



**December 2015**

**Board of Directors:**

Bruce Britton  
Anne Corcos  
Gilles Corcos  
Tom Cunningham  
Charlie Huizenga  
Bill McQueeney  
Debbie Parducci

## International Award for APLV

*Some exciting news for 2015!*

APLV was awarded the **2015 Water and Sanitation Innovation Award** from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and FEMSA, the Mexico-based Coca-Cola bottling company. This annual award recognizes outstanding achievement of an organization working in Latin America on the issues of water, sanitation and solid waste management. The award specifically calls out the innovation of APLV's NeatWork software, which is a tool developed by APLV to design the gravity distribution systems used in our projects. The development of NeatWork was led by Jean-Phillipe Vial, a long-time member of the APLV-France board.



*Carmen Gonzalez presenting at the IDB-FEMSA awards ceremony in Lima, Peru.*

The software applies sophisticated optimization methods to minimize the cost of pipes in creating a design that brings sufficient water to every faucet. NeatWork is used by APLV technicians to design our water projects and is taught in our technical school. Carmen Gonzales, APLV National Director in Nicaragua, and Jaime Rodriguez, APLV Technical Director, travelled to Lima, Peru, an all-expense-paid trip, to accept the award. Carmen gave a presentation about APLV's work to 1,000 people in a packed auditorium. It was a fantastic experience and the recognition brought renewed vigor to the APLV team. This caps another year of progress toward our steady goal of improving the lives of the rural poor in Nicaragua by working hand in hand with villagers to bring safe, potable water into their daily lives.

We continue to make progress in strengthening the Nicaraguan branch of APLV. Gilles Corcos, still as busy as his aging energy allows, is hoping to shift some of the focus of APLV in the U.S. and France to provide assistance to other NGO's working to provide safe drinking water. One concrete step we have taken is to freely share our tools and teaching materials, such as the award-winning NeatWork design software. We hope these materials can improve other organizations effectiveness in carrying out water projects throughout the world.

Gilles writes: ***"Twenty-eight years ago, toward the end of my university career, I conceived the idea for the project Agua Para La Vida, almost as an occupation for my retirement. For me, this rivaled in importance the bulk of my academic career as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering, compensating for the somewhat cloistered life at the university. It has been a very rewarding second career. My age and its toll on my energy, now leaves it to others to take over. The Nicaraguan team has the competence and the necessary tools to assume by itself the direction of its efforts to achieve our mission. It remains for the French and U.S. branches to take over the support that they that the youngest branch, APLV-Nicaragua, deserves. Together, we have come a very long way."***

## Award for APLV *(continued from page 1)*



The work we have to do in the U.S. and France must be shared among many volunteers. We invite people to learn about our work and visit our projects to see first-hand how vital the work we do is. We have always had a mix of youth and age in our volunteers. Younger people in the midst of careers must be encouraged to make room in their busy lives to help and to become the next generation of leaders. Gilles and Bill McQueeney are fine examples of people who are dedicating their talents in retirement to make significant differences in people's lives.

Three projects, La Ceiba Dudu, San Francisco-Kuskawas and Valle de Casas were completed in 2015. The first two were large projects, supplying water for a total of 1900 inhabitants. This necessitated a complex method of capturing the water and a long distribution network. Both required multiple funding sources due to their large size and budget. One of these sources is the Mexican foundation FEMSA, whose representative visited the finished project and was impressed by the successful application of our modern methods, no doubt leading to the prize we received. The third project, Valle de las Casas, was financed by the French organization Res Publica.

Another project begun in 2015 was in the community of Wany and it is by far the most ambitious that we have ever undertaken. This multi-year project will eventually serve 2400 inhabitants, grouped in four separate neighborhoods. The source of the water is 12 kilometers from the community! The pipe carrying the water from the source will cross a river via a 130 meter suspension bridge. The distribution network will include nearly 25 kilometers of pipe and the estimated cost of the project is \$400,000. This project would have been unthinkable without the unprecedented engagement of our French partner, Res Publica, who is funding the bulk of the project.





# interview with board member **Bill McQueeney**

*APLV Board member Bill McQueeney founded Rural Water Ventures in 2002 and serves as its chairman & CEO. Before retirement in 2000, Bill's career included the management of technology-based companies. One of these had as its mission the restoration & rehabilitation of drinking water systems throughout the world. His awareness of the desperate need for safe water in very poor rural villages led to his founding of Rural Water Ventures (RWV). RWV has been an incredibly important partner for APLV ever since.*

## ***When and how did you meet up with APLV?***

I guess my involvement with helping rural communities in developing nations gain access to safe water began officially in 1988 when I provided some funding to Save The Children to help construct deep wells in rural communities in northwest Nicaragua. By 1998, SAVE was so busy managing a daunting number of projects they had very little time to keep me posted about water projects. Not to say that the projects weren't going forward. But rather that they were leaving me out of the loop. In 1999, I looked around for a new partner. A contact at Water for People suggested that I look at APLV. I met with Gilles and Charlie when out in the Bay Area on business and started providing them with some funds. At the end of 2000 I retired. More time, less money. To address the latter, I founded RWV in 2002. The rest is history! Our next project in 2016 will be our 25th together.

## ***Where did the idea of "investing" in rural water projects come from?***

RWV's first priority is to attract leadership-level contributors to pursue our mission to save lives and to reduce the incidence of serious disease in rural communities in Nicaragua through funding projects that bring abundant quantities of safe water to each home via locally sustainable gravity flow pipeline



systems as well as latrines for hygienic sanitation. We have found that assuring contributors/investors that 100% of their funds will be invested in a particular project usually attracts them to have a sense of participation with the project and its outcome, as an investor would. The operating expenses of RWV are funded by a separate group.

## ***How important has your personal involvement in Nicaragua, seeing the completion of so many RWV projects sponsored by its members, been to the future of RWV?***

In two words: very important! RWV maintains a program of due diligence to assure that donor funds are being invested effectively and efficiently. Since 2003, one or more RWV directors have visited annually communities where projects have been completed, or underway, and two or more communities where projects have been completed for 5 or more years. These visits allow us to maintain close contact with the communities as well as enhancing our relationship with APLV Nicaragua. In addition we receive project progress updates from APLV on a quarterly basis and have audio and visual communication with the APLV Board members and management via Skype.

## ***How has the emergence of APLV-Nicaragua affected your own organization?***

We are pleased to see the transfer of primary responsibility for the success of APLV-Nicaragua be underway. The Board of RWV believes that it is both necessary and appropriate. We hope that APLV-Nicaragua will carry out this transfer very successfully and we will be pleased to assist them as they wish.



# FLASH

## Two important links on our website!

APLV is now registered with the Amazon Smile program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of purchases made through the smile.amazon.com site to APLV on qualified purchases. Their contribution may be small, but Amazon is very big. Check out the link on our website, [www.aplv.org/donate](http://www.aplv.org/donate). ***Every little bit helps.***

[Guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com), a clearing house for transparent evaluation of non-profits, has given APLV a GOLD rating. For those interested, Guidestar presents an easy way to see our status. which includes balance sheets and assets.



Agua Para La Vida

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**get involved**

☐ I would like to support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- ☐ \$50 – material cost for drinking water for one person
- ☐ \$100 – material cost for 500 seedlings for reforestation
- ☐ \$200 – material cost for a latrine for one family
- ☐ \$250 – sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
- ☐ \$500 – material cost for drinking water for one family
- ☐ \$1000 – cost of drinking water, latrine, and health education for one family

Agua Para La Vida is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Agua Para La Vida (APLV). Donations can also be made online at: [www.aplv.org](http://www.aplv.org)