

Special 1999 National Convention Information Enclosed

LULAC NEWS

League of United Latin American Citizens

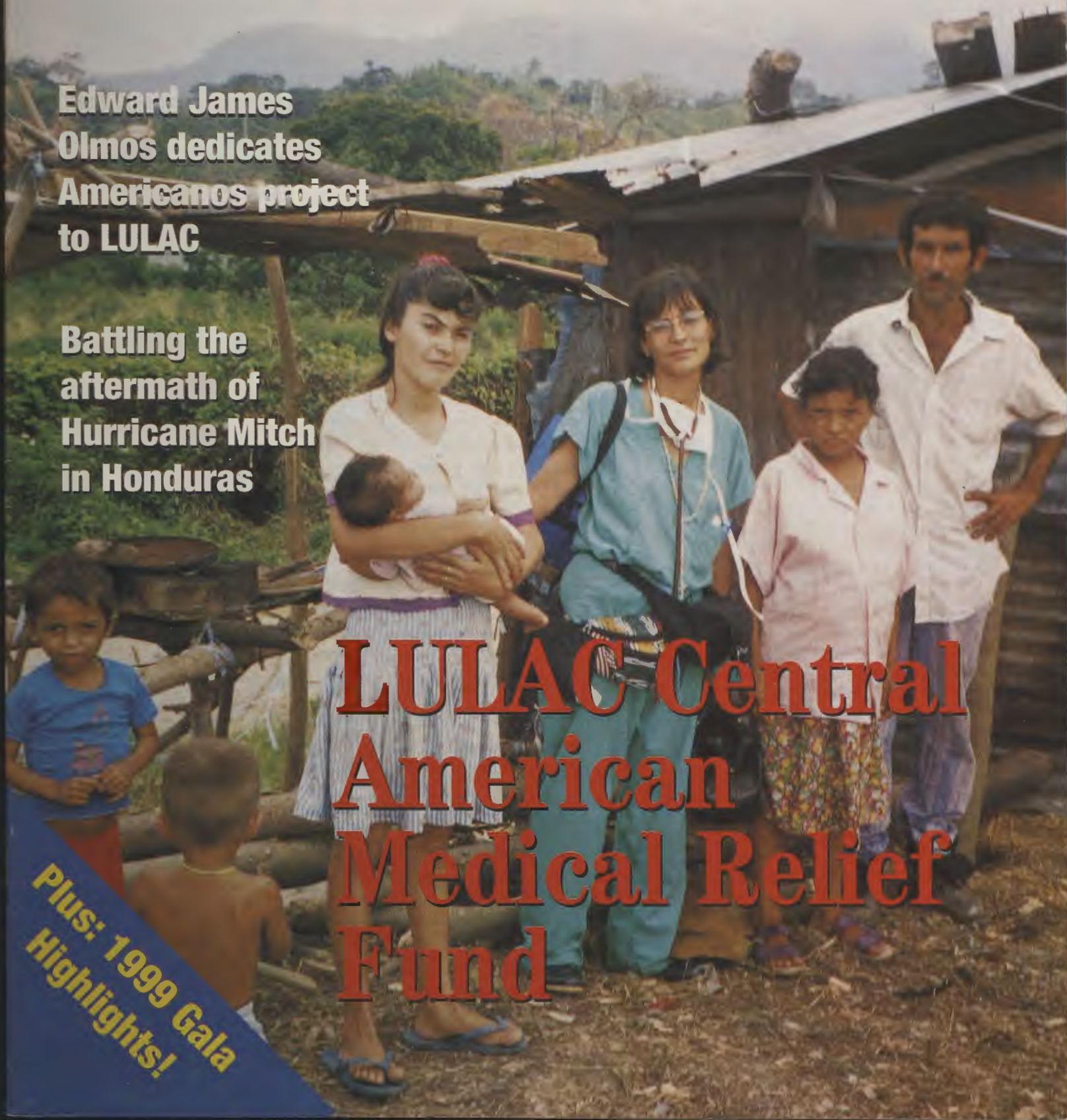
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**Edward James
Olmos dedicates
Americanos project
to LULAC**

