



THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS DECEMBER 2011

BUSY YEAR

2011 has been a very busy year compared to years past for the number of visitors we have hosted in Southern Arizona. With the fiscal year just half over, we have hosted as many visitors as we did during all of last year. None of it would have been possible without the cooperation and involvement of you, the members, and those in the community that shared their knowledge, time and interest with the visitors and the outstanding Board of Directors.

The second half of the year is shaping up to be as busy as the first half. We are already scheduled for a number of programs and there are more on the way. With that said, we will count on you to continue to offer your homes and friendship to those that come to Southern Arizona on the International Visitors Leadership Program.

I am fortunate to have Dennis Bergquist helping me with programming. Dennis is an experienced programmer since he did the same type of thing for the US Dept. of Ag for years. Being able to "lay off" some of the programming to him has allowed me to begin putting other ideas in place to broaden the scope of SACIV's reach. We will keep you informed as to new and exciting opportunities coming.

Don't forget that April will be the month of the Annual Meeting. This is when the election of officers takes place

and nominations for board membership are presented. Please give serious thought to those that you may feel would be assets to the board, either with fundraising strengths, recruiting strengths, the ability to help the organization grow and other skill sets that will help the Council in the following year. If you, or you know someone, fit those descriptions please nominate them or yourself!

CHANGES

The board had a discussion regarding what to do with the office on Timrod. We never use it because of the appearance, cramped area and junkie room we had to go through to get to the office. It was decided to close that location and donate the computer, desk and chair to a student from Somalia that Dennis and Vonnie are working with to help her in her new country.

Following the meeting there was a location found that may work very well for a new office. This would be a place where the board can meet, visitors can come to and the opportunity to network with other organizations that are in the same building would assist in our networking efforts.

The research continues, we'll keep you up to date on the final decision. But, we are excited about the prospect of having an inviting place for visitors, members and the board to gather.

As for the work the board does, it is almost exclusively done remotely which has worked very well for all of us.

PHOTOS FROM 2011

The visitors that were here in 2011 have been from many different countries with a wide variety of interests. I thought you might enjoy seeing some pictures of some of the visitors and where they are from.



This group was in a meeting with Congresswoman Giffords press team. The visitors were from Kazakhstan.



The same group at Rigo's restaurant with the Mariachi band. The food was "interesting" for them, they liked it but it was a new experience.



Our University Educators from Russia had the opportunity to meet with Sheriff Tony Estrada at the Stables Restaurant in Tuback while they were here.

Upcoming Events

In January we will be hosting our membership drive and appreciation reception. The date is set for January 22 but the location is still under consideration so I will get back

to you with the information right after the first of the year. Just mark your calendars for that date and think of friends and family that you can invite to join us!!



This group was in studying "Combating International Crime". Here they are meeting with the District Representative for Congressman Grijalva. The group was from Central and South America



The Russian Educators had the opportunity to visit with the students at Pantano High School.



"Another great time we had with our TCIV folks from UK, Latvia and Turkey." Maria Orth

In April we will be having our annual meeting, more information on the location, time and more as the date gets closer.

Merry Christmas (Happy Chanukkah) and Happy New Year to all. We at the board are thrilled to be able to work with each of you!