to México, do not bypass Irapuato. The city is very historical and also has some of the most modern facilities in all of México. As the agricultural bread basket of México, they also have the very best in strawberries and food.

Let's fast forward now to Saltillo, Coah. for the Mexican Sister City Conference. West of Monterrey and located in the high desert surrounded by mountains is Saltillo. Wikipedia states that this is the No. 1 city in México to be living in. It is also the capitol of Coahuila which also included the state of Texas many years ago. The friendly smile and charm of Governor Humberto Moreira was reflected in all of the citizens and especially the Sister City Committee. I always thought that being a Sister City President was a challenging position. However there were so many members stepping forward to help, that all that Presidenta Blanca had to do was turn on her charm and show us her gracious hospitality.

Puerto Vallarta's leader, Ismael Perez was inaugurated as the new Presidente of México / U.S. Ciudades Hermanas. Past President Eduardo Iduante Ramirez has turned over a very well organized association to Ismael and we look forward to many new and excellent events with this new administration. My husband and I have been privileged and consider it an honor to serve in the continuing relationship between the United States and México on both the National and International Boards. We embrace the wonderful friendships we have made and as a result, the

abrazos and warmth of México is a part of our daily life. Machismos gracias por todos. Seamos amigos.

Connie Goertz, President  
U.S./México Sister Cities Association, Inc.

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