

MINUTES
A.C.T.S. Annual Meeting
Casa de Ejidal, Todos Santos, BCS, MX
Saturday, March 24, 2018; 11 AM-12:20 PM
Attendees: 75+

AGENDA

Welcome & Recap Purpose of ACTS – Vickie Butler, Vice President

- Legally recognized, Mexican, non-profit, volunteer organization.
- Cannot be involved in politics, but can be involved in the health, environment, safety, security, and well-being of the community.
- Recognition of other community org. contributions such as Palapa Society, Padrino, Solo por Ayudar, Manos Magico, Vida y Prosperidad

Treasurer Report – Denise Steffenhagen, Treasurer

- 2017: Jan. 1 - \$21k pesos; Dec. 30 - \$128k pesos
- 2018: Mar. 23 - \$54,189 pesos not earmarked
- See Treasurer's Report for details

Membership / PayPal – Denise

- Join or pay membership dues online at www.actsbaja.org
- Set up PayPal to easily pay recurring membership dues

Phone Book – Wendy Rains

- It's available now, suggested donation of \$150 pesos
- All costs have been covered, thanks to advertising and minimum suggested donation
- 100 additional phone books now being printed

Comfort Care – Wendy

- Program grew out of last year's ACTS conference on Death and Dying
- Expert training sessions began in Spring of 2016 with Dan Hodul, followed by an intense 3-day workshop with Camille Adair, and a 1-day workshop with Frank Osteseski
- Program now has a core group of over 30 volunteers, for 5 different departments (depending on need), such as bereavement counseling
- Program activities include round table discussions, film screenings, a book club, plus on-going workshops and training
 - March 29 – Book club meeting for *The 5 Invitations* by Frank Osteseski
- Next group meeting: April 3rd at Serendipity
- Wendy Rains can be reached at wendy@comfortcare.mx
- Visit the website www.comfortcare.mx and www.actsbaja.org for more information

Security – ACTS President Eduardo Ochoa and Todos Santos Delegado (Mayor) Jesus Beltran

- 20 days ago, Delegado Beltran met with Police, La Paz officials, and Ministerio Publico
- There are 15 Marines (gray uniform), 3 Ministerio Publico investigators and 10 Militaries (green uniform) now patrolling Todos Santos area permanently--more than 2x the number of security previously assigned—in addition to the 7 police for every shift.

- Important to focus on prevention.
- If you are a victim of a crime, report it. Police phone numbers are on the website, and in the phonebook. Reach out to ACTS if you need assistance with this process.
- You can re-apply to join the police Whats App group
- Questions from audience:
 - Q: What is the prosecution rate of those caught?
A: Unknown.
 - Q: How do we keep criminals in jail? Victims have to go to La Paz regularly to fight to keep the in jail.
A: The Delegado has no power to change the law. We need to keep following the process of the current law, even though it is very difficult. Keep filing reports. Keep following up with officials in La Paz.
 - Q: How often will we see patrols? We'd like to see more.
A: We need your participation. Communicate your needs, such as a request for increased patrolling, with the Delegado and police offices.
 - Q: What is the best way to communicate with the Delegado and Police?
A: Phone. Start with the Delegado, and he can communicate with the Police and Fire Dept. See phone numbers in the phone book, and on the website.
 - Q: Can we get a smaller police station in the Otro Lado, such as Las Tunas?
A: Plan has been presented. State dept is evaluating the plan, looking for property that government owns, and identifying funds.
 - Q: What about the recent burglaries in Las Brisas? Tools, gas.
A: Police think they know who they are. Smaller, local individuals, likely drug related. Need more reports.
 - Q: Can we get more street lights, more patrols, in downtown, too?
A: Yes, with our new resources. Come to the next meeting for more details.
 - Q: Can we have your phone number – text in Spanish
A: Delegado Beltran: 612-161-3590
- April 28th at Casa de Ejidal, 11am – Separate meeting focused on Security, with the head of police.

Cell tower – Delegado Beltran

- He is against the cell tower, and says the one in the Las Brisas neighborhood will not be built.
- Stay vigilant, notify the Delegado if you see any cell tower activity in Todos Santos.

Vecinos Vigilantes – John Callender

- This is about neighbors helping neighbors.
- Prevention is key. Reporting crimes is critical, even though it's tough. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity.
- Have the Delegado, Police and Fire dept phone numbers ready. Use the new map to describe the coordinates of where you are located.
- Mobilize and share information. Exchange phone numbers with your neighbors. Get pro-active so that you're ready in case of an incident.
- Suggestions from attendee, post-meeting:
 - Install solar motion detector lights and deadbolt locks (available at Home Depot)
 - Add protective film for windows: Learn more by emailing alexander.g.pogue@gmail.com

Trash / Recycle Programs – Jamie Stephens

- Delegado has received funds to fix, clean and maintain the dump, including soil research.
- Delegado will push the Federal office to clean up the trash left outside of the dump. It is not his jurisdiction.
- Recycle: Alejandro Miro, of the Recycle center, asked the Delegado to be more involved in the recycle program. Possibly have home pick up. In the meantime, he encourages all to drop off recycling at Punta Verde, Miro's recycle center.
- Come to the meeting Monday 6:30 pm El Refugio restaurant to discuss ideas to get plastic out of the garbage and the dump.
- Jamie initiated the highly successful Saturday trash truck pick-up on Playitas across from Cleo's Restaurante.
- Email Jamie Stephens if you want to purchase trash pick-up sticks, to keep areas around your house clean. (cliffnjamies@hotmail.com)

Map Project – Tom Carroll & Eduardo

- Almost finished, Bomberos/Delegado/Police have provided feedback.
- Request for attendees to proofread it after the meeting, one last time.
- Will be available online, as well as a printed version for purchase, soon.
- Large oil-cloth copy to be provided for all first responders.

Audience acknowledgments/New Officer Recruitment/Project Ideas – Vickie

- Introduction of Laurel D'Angelo, new ACTS Secretary.
- Current officers will stay on ACTS Board, but it is time for replacements.
- If anyone is interested, please sign-up or contact one of the current officers.
- If you have ideas for programs, such as Pesticide Education, sign-up.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:20 PM