



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY
CELEBRATING OUR THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

December 5, 2020

Letter from ASCE President Gary H. Maybarduk

Dear Members and Friends of ASCE,

As we end a long and difficult but also exciting year, I join the Board in hoping you had a joyous Thanksgiving and offering best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season ahead.

ASCE is the premier institution for the study of the Cuban economy. Now in our thirtieth year we have provided economic analysis to the Cuban American community, academia, and many governments. As a former American diplomat, I know that the U.S. government turns to ASCE for insight into economic policy making in Cuba. Our work is consequential and is likely to become more so.

ASCE faced the pandemic by moving our annual conference into two virtual conferences, one this past August and the next to be held in January. Many of us who have long enjoyed the camaraderie of meeting old friends and making new ones missed doing so in person this year. We hope and are planning to resume ASCE's annual conference in-person next July if the pandemic allows it.

This year, to introduce ASCE to many who have never participated, we made our virtual conference free to everyone. The virtual meeting was a success, both in substance and the number of viewers, which exceeded 200 for most of the sessions. Viewer reaction was uniformly positive. We will follow up on that success and continue to recognize new opportunities online. We are updating ASCE's mailing lists and seeking a new webmaster. Larry Catá Backer has been conducting interviews with ASCE Board members as well as some academics whose work compliments our own. They are on our [ASCE YouTube channel](#) and will appear soon on our website.

After the January meeting we plan to start a speakers' bureau, where ASCE members will be able to offer their views to interested organizations through virtual presentations. ASCE will charge a small amount to those seeking a speaker



and each speaker may set his own fee, if any, as well. This should increase some of our members public exposure if they desire it.

Some of our longstanding members have become accustomed to renewing their membership just before the conference and therefore missed paying their dues for 2020. That brought our paying membership to a low of 53. Fortunately, past ASCE Boards have been prudent with our finances and we have financial reserves to sustain our activities, but long-term, ASCE cannot survive without more members or significant donations.

Your donations and dues continue to fund our activities. With your help we subsidize our annual meeting, the publication of ASCE's *Proceedings*, and the Carlos-Diaz Alejandro lecture. Your donations continue to give modest but appreciated rewards for high-quality undergraduate and graduate student research. We need your donations for grants to bring Cuban economists to our meetings as well as our keynote speaker. We now have numerous and deepening ties to the economists on the island. A few years ago, we had difficulty attracting those economists to our meetings, now they invite themselves.

Thus, I come to ask you to consider a contribution to ASCE – large or small. As you know, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your donation is tax deductible. You may allocate your donation for a particular initiative as you choose among these options:

- a) A contribution to the general expenses of ASCE to be allocated at the discretion of the Board and its President \$ _____
- b) A contribution to support the student awards and students' travel to ASCE's annual meeting \$ _____
- c) A contribution to support the travel expenses for Cuban academics and intellectuals to attend ASCE's annual meeting \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Please let us know if we may include you in a list of donors on ASCE's website, or whether you prefer to have your donation be anonymous.

Please make out the check to the *Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy* and send it to the address above. Please send a copy of this page or a note with your choice.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY
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Alternatively, you can make your donation via PayPal on our website. Go to <https://www.ascecuba.org/pay-now/> and drop down to (4) donations.

On behalf of ASCE's Board, I thank you for whatever donation you can make and for your efforts on ASCE's behalf. We look forward to working with you.

Gary H. Maybarduk, PhD
President

P.S. Members with questions or concerns may contact me directly at ghmaybarduk@comcast.net. This is an email reserved for members.