

# TFA Announces New Director



Effective January 1, 2016, Teri Mattson of Inverness, California, was appointed Executive Director of the Task Force on the Americas.

Retiring from the leadership position with the organization where she served for more than two decades, Dale Sorensen proudly joins

the esteemed group of individuals on our Advisory Board. In this capacity, Dale continues as editor of the quarterly newsletter, *The Report*, and will be available for consultation.

Born in Burlington, VT and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Teri's extensive business management background culminated two years ago with the sale of the five-room bed and breakfast inn she owned and operated for more than sixteen years in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Her political activism, beginning in the 1980s, includes serving to promote and elect progressive candidates to state and local government offices throughout California.

Introduced to Mesoamerican Anthropology and Archeology in the sixth grade, Teri's lifelong passion

for Latin America has inspired 35 years of travel throughout the region. During the last few years she has joined political and educational delegations to Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. As an active Task Force on the Americas' board member, Teri arranged two successful delegations to Venezuela during 2015. The first, in July, comprised 20 delegates and was co-sponsored with the National Lawyers Guild and School of the Americas Watch. The second focused on observing the December 6 National Assembly elections. Each delegation provided opportunities for participants to meet and interview both government and opposition leaders, as well as local citizens.

In January 2016 Teri participated in a delegation to the Northern Coast of Honduras. The itinerary included visits to areas inhabited by the Garifuna, Hondurans of African descent, and to the fertile Aguan Valley populated by campesinos, many of whom are descendants of the Lenca indigenous people. Both communities are struggling against land-grabbing and resource extraction by the government and foreign corporations.

Special thanks to Dale Sorensen for her leadership over the past decades and for recruiting and training Teri. All of us at TFA are pleased to welcome Teri and look forward to working with her on current and future projects for a long time to come.