**Battling the
aftermath of
Hurricane Mitch
in Honduras**

**LULAC Central
American
Medical Relief
Fund**

**Plus: 1999 Gala
Highlights!**



LULAC NEWS

League of United Latin American Citizens

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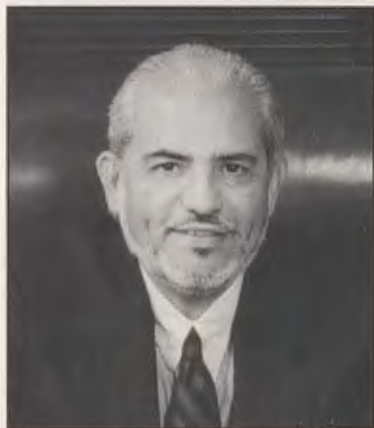
Cover: Dr. Marie Mahoney in Honduras with the LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund.

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President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC:



Seventy years ago, the League of United Latin American Citizens was founded on a strong commitment for the advancement of our community. Today, that commitment is stronger than ever as LULAC members forge ahead with our trademark activism which is benefiting the lives of millions of Hispanic Americans. Ex-

amples of this passion abound everywhere throughout the League, from northern California to Southwest Texas, and from Massachusetts to Puerto Rico. LULAC members are continuously creating innovative solutions to problems and tackling issues in and beyond their communities with tremendous success.

Throughout the United States, LULAC members have dedicated themselves to their communities. Exemplifying the best of this commitment are Susan Reyes and her sister Brenda, who have spearheaded the *LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund*. Tending to thousands of Hurricane Mitch victims in Central America, the Reyes sisters and scores of dedicated individuals have gone to Honduras to provide lifesaving medical care. With a phenomenal sense of devotion, they have shown how only a few individuals can make such an enormous difference in our world.

In northern California, we find educator Mike Sanchez courageously working in the trenches fighting to save our most valuable resource - our children. With his leadership and determination, Mike remains a strong role model to hundreds of children every year, providing many with the direction and motivation that fosters high achievement. His vision and inspiration will ensure our community's success into the new millennium.

As LULAC celebrates its 70th anniversary this year and enters in its second century, we find ourselves becoming a stronger and louder voice for millions of Americans. But the work is not yet finished. There are many important issues that we must face. The question still remains. Therefore, I challenge every LULAC member to continue forging ahead with the ideals we so strongly hold close to our heart. Let us continue finding new ways to change the lives of Hispanic Americans for the better. Simply because if we don't, who will? Who will raise money to educate our children? Who will stand up against injustice? Who will provide community services that are essential to our well being?

As members of LULAC, we are responsible and empowered to change our community through service and activism. LULAC councils throughout the country have led the way with a level of service and activism that brings out the best in

people. Councils such as Iowa Council 10 have remained strong in their commitment to assist Hispanics in their community for many years. In the heart of America, Council 10 has been discovering successful ways to raise money for scholarships and create life-changing educational and vocational programs. Hundreds of councils across this country have provided our communities with the tools and preparation necessary to face the challenges of the future. It is this demonstration of leadership that proves LULAC has a very bright future ahead.

This enthusiasm was never more evident to me than at the *10th Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference*, where over 10,000 young people came together. Hungry for the challenges that face them, these young leaders participated in a program that facilitated sincere dialogue about the issues that affect them and the ways to obtain the necessary tools that ensure success.

In this issue of the *LULAC NEWS*, we pay special tribute to women's contributions to our organization. It is clear that LULAC would not be where it is today without the help and dedication of all our members. The successful *10th Annual Women's Conference* held in Tucson, AZ, in March, provided me with the opportunity to discuss many important issues we face as an organization with women community leaders. It is clear that in the next century the role of women in our organization and society will grow and continue to tremendously benefit our community - and to this, we are grateful.

I believe that technology is the key to the future and should be embraced by our members to stay better informed and aware of issues so that we can react quickly to them. I recently attended LULAC's first *National Interactive Video Conference for Young Adults*, which was held in Puerto Rico and stretched to Illinois, Arizona, and Texas. I was extremely impressed by the participant's enthusiasm. I look forward to having more events that reach out to people and encourage communication and understanding that lead to real solutions.

