



AMIGO CLUB OF ASHLAND, OREGON, INC.

MESSAGE TO THE BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMIGO CLUB OF ASHLAND, OREGON, INC,

January 4, 2024

I am deeply honored and privileged to have served as president of the Amigo Club of Ashland for the past 15 years. It was an extremely rewarding experience. The friends I have encountered in Ashland and Guanajuato are priceless.

I would like to highlight some of the club's accomplishments during this period and I hope you will not forget our (Kernan and I) contribution to the club's accomplishments. To the members of the different boards of directors and all the volunteers during this period, my immense gratitude for your generosity, work, and selfless service.

1. We achieved 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status recognized by the IRS, which allowed us to create the Amigo Club Endowed Scholarship.
2. The scholarship continues to encourage student exchanges under the Amistad Program between Southern Oregon University and the Universidad de Guanajuato.
3. We just celebrated our sixth Guanajuato Nights dinner/auction, the main fundraiser for the scholarships. The SOU Foundation reports we have at least \$225,000 in the fund under its care.
4. Between the two universities, we have granted 16 scholarships to students, including three from Guanajuato in 2024, attending SOU for continued study in music and business administration.
5. We have created an Amigo Club web page <https://ashlandamigoclub.org/> that shares regularly updated information about us with the public.
6. We have initiated and published 75 monthly editions of the "Entre Amigos" column in either the Ashland Tidings or currently <https://ashland.news> The web page has copies of all of them.
7. We began saving \$50 a month to build a nest egg for financing extraordinary major functions such as the 50th anniversary celebrated in 2019.

In closing, I would like to recognize the generosity of our major benefactor, Faffie Siekman Romero, who each year matches or exceeds the scholarship funds raised by the Guanajuato Nights dinner/auctions.

I am eager to step aside for the new leadership to manage the club's activities and events.

Thank you for these years. It was my privilege to have been your president. I feel humbled by the extraordinary experience and opportunity it gave me to serve you and our community.

Betzabé "Mina" Turner
Immediate Past President