



North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

HIZKETA

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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NABO President's Message

To begin with I would like to say thank you to the NABO delegates for giving me a vote of confidence in re-electing me as NABO President for a fourth term. I appreciate your trust and support and I will do my utmost to fulfill all of my responsibilities as your President. I hope to embark on another year of interesting and possibly innovating pursuits. As I have stated before, I remain open to your constructive input.

My new year in office began with a visit to Homedale, Idaho for the inauguration of their beautiful new clubhouse. It was a great opportunity to not only meet many wonderful people, but also to see how much can be accomplished within a short period of time by a group of very dedicated members.

I was part of the delegation from the United States at the World Basque Congress in Bilbao. NABO delegates will be provided a full report at our Fall meeting. There were also two trips to San Francisco. The first was to attend the final performance of a very successful "Udaleku" camp with its 75 participants. I was honored to be an assistant to present trophies to the winners in the various competitions of the two week gathering. Keep up the good work! The second was for the closing ceremonies of the Euskal Pilota Txapelketa 2007 (1st Basque Pelota Championship) organized by the World Pelota Council. It was a unique experience to join the heads of pelota from the various participating countries in the procession before mass and also assisting in the presentation of medals to the winners of the Championship. Thank you to the hosting San Francisco Basque Cultural Center; it was a most memorable event!

In September John Ysursa, Xabier Berrueta and I finally made our long awaited reciprocal trip to Mexico City. We were able to present a plaque to commemorate their 100th Anniversary at a 150 member dinner. Though brief, our hosts Eduardo and Begona Ormaechea were marvelous along with everyone else, of our visit. There's more to report on that can be found at our website; thanks to the cooperation of dedicated volunteers we move forward.

Mary Gaztambide

NABO President

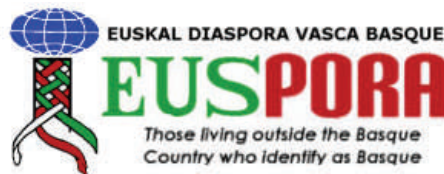


IV World Basque Congress U.S. Delegation

IV World Basque Congress

Held once every four years since 1995, last July's IV World Congress gathered representatives from throughout the Basque Diaspora (Euspora). There were multiple objectives that included providing a forum for the sharing of ideas that might benefit Basque communities, helping to develop a joint four-year plan of action on behalf of the Basque Government vis-à-vis the global Basque Diaspora, and serving as a catalyst for new friendships that might well spawn future joint endeavors. NABO's delegation participated in the formulation of various possible initiatives.

The Congress started off in grand fashion with an inaugural ceremony at the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum. Basque Government representatives, headed by the Lehendakaria (President) Juan Jose Ibarretxe cordially addressed their guests from eighteen different countries. The event included a commemora-



tive ceremony to acknowledge the anniversaries of the Gooding Basque Association and the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center that marked their 25th anniversaries this year. Zorionak!

NABO's presentation came midway through the Congress when we presented our diagnostic of current conditions in our Basque-American community and our collective future plans. We were slated for only a half-hour slot, so our presentation provided a brief overview of NABO progress to date, then focused on some initiatives for further engaging more youth involvement that is crucial to most all our organizations (to read more go to www.nabasque.org).

Convention: Winnemucca '07

This year's NABO Convention was hosted by the "Euskaldunak Danak Bat" club of Winnemucca. Across three days starting with a NABO meeting and Mus tournament, the action didn't stop. Several groups made the trip there to join the local dancers to entertain. There were three dance bands playing Saturday night, so the dancing never stopped! It was quite an undertaking, and congratulations and thanks are due the Winnemucca club for putting on a fine event.



New Basque Clubs

This has been a big year for some Basque communities. Two new clubs joined NABO this last June: Santa Rosa in Nevada (near Winnemucca) and Washington D.C. It is always great to have new clubs join our federation. Then three current NABO members took the huge step of acquiring their own clubhouses.

New "Txoko Ona" Clubhouse Homedale, ID



These new clubhouses can now be found in Ontario, OR, Homedale and Mountain Home, ID. That now brings the total of NABO organizations with their own facility to twelve! One more member will also soon trade-up to a new facility: the Center for Basque Studies (UN Reno) which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary. Zorionak to all!



40th Anniversary Center for Basque Studies

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Raising an awareness of "Basqueness" across the generations



Zatoz
"come along"
www.naBASQUE.org

ZATOZ in Basque means "come along" and that's the calling of our generation. What is presented here is a proposal for consideration by NABO members (via their delegates) that will establish some short and long-term goals over the next four years that will help to raise awareness of "Basqueness" across the generations.