LULAC is becoming stronger and bigger everyday. Raising funds for scholarships, creating educational programs, and advocating local, state, and national legislation makes LULAC so unique. But this progress doesn't just drop in our laps from the sky. It is the dedication and hard work of all of our members that make LULAC the most widely respected Hispanic organization in the country.

What an honor it is to lead a courageous organization that continuously redefines its goals as we move forward and progress into the 21st century. I will continue to actively work with all of you to facilitate your efforts in improving our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Dovalina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Rick Dovalina
LULAC National President

Saluting Seventy Years of Leadership and Service

The Second Annual Legislative Friendship Awards Gala Honors Three Key Leaders as the National Event Strengthens LULAC's Role in Washington Politics



LULAC National President Rick Dovalina presents US Vice President Al Gore with LULAC's prestigious President's Award.

It was an evening to remember as the League of United Latin American Citizens toasted to its 70th anniversary at the second annual *Legislative Friendship Awards Gala*. Held on February 23, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C., the black-tie event paid tribute to nationally recognized leaders that have displayed outstanding service to the His-

panic community. The event also affirmed LULAC's growing presence in the nation's political hub.

Gala Highlights Issues

Many Hispanic elected and appointed leaders attended the successful event, which was created by LULAC to highlight critical legislative issues affecting Hispanic Americans while recognizing key leaders who serve the Hispanic community. The annual event garnered national headlines in which the two leading presidential candidates pledged their support to the Hispanic community and promised to steer clear from divisive rhetoric.

Bestowing recognition to those leaders who have served the interests of the Hispanic community in the legislative arena, LULAC National President Rick Dovalina selected Vice President Al Gore as recipient of the *LULAC President's Award*. The high honor was given to Gore for improving the lives of Hispanics by expanding educational opportunities.

"It's time we understand we are successful not in spite of our diversity, but because of it," Gore said. At times addressing the crowd in Spanish, Gore

assailed any efforts to roll back affirmative action and exploit issues like bilingual education for political purposes. "We are here tonight to reaffirm our belief that every child's birth, is a birth of hope, and to recognize a simple truth: in the 21st century, perhaps more than any time in our history, America's success will depend on Latino success," Gore stated.

Gore touted an additional \$480 million program to help Hispanic students in academic programs bringing the total support for Latino students to nearly \$1 billion. He also called attention to another initiative directing the Small Business Administration to provide \$2.5 billion in loans to Hispanic businesses by the year 2000.

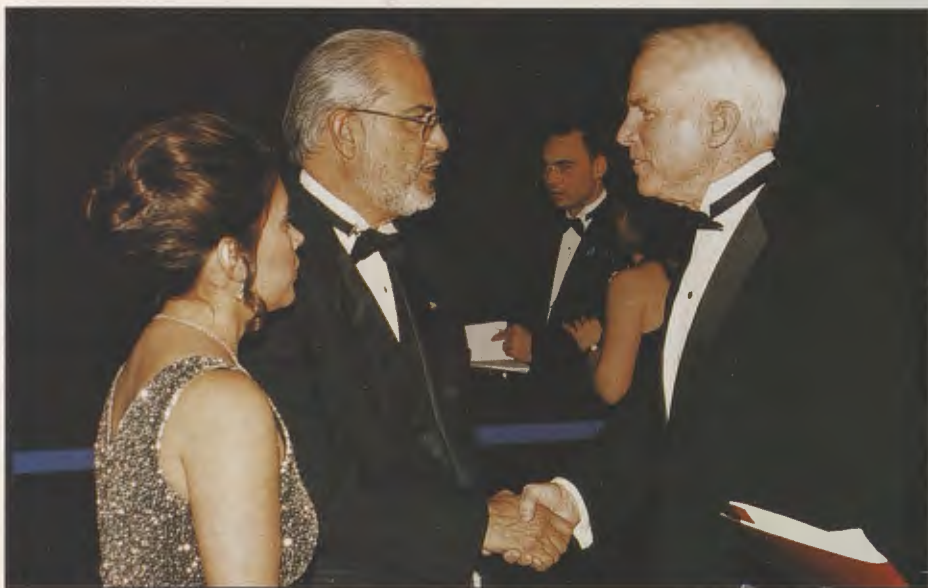
Gore also asserted that the Clinton Administration would continue trying to restore eligibility for federal benefits, including health care for certain legal immigrants and seek additional aid for Central American towns devastated by hurricanes. "We don't need more division in America. We don't need more attempts to roll back affirmative action. We don't need to exploit bilingual education for political gain or propose phony ballot initiatives. We don't need



