

Sister Cities Annual Report Milwaukee - Carora, 2014



Throughout January 9 – 17 of 2014, citizens of Milwaukee embarked on a Sister Cities delegation to Carora, Venezuela. The group of 15 included an eclectic mix, including college students, educators, folks with much international travel experience, and first-time adventurers that looked forward to getting out of wintertime Milwaukee in a meaningful way. This delegation was met with much anticipation and love by the citizens of Milwaukee's Sister City, Carora, Venezuela, including the participation and support of Carora's Mayor's office, local non-profit organizations, and curious citizens looking to make a connection with their neighbors from the north.

Peace Action Wisconsin was the primary sponsor of this trip. Additionally, Peace Action hired Edward Mercado of Waya Tour, a tour company that specializes primarily in Venezuelan tourism, to organize the on-the-ground logistics and ultimately lead the trip. Mr. Mercado, a Venezuelan national who resides in the United States, has been an ardent supporter of the Sister Cities agreement since the very beginning, and has visit Milwaukee multiple times to that effect, accompanying Mayors Julio Chavez and Edgar Carrasco during their visits to our city.

The delegation spent four days in our Sister City of Carora, experiencing its renowned participatory democracy, community radio, and urban agriculture programs. Delegates interviewed many high-level government officials, including two Supreme Court justices, Mayor Carrasco, Assemblyman Julio Chavez, and many of their constituents. Delegates also contributed to community discussion through interviews on live radio, in newspapers, and on local television stations.

Furthermore, the delegation met with Guapa Coffee Cooperative women leaders in Sanare, and enjoyed performances by nationally recognized poets and musicians throughout the trip, which

included performances by folk musicians and a tour of a hand-crafted instrument manufacturing company.

Below, please see a collection of press coverage, both inside Venezuela and the United States, regarding our January delegation, as well as our attached itinerary from that trip.

In March, delegates from our Sister Cities delegation presented at MATC for International Week. President of Peace Action, Daniel Pneuman, and delegate member, David Thomas, did well to educate the crowd of students about our Sister City and aroused much interest among young people in the relationship and the possibility of visiting Carora for themselves.

As this delegation was a resounding success, another Sister Cities delegation is being planned for later this year, in October, 2014. We look forward to harnessing the success of our previous delegation and using it to build more bridges, and to ultimately expand our Sister City relationship through this upcoming trip.

On behalf of the citizens of both Sister Cities, I thank the City of Milwaukee for continuing to support this work.

Sincerely,

/s/

Daniel Pneuman

President, Peace Action Wisconsin

2014 Sister Cities Delegation Press

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel News Coverage of Latest Delegation to Venezuela:

<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/239339451.html>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/41761622.html>

Articles Covering Our meeting with Mayor Edgar Carrasco's office in our Sister City Carora:

Delegación estadounidense presenció la construcción del nuevo Estado Comunal en Lara
Aporrea, 30/01/2014

<http://www.aporrea.org/poderpopular/n244156.html>

Delegación de Wisconsin conoce experiencia del Poder Popular en Carora
Noticias Carora, 18/1/2014

<http://www.noticiascarora.com/delegacion-de-wisconsin-conoce-experiencia-del-poder-popular-en-carora/>

Articles relating to our Meeting with two Venezuelan Supreme Court Justices:

Delegación de estadounidenses compartieron experiencias con magistrados del TSJ
Aporrea, 24/01/2014

<http://www.aporrea.org/internacionales/n243849.html>

Delegación de estadounidenses comparten experiencias con magistrados del TSJ Venezuela
LHD TV, 17/01/2014

<http://www.lhdtv.info/2014/01/delegacion-de-estadounidenses-comparten.html>

Delegación de estadounidenses compartieron experiencias con magistrados del TSJ
17/01/2014

<http://www.tsj.gov.ve/informacion/notasdeprensa/notasdeprensa.asp?codigo=11680>

Articles Covering Our Radio Venceremos Press Conference:

Delegación de Wisconsin conoce experiencia del Poder Popular en Carora
Movimiento Por La Paz Y La Vida, 15/01/2014

http://www.abrebrecha.com/331884_Delegaci%C3%B3n-de-Wisconsin-conoce-experiencia-del-Poder-Popular-en-Carora.html



DRAFT ITINERARY	
Day 1 . Thursday, January 9th	
Arrivals to Venezuela	Meet WAYAtour Ground team
Customs check in	Avila Hotel – Check in
Baggage claim	Short briefing during light dinner
Day 2 . Friday, January 10th	
Breakfast	Lunch on the road
Hotel Check-Out	Arrival- Posada Los Granados Check in
Road trip to Carora, Lara State approx. 6 – 7 hrs	Sister cities welcome cultural event
Day 3, Saturday, January 11th	
Breakfast	Lunch in the City
Visit Communal councils	Artisan Semeruco wine, berry wine tasting
Visit elderly productive agricultural coop.	Family Cooperative Bendri
Day 4, Sunday, January 12th	
Breakfast	Lunch on Site
Solidarity Economy Fair / Center for Diversity	Meeting with Mayor of Carora
Communes, Communal Councils, Coops, Barter	Visit artisan beer distillery
Day 5, Monday, January 13th	
Breakfast	Roundtable with communal council spoke persons
Visit artisan sugar cane mill	Form of local sister cities committee
Lunch	Farewell event
Day 6, Tuesday, January 14th	
Breakfast	Meeting with Mayor of Sanare
Departure to Sanare approx. 2 hrs	Lunch @ Woman's Coop. Moncar
Visit Artisan town Tintoreros	Visit Agriculture cooperative , Las Lajitas
Posada Nena y Kaka check in	Meeting with bank of seeds committee



Day 7, Wednesday, January 15th	
Day trip to coffee producers rural community	Participate in meeting with coffee coops
Las Guapas, Commune Argimiro Gabaldon 1	Rural Tourism
Visit the chain of coffee production	Return to Sanare
Day 8, Thursday, January 16th	
Breakfast	Farewell event
Sister Cities fair with local committee	Departure to Caracas approx . 6 hrs
Round tables	Avila Hotel Check in
Day 9, Friday, January 17th	
Hotel Check out	Return flight check in
Drive to Airport	Early pass thru security for duty free shop