



October 2019

Once again, here we are about to elect a new board of directors for the House of Spain, Casa de España (HOS/CDE) in San Diego to lead our organization one more year.

This year the Board continued to work as a team and striving to maintain the rules that were made earlier and improving and adding other rules for the better functioning of the organization.

Our secretary Penelope Bledsoe will give a report to the General Assembly of all the activities of the year and the progress we have made.

Also, our treasurer, Philip Hinshaw will have available and will give you the annual financial report and will answer any questions you may have about the report.

A majority of the members of the current Board of Directors are willing to continue once more for the various posts. If you are satisfied with the work we have done, we have your trust and you decide to return to elect us, our organization will continue to improve year after year.

Here are the names and positions of the people that will be presented as a team:

Executive Board: President - Jesus Benayas Vice President - Nina Yguerabide Secretary - Pedro Romón Díaz Treasurer - Philip Hinshaw For directors/advisors of the Board of Directors: Giancarlo Taylor, David Buenaventura, Carlos Fernández, Álvaro Baeza, and some other people who have not yet responded.

I look forward to seeing you at the casita on Sunday, November 10, starting at 5:00 PM to be able to chat and vote for a new board of directors for 2020. Greetings Jesus Benayas.

November 2019

Next Sunday 10th of November, starting at 6:00 PM, we will have our House of Spain General Assembly. During this assembly we will give you a report on the status of our organization on this past year, continued by the elections of officers for the Board of Directors for 2020. I, with my team, will run for president of our organization.

It has been a pleasure to have been your president for the last ten years in a row and it will be an honor for me to be re-elected again. In the last ten years we have improved our organization 100%, physically and financially, thanks to the different Board of Directors that have worked with me year after year.

Thank you for your support.

Jesus Benayas.

El próximo domingo, 10 de noviembre, a partir de las 6 de la tarde será la Asamblea General de nuestra organización. Durante esta asamblea les daremos un reporte general de nuestra organización y se elegirá una nueva directiva para el 2020. Yo, con mi equipo, me presentare una vez mas para presidente de nuestra organización. Ha sido un placer llevar nuestra organización por los últimos diez años y sería un honor para mí continuar como vuestro presidente. En los últimos 10 años hemos mejorado un cien por cien la casita, físicamente y económicamente gracias a las diferentes Mesas Directivas que han trabajado conmigo año tras año.

Saludos y gracias por su apoyo.

Jesús Benayas

December 2019

Past, Present and Future

Jesus Benayas Introduction:

At the last House of Spain (HOS) General Assembly meeting November 10, 2019 I had intended to speak for a few minutes about our organization, Past, Present and Future. However, the meeting, including the

annual elections, extended beyond what was planned, so I decided to wait. Therefore, I am writing this summary to all of you.

Basically, very few people know the history of the House of Spain and even though several times we have tried to write it, it's still incomplete. My goal is, to seek three or four past Presidents or past Board members willing to devote their time and energy to meet and explore our current strengths as well as explore our challenges. I have ideas, but not all the answers. No one does. That is why a small committee is needed to make recommendations to the current Board of Directors.

The Past: It was interesting to me to hear comments during our General Assembly of how members think that the HOS used to have lots of money, and that the casita is ours, or that we now have less members than years ago. All these statements are not true. We are what we are because dedicated people over the years devoted their time and energy to move our organization forward.

The Present: Our organization today is doing better than ever before. We have more funds saved for emergencies than we have ever had. The casita was donated to the City of San Diego as it was required after it was built, and we were given the right to occupy it as long as we follow the rules of HPR and the City. We have about the same, or a little bit better, number of memberships as we have always had. We still have our challenges.

The Future: The casita has been at Balboa Park for the last 12 years. We need to plan and make sure that we can continue for another 10, 20 or 100 years. In 100 years, none of us will be here. More directly, in 10 years from now, will the HOS still be here, and if so, will those leaders look back on us and applaud what we did to preserve and grow the HOS? On the positive side we are quite unique in San Diego and the USA. I have evidence for that. But too few, either in the City and the rest of the County, know that we exist. How often have you heard Spaniards and visitors to the casita say something like, "I had no idea the HOS existed?"

Purpose: The purpose of this page is to encourage five to ten HOS members, not in the board of Directors, to agree to meet monthly to identify, prioritize, and address our challenges, and then make recommendation to the Board of Directors about the future of our organization and how to work towards that goal. Let me know if you are interested.

Saludos Jesus