Ana Estrada, VP for Women, presents Senator John McCain with LULAC's Friendship



Actor and Activist Edward James Olmos presided as master of ceremonies.



LULAC National President Rick Dovalina and his wife Lisa honor Senator John McCain (R-AZ). Dovalina discussed critical issues with McCain that affect the Hispanic community.

more scapegoats," Gore said to a roaring applause.

Showing Solidarity

Arizona Senator John McCain (R) and US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson were also on hand to receive the *LULAC Legislative Friendship Award* given by the LULAC executive board of directors. Richardson, who is a native of New Mexico, was elected eight times as congressman, served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and was sworn in as the U.S. Secretary of Energy last August.



U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson addresses the crowd after receiving the LULAC Legislative Friendship Award.

Richardson is the highest ranking Hispanic in the Clinton Administration and has been a longtime champion of Hispanic issues on a national and international level. Richardson vowed to continue working with LULAC on important issues affecting the Hispanic community. "When it comes to the many battles that our community has had in the 1980's and 1990's on education, on civil rights, on immigration, I think of MALDEF, I think of LULAC," said Richardson, who was presented the award by LULAC State Director for New Mexico Connie Martinez. "While many come and go, the ideals of LULAC will always stay," Richardson added.

Senator McCain, who captured more than 50% of the Latino vote in Arizona during his last two elections, was presented the other *LULAC Legislative Friendship Award*. McCain received the award because of his extensive outreach to the Hispanic community and opening up the Republican party to Latinos. McCain told the crowd that he would not be happy until he receives all of the Latino vote. He pledged to protect small businesses, make education more affordable and reward hard work. "These are central principles in the Republican message, but they are too often drowned out by the politics of division," McCain said. "We are a better country than that, and a better party than that," he added. McCain was presented the *LULAC Legislative Award* by Ana V. Estrada, LULAC National Vice

President for Women. McCain received a warm response for his "English Plus" position that English remains necessary for success in the U.S., but also that Spanish speakers should not give up their native tongue. "We don't need laws that cause any American to believe we scorn their contributions to our culture," said McCain.

During the event, master of ceremonies, actor Edward James Olmos announced and dedicated to LULAC his latest project, *Americanos*, which is an extensive account of Hispanic contribution to American culture. "It's a birthday gift that I bring with all my love and all the thanks from every single Latino who has ever lived in the U.S.A. and it's boundaries, as it's known today. And to the Latinos who were here long before the boundaries were ever erected ... this project is dedicated to LULAC. *Americanos* is for you, for seventy years of incredible work," Olmos said.

LULAC Vice President for the Southwest, Hector Flores toasted to LULAC's anniversary and historic achievements since the organization's birth in 1929. "To our forefathers who left a legacy for which to be proud ... and for the challenges before us that remain ever greater," Flores said. "May we have strength and wisdom that has been steadfast throughout our seventy years and our distinguished history. We

(Continued on page 19)



LULAC New Mexico State Director Connie Martinez smiles with Vice President Al Gore.

LATINOS IN THE NEWS

SAN DIEGO JOURNALISTS FACE UPHILL BATTLES AHEAD

The news media in conservative San Diego, CA, is in trouble and doesn't even know it. In the past three months, three Latino journalists, including award-winning reporter Laura Castañeda, have been cut from the ranks of the local public airwaves.

