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N.A.B.O. delegate for the Basque Educational Organization  
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**Board of Directors of**

The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.  
A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Dear members of the N.A.B.O. Board of Directors (delegates),

This letter is to inform you of my intent to run for the office of President of the Board of Directors of the North American Basque Organizations, Inc. at the annual meeting this year on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

I want to bring my experience as a longtime active N.A.B.O. delegate and tenured director for three N.A.B.O. general member organizations to this office where I can be an effective President of the N.A.B.O. Board of Directors. I've established a long and successful track record of working with many N.A.B.O. organizations on diverse projects with the assistance and guidance of many distinguished members of the N.A.B.O. board of directors (delegates), officers and chairpersons, who all personify the benevolent spirit that makes N.A.B.O. the success that it is.

Here are the goals I would like to accomplish:

- **Meetings:** To optimize the time that we have together at meetings, priority should be given to those items that need a vote.
- **Records:** Our corporate records need to be updated as our bylaws currently contain many sections that have been amended but have been left in place. The N.A.B.O. job titles need to be normalized to better reflect the intent of the delegates when these responsibilities were appointed. These issues have caused the delegates to waste time in and out of meetings. We should continue to take advantage of the N.A.B.O. archive at the Basque Library at the University of Nevada, Reno and update it on a regular basis.
- **Partnerships:** Exploring institutional relations with the Foral Community of Navarre and the Basque Cultural Institute (Uztaritze, Lapurdi) could be a worthwhile and fruitful endeavor. I would like to evaluate our membership in Eusko Ikaskuntza (Basque Studies Society).

- **Oral Histories:** Evaluate the state of the Memoria Bizia project in relation to N.A.B.O.'s partners, the Basque Government, University of Deusto and the Etxepare Basque Institute.
- **Pilota:** To benefit our pilota program we should explore reconnecting with the U.S. Federation of Pelota and leverage their existing organizational structure and their current and future pelota relations to bolster our program. Reintegration with the World Pilota Council should be considered as well.

For the past forty-five years N.A.B.O. has grown from eight clubs to forty-two organizations and has very successful and popular programs enjoyed by its members. Through these programs, that rotate from one location to another, people from different clubs with varying Basque Country roots, have come together to form a unifying collective Basque identity. This "NABO effect", a term coined by William Douglass, is one of N.A.B.O.'s great accomplishments. While keeping a reverence for our past we should continue to firmly keep our sights on the future.

### **Biography**

I'm a native San Franciscan, born and raised in The City's Richmond District. My mother, Marie Acheritogaray (Etchecopar) also was born and raised in San Francisco and my maternal grandparents immigrated to San Francisco from the Basque province of Xiberoa (Maule & Domintxaine-Berroeta). My father, Jean Acheritogaray, immigrated from Ortzaize (Lower Navarre) to San Francisco and was one of the founders in 1960 of the Basque Club of San Francisco, a charter member of N.A.B.O., and was also a founding member of the San Francisco Zazpiak Bat Klika in 1964. I married my high school sweetheart, Cathleen Streett, in 1988 and all three of our children have participated in our local Basque dance groups and in N.A.B.O.'s Udaleku program. My 13-year-old daughter is looking forward to reconnecting with her Basque friends at this summer's camp in Reno.

Growing up with my parents and grandparents and listening to their stories gave me a foundational sense of Basque identity which was then strongly reinforced by attending our Basque picnics and festivals and later by reading books and learning from my family and friends in the Basque Country. These experiences along with my appreciation of our people's ability to persevere through their historical struggles drives my passion and commitment to continue the legacy of our Basque institutions here and to put my stamp on them before handing them over to the next generation.

I graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and have made my career at Franklin Templeton Investments' Information Technology group.

