



2018 Officers

- President
Barbara White
- Vice-President
Bruce Troe
- Communications Secretary
Bobbie Strelow
- Recording Secretary
Ana Bonilla
- Treasurer
Linda Lewis

2018 Chairmen

- Adult Exchange
Jo Lamoreaux
- Commissary
Bill Harmon
- Culture and Education
Mary Galeana
- Historian
Laura Marusich
- Hospitality
Reina Scuderi
- Liaison
Randy Lewis
- Membership
Cecilia Gomez-Soles
- Newsletter
Randy Lewis
- Parliamentarian
- Publicity
Bobbie Strelow
- Taxco Gift
Linda Lewis
- Ways and Means
Midge Swoger



The Mexican Constitution

February 5th is Mexican Constitution Day, commemorating the day it was signed - February 5th, 1917. Nowadays, the official observance is on the first Monday in February.

Both the Mexican and the U.S. Constitutions are products of the cultures which produced them and the times in which they were drafted.

The U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787, with the Bill of Rights added in 1791. It was a product of the Anglo-American political tradition, incorporating principles which had been developing in England since medieval times, the political experiences of the colonial and independence periods in the U.S., and other influences the drafters incorporated. It was designed for a republic with a limited government.

The Mexican Constitution was drafted in the early 20th century, as a result of the Mexican Revolution. The government envisioned in the Mexican Constitution is an activist state, dedicated to bringing about social justice among its citizens.

The Mexican Constitution is longer than ours, for which there are several reasons. The Mexican Constitution spells out in detail many legal principles, including the responsibilities of local governments. For example, it stipulates that the government of a municipio (more or less equivalent to a county) has to operate a slaughterhouse for livestock.

Mexico has a European Civil law system, in which it's more necessary to spell out legal principles in the constitution. The U.S.A. has an English Common Law system, in which legal principles are dealt with in judicial precedents.

Legal guarantees in the U.S. Constitution are much more limited - basically they are the rights to expression (press, religion, speech, petition) the right to bear arms and basic legal rights of the Anglo-American legal system. The Mexican Constitution stipulates similar rights, but also guarantees that Mexicans have the right to a good job and decent housing.

However, as subsequent Mexican history has shown, just decreeing rights doesn't make them a reality! Since they are in the Mexican Constitution, the demand for them does exist.

The right to bear arms is part of the U.S. Bill of Rights, and it is also guaranteed in the Mexican constitution (Article 18). Nevertheless, over the years, gun rights have been severely restricted. Needless to say, this hasn't prevented criminals from bearing arms, including rocket launchers and grenades, as recent cartel violence shows so well.

The Mexican Constitution recognizes freedom of religion, but puts more

The Mexican Constitution Cont.

Continued from Page 1

restrictions on churches and clergy than does the U.S. Constitution. Until recently, clergymen weren't allowed to vote and still cannot run for office.

The Mexican Constitution spells out the rights and duties of Mexican citizens, and non-Mexicans residing in Mexico. This was a result of the various foreign interventions in Mexican history. Foreigners are forbidden from getting mixed up in Mexican politics. Article 33 stipulates that foreigners who violate this principle can be expelled from Mexico, and this does happen from time to time.

Article 25 of the Mexican constitution designates the Mexican government as the "head" of national development. That means that the government is responsible for the economy. Article 26 stipulates that the government plan the economy. Thus, the more socialist orientation of the Mexican economy is spelled out in its constitution.

Article 27 stipulates that all natural resources are the property of the Mexican nation and Article 28 forbids monopolies with the exception of government monopolies. This is the constitutional basis of PEMEX, the state oil company.

Mexican agricultural law has its basis in Article 27, which spells out the maximum sizes for farms.

Both constitutions have been amended, though it's much easier and faster to do so in Mexico. In the Mexican Constitution, amendments are made by changing the section that is to be modified. Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are added in a separate section that follows the original document.

The Mexican Constitution has been amended nearly 500 times since 1917, whereas the U.S. Constitution only has 27 amendments, and 10 of them, called collectively the Bill of Rights, were added at the same time.

To understand either the U.S. or Mexico, one must take into account its constitution. Not that either country completely follows its respective constitution, but it's the necessary reference point in understanding its political system and much else.

This concludes the articles on the history and comparison of the Mexican and US Constitutions.

This article written by Alan Wall appeared in the BanderasNews.com.

April 14th

April Progressive Dinner

I made reservations for us by contacting Bobbie at: 818.388.7801 or bobbiejoann2@gmail

Were heading over to Bobbie Strelow's place to start the Progressive Dinner. It should be lots of fun just like the previous ones!



They said the dinner starts at 6:30 PM. I can't wait to find out where all of the other stops will be.

Ya, we will be making at least 4 stops before we are full. I don't know how they can do all of that for only \$15.00!

President's Article

We really started 2018 out with a bang! I hope you joined us for an amazing "Out of This World" Surf and Turf dinner. It was a beautiful evening and if you missed it, you really missed out. Don't make that mistake again. Make sure you come for our other great events this year! Thank you Randy and Linda for putting it on for us! You always do an incredible job!



Barbara White

This month we have our General Meeting at the Women's Club on Sunday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. Please join us for our business meeting where the Board will present the proposed budget for 2018. It is always good to catch up with our friends and see how our group is doing. AND Bruce is planning a great meal for us. We will be able to imagine ourselves in Taxco enjoying this. Thank you Bruce for your hard work!

Saturday, March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day. Come to dinner at the White house and celebrate with us! More details to come!

ALERT! Our Fiesta Fling is just around the corner in May. Can you gather a few items that we can use in our basket raffles? Maybe you were given a Holiday gift that you really don't think you will use. Maybe you bought an extra gift that you didn't end up giving. Think of us! We will accept all of your donations and assemble some beautiful baskets to make money for our club and our gift to Taxco this year. **THANK YOU!**

With Love - Barb

February General Meeting

Sunday - February 18th

Join Us At The

Canoga Park Women's Club

7401 Jordan Ave.

\$12.00 per person



Come to an authentic "Tacos al Pastor" meal from Taxco

Bruce Troe is preparing the original recipe from "El Primo Restaurant" never given out before. We will have the traditional beans, rice and all the fixings!

RSVP - Bobbie Strelow
(818) 388-7801 or bobbiejoann2 @ gmail.com



March Ways and Means Event



Join us for a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner



Saint Patrick's Day

March 17th

Starts at: 6:30 PM

Home of Rush and Barb White

\$15.00 per person



Kindly RSVP To: *Bobbie Strelow*
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com - (818) 388-7801

Calendar of Events 2018

- February 18 **General Meeting - 1:00 PM - "Tacos al Pastor" Luncheon**
\$12.00 Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.
- February 25 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Reina & Tom Scuderi Home
- March 17 **Ways and Means Event - 6:30 PM - St. Patrick's Day Dinner**
\$15.00 Rush & Barbara White Home
- March 24 **Board Meeting - Breakfast "Randy's Huevos Rancheros"**
Randy & Linda Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.
- April 14 **Progressive Dinner - 6:00 PM**
\$15.00 Start at Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St.
- April 28 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Dave & Midge Swoger Home



FRIENDS OF TAXCO
 contact information
 Randy Lewis - Editor
 P.O. Box 9070
 Canoga Park, CA 91309
 (818) 998-0983
 randy7547@gmail.com