Latinos Squeezed Out

In October, veteran television reporter Romeo Cantu of KUSI-TV was informed his contract would not be renewed. In November, Castañeda, who is President of the California Chicano News Media Association, San Diego chapter, was told by KGTV's news director, Don Wells, that there was an inherent conflict of interest in her involvement with CCNMA and her job. Then, in January, radio reporter, Ninette Sosa, of KOGO radio, was singled out and told there was no money in the station's budget for her.

Castañeda said her activism had been criticized by Wells when he confronted her about a letter she had written on behalf of the association to a San Diego radio station. The letter said a KFMB/AM 760 sports talkshow host's recent remarks about a specific Latino journalist's on-air performance were "unacceptable, unprofessional and insulting to other professional Latino journalists." Referring to Salvador Rivera, Hank Bauer noted, "I was home the other night watching TV and I saw this Hispanic reporter who was really awful."

Even more disturbing in Castañeda's case was that Wells replaced her with a reporter who is not Latino, bilingual, or bicultural. "In reality, this means San Diego's Hispanic population is left on the cold. As a result of these firings, San Diego's Hispanic community and the city of Tijuana, across the border, will suffer," Castañeda said.

Latino reporters often take it upon themselves to cover issues and stories that would otherwise not be covered by the Hispanic community in San Diego

as in other similar regions with significant Latino populations. "What is most troubling is that too often in such cases, Latino reporters are the only full time Hispanic staffers in the newsrooms. In these three cases the management's reasons for the dismissals were ridiculous and irresponsible in a city where over 25% of the population is Latino," said Castañeda.

According to a study released by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, only 112 of the approximately 12,000 news stories produced by network news programs in 1997 focused on Latinos or Latino issues. This is a 25% drop from the number of Latino-related news stories that aired in 1996.

Making a Difference

Most viewers do not believe they can make a difference. Nothing could be further from the truth, says Castañeda. Just ask the management at KGTV. Since Laura's dismissal in November 1998, 30 Latino organizations in San Diego have joined together and demanded a meeting with the management of KGTV. Viewers began writing and calling the station - something the station probably did not expect. Since then, Wells, has been replaced. But the ignorance continues as long as the current management at KGTV-10 and other station managers across the country continue to turn their backs on the needs and of the fastest growing audience segment of the country.

"As the Latino population continues to soar in the coming decade, perhaps news managers across the country will finally understand they have a responsibility to see that their news should reflect the population they serve. If not, maybe it's time we remind them,"



Award winning news reporter Laura Castañeda was dropped by her station after a conflict of interest by defending another Latino journalist.

said Castañeda

San Diego LULAC Council 2842 has lent their support by joining other organizations to pressure the news station's management and demand more Latino journalists and more stories that concern and affect the Latino community. "The entire community needs to step up, and say 'we're not going to take this anymore.' We have to start holding them accountable," said Bea Estrada LULAC Council president. "If we get together, we'll have a larger voice. And maybe they'll hear that if they start letting go of our people, we'll stop watching their news programs."

To voice your concern to the KGTV management about the indiscriminate firings of Latino journalists and to demand more representative newscasts, LULAC encourages you to contact:

Ed Quinn
Vice-President of Broadcasting
McGraw-Hill/KGTV
P.O. Box 85347
San Diego, CA 92186

Or email him at www.kgtv.com

A 1999 Unified Agenda Benefits Latinos

President Clinton and Democrats in Congress are united behind an aggressive agenda to meet the needs of Latino families. That agenda focuses on guaranteeing the future of Social Security and Medicare, expanding educational opportunity for our children, and fighting for quality health care.

Despite the strong economy, too many families still struggle to make ends meet. And they are continually challenged in balancing the need to make a living with raising and caring for their kids. We must continue to work to make the economy meet the needs of Latino families. In 1999, we will work with House and Senate Democrats and the Clinton Administration to carry forth an agenda that addresses the critical issues that face all Americans.

Modernize Our Schools

First, we have to recommit our efforts to improve our public schools. In 1998, President Clinton and Democrats in Congress won a major victory in obtaining the first installment of funding for our initiative to add 100,000 new teachers to our nation's classrooms.