## **Involvement with N.A.B.O.**

- **N.A.B.O. delegate for 15 years (2002-2007, 2009-Present):** San Francisco Basque Club (2002-2004, 2009), Basque Educational Organization (2004-2007, 2010-Present), San Francisco Basque Cultural Center (2014-Present).
- **N.A.B.O. Finance Committee** member (2018-present).
- **N.A.B.O. Bylaw Amendment Special Committee** – I served as the chairman of this seven-member committee, took the minutes, produced the final report and facilitated the three meetings via videoconference (2018).
- **N.A.B.O. Calendar Committee** – I provided film poster images and synopsis information for the 2018 calendar for each month. I assisted the Calendar Chair by creating all the collage images for the cover and all 12 months of the 2008 Calendar, which honored Aita Martxel Tillous. I'm a regular photo contributor with several of my photos being selected including one for the cover of the 2006 Calendar.
- **N.A.B.O. Memoria Bizia Project:** I purchased the initial set of recording equipment and video cameras and produced training documents on their use. I trained interviewers on the use of the recording equipment (2014).
- **N.A.B.O. Filmategia Librarian** – As part of the N.A.B.O. Education Program, the films screened for the Basque Educational Organization's Basque Film Series are made available to N.A.B.O. organization members for private viewing or for a group at their club. The responsibilities include circulation, film acquisitions, cataloging & promotion. Currently there are over 40 full length feature films in the N.A.B.O. Filmategia catalog. I was also invited along with Xabier Irujo of the Center for Basque Studies to consult the Smithsonian for their 2016 Basque Film Series, which was organized as a lead up event to the 2016 Folk Life Festival featuring Basque culture (2014 – Present).
- **N.A.B.O. Global Federation Special Committee** – I served as a member of this committee and we reviewed the Global Federation proposal by FEVA (2009).
- **2007 World Congress of Basque Communities Delegate** – I was elected by N.A.B.O. as one of the three N.A.B.O./US delegates to the 2007 World Congress in Bilbo. I attended all meetings at the Congress, presented at the congress with the other members of the N.A.B.O./US delegation, and provided a daily congress report via a blog on EuskoSare.org (Baigura and

Beyond). I produced & presented the N.A.B.O. World Congress report to the N.A.B.O. delegates at the 2007 N.A.B.O. Fall Meeting in Ontario.

- **N.A.B.O. Membership committee** – Reviewed the N.A.B.O. membership application for a new organization and verified that all N.A.B.O. member application requirements were satisfied in the application and recommended the applicant organization be accepted into N.A.B.O. (2007).
- **Hizketa Committee** – Committee member and content contributor for the last years of the publication of the N.A.B.O. newsletter Hizketa, until it was transitioned to the weekly online Astero. (2006-2008).
- **N.A.B.O. Cultural Tours** – I've organized several N.A.B.O. cultural tours collaborating with several N.A.B.O. general member organizations: Basque Rock Live – Berri Txarrak & Betagarri (2005 – SF, Reno, Boise, Society of Basque Studies in America – Basque Hall of Fame), Anne Etchegoyen (2007, SF, Bakersfield, Chino, Reno), Oreka TX – Nomadak TX Live (2010, SF, Chino, Washington DC, New Mexico), GOSE (2011 – SF, Boise), Begiz Begi (2015, SF, Chino), Basque Film Tour with the director - Ander Iriarte - Echevarriatik-Etxeberriara (2014, Boise, Reno, SF), Basque Film Tour with director Asier Altuna and producer Marian Fernandez – AMAMA (2016, New York, Boise, Reno, SF, Chino).
- **N.A.B.O. Membership Special Committee** – Served as a member of this committee and reviewed the bylaws as they pertain to membership of organizations with members versus organizations without members and the number of voting representatives they should have (2005).
- **The Last Link – Fundraiser** – Coordinator – I brought the opportunity for N.A.B.O. to be the DVD & VHS distributor for the 2002 documentary film, The Last Link, with no capital investment for N.A.B.O., with portions of the sales proceeds going to the N.A.B.O. Educational Fund. I processed all orders for The Last Link DVD & VHS sales and coordinated the sales at the 2005 Jaialdi in Boise. A total of 579 units were sold with \$6,277 raised for the N.A.B.O. Educational Fund (2004-2009).
- **N.A.B.O. webmaster** – I updated the site with information from the delegates and chairpersons and migrated the site to a new domain. In 2006, this responsibility was transitioned to the Facilitator position (2004-2006).
- **N.A.B.O. Host Family** – I hosted children attending Udaleku at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center (2003, 2011, 2015), and children participating in the N.A.B.O. Xiberoa Exchange (2009).

