



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020-2021 AND PLANS FOR 2022

After two years of unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19, the Amigo Club of Ashland looks forward with optimism at Ashland-Guanajuato Sister City relations.

Behind the scenes, the board of directors kept busy, holding regular monthly video conferences to keep abreast of developments, not only in Ashland, but also in Guanajuato.

Here is a partial list of board activities:

- Removed our artifacts from the Guanajuato Room at the Ashland Public Library and placed them in storage during the library's remodeling. We are in discussions with the library about their new location in the library.
- Greeted longtime Guanajuato collaborator Dr. Martin Pantoja during his visit to Ashland for personal reasons.
- Sought protection from the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department for the Guanajuato Mural on Calle Guanajuato, where restaurant chairs were rubbing against the mural.
- Attended the graduation of Isbyzaira Cristina Morales Fierro, a University of Guanajuato student who received her Master of Business Administration degree at a "Hooding Ceremony" on the Southern Oregon University campus.
- Accepted an invitation to participate in a University of Guanajuato initiative, the Virtual Museum of Sister Cities, launched in 2020. You may visit it online at www.museovirtualug.org
- Made tentative reservations for this year's Guanajuato Nights dinner/fundraiser at the Rogue River Room in November, depending on pandemic conditions.
- Held board of director elections by email in December 2021.



Board of Directors Election Results

The Nominating Committee announced the election results for members to serve two-year terms, from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 – 2023

President:	Betzabé “Mina” Turner
President-Elect	Jay A. Tapp
Vice President:	Karen Grove
Treasurer:	Sean Van Ausdall
501 (C)(3) Grants Coordinator:	Kernan Turner
Secretary:	Lynn Lamoree
Guest Housing Coordinator:	Marina Kendig
Guanajuato Liaison:	Señora Chela Tapp-Kocks
Historian:	Catherine VanAusdall

Amigo Club Endowed Scholarship

We are pleased to report that Faffie Siekman Romero has donated \$8,000 over the last two years to our Amigo Club endowed scholarship, elevating its funds to more than \$262,000. We have nearly \$7,000 available this year for scholarships. Faffie has regularly donated at least an amount matching the proceeds from each year’s Guanajuato Nights, but no fund-raiser has been held since 2019 because of the pandemic.



Plans for 2022

As the CDC gradually eases its recommended mask and social-distance mandates, The Amigo Club is resurfacing and making plans for 2022.

Entre Amigos

Starting this month, our newspaper column, "Entre Amigos" will resume keeping the community abreast of Sister City activities in Ashland and Guanajuato. Look for it at *Ashland.news*, the community's online, "independent, professional, nonprofit news service" edited by Bert Etling, former editor of the *Ashland Tidings*. You may also find back issues of the column on the Amigo Club website at ashlandamigoclub.org

Visit of Dr. Martin Pantoja and nine students

University of Guanajuato Professor Dr. Martin Pantoja will be visiting SOU April 2-10. He will be bringing nine University of Guanajuato students to SOU to work on a project on "Doing Business in the USA." In May 2022, SOU professors and students will visit Guanajuato for the same purpose, but on "Doing Business in Mexico." This initiative is part of the Amistad exchange program begun 52 years ago between the two universities.

Guanajuato Nights

The Amigo Club is pleased to announce Guanajuato Nights is back! The sixth edition of the dinner/fundraiser will return to the Rogue River Room on the SOU campus on Saturday, November 12. The pandemic forced us to suspend Guanajuato Nights for two years. It raises funds for the club's endowed scholarship fund. As in the past, the event will feature a 50/50



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raffle, a silent auction, and we hope a live auction. We're working on the traditional Mexican cuisine menu now.

Fourth of July

The Chamber of Commerce just announced the celebration of the Fourth of July with the traditional parade. We will be holding our Poetry Recital, annual Fourth of July party and probably offering at our kiosk traditional Mexican paletas (fruit flavored frozen treats).

Looking Forward

Through it all, we never lost our forward momentum. We are now renewing our events and activities, setting new goals, and looking at the future with energy and great expectations.

We recognize and are grateful for the profound impact our members and volunteers have on the Amigo Club and the communities of Ashland and Guanajuato.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Betzabé H. "Mina" Turner
President



AMIGO CLUB OF ASHLAND, OREGON, INC.

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