But, our work is not yet done. By 2030 the U.S. Bureau of the Census projections suggest that Latino students ages 5-18 will number 16 million or 25% of the total school population. We must provide the funding to enable local schools to modernize and rebuild their classrooms to provide the best learning environment for our children. In addition, we must do more to hold teachers and schools accountable to high standards and ensure that school districts and states obtain results in their efforts to provide a high-quality education. Indeed, the challenges of the next century are great; we will have to double our efforts to make sure our kids get the education they need to compete in the global marketplace.

Strengthen Social Security

Second, we must take action to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for the next century. Currently, 40% of retired Latinos, and 23% of retired Latino couples rely on the program for their entire income. Democrats are proposing to use budget surpluses over the next 15 years to make sure Social Security and Medicare are there for all Americans when they need it. This will be a challenging issue for Congress and the country. But the President's proposal is a good start to ensure that the foundation of retirement security is preserved and strengthened for the 21st century.

Patients Bill of Rights

Another priority is the reform of our nation's health care system. Last year, we came within five votes of passing a real and effective reform proposal that would have given the power over treatment options back to patients and doctors. Currently, insurance company bureaucrats decide whether care will be provided. It's wrong, and the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights is the way to make it right.

We hope Republicans will join us to get this bill passed early this year. Our families have been denied their health care rights for too long. The Republican leadership in Congress has the obligation to pass this bill and send it to the President early this year.

Congress must also work on other key areas. Such as increase minimum wage. A minimum wage increase will be the best way to make sure the ladder of opportunity exists for all workers in our economy. We must also expand the opportunities to small businesses in our community through tax relief and in-



Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-33-D)
Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

vestment opportunities. And we need to address the problems of crime and drugs on our streets. Too many of our children are dying and the future of an entire generation depends on our action now.

Late Amnesty

We must also reach a legislative or administrative solution for the thousands of immigrants who have been in the U.S. since 1982, also known as Late Amnesty individuals. Many have put down roots and have been contributing to the economy as tax payers for over 15 years. Virtually none of these individuals will be able to secure relief from deportation unless we act now.

House Republicans must put aside their confrontational and hostile tactics and put progress over partisanship this year. Democrats are ready to work on a bipartisan basis to build the needed foundation for the success of the Latino community that will help us achieve our common goal of prosperity for all Americans.

FEATURE ARTICLE

On A Mission: A Region In Crisis

LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund finds successes and heartaches - More funds needed to combat the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch

Susan Reyes knows what it's like to get her hands dirty. Since Hurricane Mitch devastated the Central America region last Fall, LULAC member Reyes has organized such an effective medical relief campaign that she has even outdone the U.S. federal government and American Catholic Church's medical efforts in the area.

Since October 1998, Reyes and her sister Brenda, have coordinated and administrated weekly trips to Honduras from Susan's hometown of River Ridge, Louisiana, bringing 90 tons medical supplies and more than 90 doctors to assist over 20,000 individuals hit hard by last year's storm. Reyes has been successful approaching pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, and other corporate donors, and has raised approximately \$6 million in supplies.

"It could have been one of us down there," she says passionately. Reyes, who still has family in Honduras which have lost their entire house due to Hurricane Mitch's vengeance, says she feels fortunate that her family didn't lose anyone like so many others have.

It is estimated that over 9,000



Children suffered the most with little or no food, shelter, and clothing.



Dr. Marie Mahoney tends to a child sick with pneumonia brought in by her father, a local farmer.

people perished and thousands are still missing due to Hurricane Mitch. The storm destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in Central America, demolishing roads and bridges in its wake, making transportation nearly impossible, as well as contaminating drinking water and food supplies. The enormous destruction has crippled the region's poorest economies for the next several years. In all, the aftermath has led to many more deaths due to epidemic levels of disease and starvation and lack of medical supplies and drinkable water.

Reyes said the Honduran government and military have fully cooperated in the relief effort, helping to transport the supplies and medical teams to various regions that are primarily accessible only by helicopters. During many of the relief trips, the teams of volunteers stayed at a Honduran military base in La Ceiba. "We really could not have done it without them," Reyes said of the military assistance. The medical relief effort found its way to Arenal, Sambo Creek, and Satillo, among many other hard hit places in Honduras.