- **2003 Gaztemundu Special Committee** – I served as the Vice-Chairman of the 18-member committee and I took the minutes of the seven teleconference meetings, produced the committee reports that were presented to the N.A.B.O. delegates at the winter 2004 meeting, which led to the adoption of four resolutions by the N.A.B.O. delegates.
- **2003 N.A.B.O. representative for the Basque Government Gaztemundu** program and 2003 World Congress of Basque Communities attendee with the Gaztemundu Program.
- **Euskara Committee - N.A.B.O. lead technical resource** for the U.S. implementation of the Hezinet Euskara Teaching software. I worked with the Basque software company Aurten Bai to develop Hezinet installation procedures for U.S. Windows computing environments. I installed Hezinet on a central server with several satellite work stations at the SF Basque Cultural Center. I supported several N.A.B.O. clubs on their Hezinet installations. BOGA (an internet-based version of Hezinet) replaced Hezinet and I continued to be the lead technical resource for the implementation, administration and distribution for BOGA, until this was transitioned to the N.A.B.O. Facilitator and now N.A.B.O. Euskara Coordinators. (2002-2006).

### **Involvement with N.A.B.O. general member organizations:**

#### **San Francisco Basque Club**

- Director & Treasurer (2000-Present), N.A.B.O. delegate (2002-2004, 2009).
- Help organize and staff the annual Basque Picnic and Mus tournament.
- Newsletter editor (2004-present) and webmaster (2000 – present).
- Recipient of The Claude Berhouet Lagun Ona lifetime achievement award (2016).

#### **San Francisco Basque Cultural Center**

- Director (2005-Present), President (2009-2011), Secretary (2007-2009, 2016-present), Euskara Chairman (2006-2007), N.A.B.O. delegate (2014-Present).
- Sound engineer for festival musicians, audio/visual equipment set up, technology setup.
- Member of the following committees – Building and Grounds, Entertainment, Newsletter, Cycling.
- Webmaster and backup newsletter editor & assist in the annual Basque Government Grant requisition process.
- Lokarria Basque Catholic Newsletter – Assisted Aita Martxel Tillous in the production of the newsletter and the maintenance of the mailing list (2000-2008).
- N.A.B.O. 2002 convention – the Basque Cultural Center hosted the N.A.B.O. convention and I created the website to promote the convention.
- Txirindulari Kluba (cycling club) – Xabi Award recipient (2013, 2015).

### **Basque Educational Organization**

- Director (2003-Present), President (2006-2009), Vice-President (2005-2006), N.A.B.O. delegate (2004-2007, 2010-Present).
- Webmaster (2002-present), newsletter editor (2005-2009).
- Help organize and staff the biennial Basque Cultural Day conferences.
- Librarian – Martin Minaberry Library – responsibilities include circulation, item acquisitions, cataloging & promotion (2008 – Present).
- Urazandi Committee – This committee assisted author Pedro Oiarzabal write the history of Basques in San Francisco and is entitled Gardeners of Identify – Basques In The San Francisco Bay Area, which is the 23<sup>rd</sup> volume in the Urazandi collection. I organized the interviewer workshop, conducted oral history interviews, organized and developed some of the interviewer documents, purchased the voice recorders and trained interviewers on their use, collected historical documents an photos, and assisted in the proofing of the draft manuscript (2003-2009).
- Basque Film Series producer – The responsibilities include film selection and acquisition, promotion, exhibition, film presenter recruitment & travel coordination for the film presenters or film directors. Since 2005 the Basque Film Series has screened 58 full length feature films and 37 short films and has hosted 11 directors who have presented their films (2005 – Present).

### **William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies – University of Nevada, Reno**

- Advisory Board Member (2009-Present).

### **Society of Basque Studies in America**

- Basque Hall of Fame gala organizer and producer (2006, 2008).

Thank you for your consideration,



Philippe Acheritogaray