"The singular remarkable fact about the Basques is that they still exist." - Mark Kurlansky

Frankly, Basques shouldn't still be around. Usually a people this small in number over time forfeit their culture and become absorbed by the larger culture that surrounds them. Yet for thousands of years Basques found ways to keep alive one of Europe's oldest cultures up to the present. It hasn't been easy and the pressure to abandon "Basqueness" in modern times has been intense and it isn't getting easier. That's why we need your help: we're asking that you come along: ZATOZ!

This IS NOT primarily a money pitch (though sure money is needed to keep things going) nor is this about asking you to put a "Proud to be Basque" bumper-sticker on your car or wear a beret every day. This IS ABOUT asking people to accentuate "Basqueness" as one of their multiple identities (e.g., as a parent, spouse, child, football fan, American, etc.). We're hoping to 1) raise the "awareness of Basqueness" across the generations and 2) find folks--young and older--willing and able to contribute their time and energy to keep our culture alive.

To do this we have to work hard and work smart. NABO and our member organizations are at work maintaining current offerings and developing new ones to keep "Basqueness" something alive and engaging. This is being developed around a four-year plan (2008-11) that begins with an assessment of what we have and where we need to go.



Juan Mari BELTRAN

Successful tour Sept. '07: Boise, Seattle & Vancouver, Canada

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." - Proverbs 29:18

If a culture does not possess effective means of transmission from one generation to the next, then that culture is doomed to perish. Somehow, someway, against the odds, our ancestors found a way to preserve "Basqueness" across thousands of years. Now it is our turn. We—those of us age 30 and above—cannot be the generation that breaks this long chain of continuity of one of the world's oldest cultures. Our Basque community here in the Diaspora is at a crossroads: what will we choose to define as being Basque in the 21st century? What aspects of Basque culture will be chosen to emphasize and perpetuate?

What is being proposed is nothing short of a fundamental change in how we think about directing NABO and our local clubs/organizations. Previously NABO was encouraged to implement a plan but it did not happen. This is not to say that NABO has no accomplishments; NABO has succeeded in many ways but we have not developed a comprehensive, integrated plan of action that analyzes how to best transmit Basque culture from one generation to the next. With few exceptions, the same can be stated for our member organizations.

Any plan that is potentially developed must keep in place what has already proven enjoyable and successful. Thus the hope is not to replace but rather supplement what we have going in our Basque communities.

The reality is that most young Basques today do not self-identify as being Basque to the same degree as their Basque parents and grandparents did. Part of this is to be expected as we move from generation to generation, as Basques marry non-Basques, the number of alternative identities, etc. but there is still a window of opportunity available to the older generation (those age 30 and above) to find viable means of keeping "Basqueness" alive.

If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it. -Abraham Lincoln

NABO has never developed and implemented a four year plan, thus it may not be very realistic to lay out a four year plan without first doing some necessary research to assess needs, identify and articulate worthwhile initiatives and recruit the people who might be willing and able to make things happen.

BEHARRAK. A plan has to be developed with clear objectives in mind, thus an assessment of NABO needs is required. Accordingly the first part of our plan entails NABO compiling relevant data to assess individual & collective needs.

JARDUNBIDEAK. There are numerous initiatives that have been proposed (see the NABO website), so initially we do not have a lack of ideas to pursue. What is

www.naBASQUE.org

In Sept. 2007 a NABO delegation traveled south to join with our Basque friends in the celebration of the Mexico City Basque club's 100th anniversary. ZORIONAK!



needed is time to work through a viable merger of these and other ideas that are deemed worthwhile by NABO and its members. Because of the plethora of possible initiatives, the guiding principle should be: do a few things well. Our resources are limited and need to be effectively deployed.

TALDEAK. Taldeak translates as "teams" and the objective here is to create focus groups on various aspects of Basque culture. The hope is that these groups could serve to make NABO more efficient and productive.

ZATOZ: "Come along" to join in this effort to raise awareness of "Basqueness" across the generations! Go to our website and follow the "Zatoz" link to find out more.

Learning Basque

The effort to teach Euskara (Basque) in our Basque communities continues in earnest with Basque clubs offering classes. Then also last summer, the Boise and Chino Basque communities hosted Basque immersion camps for kids. In June the Boise Ikastola and Basque Museum & Cultural Center hosted their first such camp under the directorship of Ramona Larrea and Patxi



Kerns. In Chino the camp was directed by Amaia Laduche. Organizers hope to repeat these successful events.

Then NABO & the Chino Basque Club will host our Euskararen Eguna celebration (includes our Euskara instructor's workshop) featuring a lecture in Euskara by Bernardo Atxaga—one of the biggest names in Basque literature & member of Euskalzaindia (pictured). That Dec. 1st evening will be mostly all in Basque because at least once a year we want to make a conscious effort to make Euskara the language we hear everyone speaking together. A language dies unless those who know it speak it.

"Hizkuntza bat ez da galtzen, ez dakitenek ikasten ez dutelako, dakitenek hitz egiten ez dutelako baizik." -Joxean Artze