Dr. Coralina Brown, a native of El Salvador, volunteered immediately after hearing about the *LULAC Central American Medical Relief Effort*. "When I arrived, I was amazed to see that nobody had anything to eat or drink. They had nothing, not even shoes. They would walk all day and for many miles to get medical care," said Brown, who



Dr. Mahoney delivers medical attention to a young boy. The medical teams often worked late into the night seeing hundreds of patients.



Dr. Coralia Brown tended to 700 children her first day. Many children suffered from severe malnutrition, respiratory problems and skin infections.

saw 700 children her first day and 600 the second day, on the first of two trips she took. "It really broke my heart to see so many children. They had so many infections," she added.

Brown had no idea how much the region lay in ruins, with buildings and roads washed away completely, leaving mud filled holes. "It was always raining and many didn't have shelter," she recalls. "There was so much devastation. They're going to need a lot of time to recover from this," Brown said. The teams of volunteers also brought toys for the children to alleviate some of the miserable conditions. "The children's smiles were certainly worth the trip," Brown added. But the toys quickly ran out.

There were many heartbreaking moments on the trip, says Dr. Brown, who recalls she only had five wheelchairs to give away to over 40 people suffering injuries from broken bones to paralysis. "It was hard telling people there wasn't anything left," Brown said tearfully.

Currently the region is trying to rehabilitate itself despite the enormous difficulties reaching many of the victims with medical, food, and water supplies. In the middle of its rainy season, the area is still plagued with water contamina-

tion and bacteria outbreaks. "It seems like a never ending cycle," Reyes said. The LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund started with a \$10,000 private donation from Reyes' employer,

(Continued on page 12)



Many Hurricane Mitch survivors traveled days to receive lifesaving medical care.

Anniversary:

Iowa Council Celebrates 40th Year in America's Heartland

Celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year, LULAC Council 10 from Davenport, Iowa, has remained a steadfast champion of improving the lives of Latinos over the past four decades. Despite obstacles and discrimination, Council 10's commitment to providing leadership and service has forever changed Davenport.

Community Service

Providing over \$350,000 in scholarships, Council 10 has focused on providing much needed educational programs for Latino students. "We must encourage and motivate our youth to succeed in all the endeavors they may undertake in life," said Council President Perry Ramirez.

The council has effectively forged many strong partnerships with the Davenport Community School District, local colleges, universities, and businesses to assist in many activities. "Learning from one another, about one another, and learning to share our heritage because we are a world within a community is important," said Ramirez.

Council 10 has instituted many successful programs aimed at student achievement. For example, a program for eighth grade students called *Latinos Achieved to Improve Nuestras Oportunidades for Success* stresses the importance of education, awareness of career choices to prepare for college, and the motivation to achieve set goals. The Hispanic High School Junior/Senior Banquet, sponsored by local colleges and universities, was established to congratulate high school seniors for having completed high school and to encourage them towards higher education. "Many people have come and gone, some have passed away, but all were dedicated people," Ramirez says of Council 10's members. "Our job now has been to encourage young people to follow their dreams," says Ramirez.

Council 10 has decided to challenge younger children with its *Preparing for the Future*



Preparing for the Future program paves the way in Iowa. (Left to Right) Jim O'Brian, Sergio Molina, Maria Flores, student participants, Mickeel Aguayo, and James Zohora.

ing for the Future program. This innovative program involves young students in the 3rd through 5th grades. The goals are to instill good behavior, positive attitude, and the importance of education preparedness. "We haven't done enough," says Ramirez. "We can encourage young people to follow their dreams, I know from working with them that we have some good future leaders out there, and it's up to us to keep them developing. We need to continuously come up with fresh ideas that both the old and young can work with," said Ramirez.

LULAC teamed with the American Institute of Commerce to establish a diversity leadership conference for students, *School and Community Values are Necessary for Success - Making the Difference in Our Community*, which was awarded the prestigious Iowa State Prism Award in 1998. "The future belongs to those who prepare for it. And they are our future," Ramirez says of students. "If we don't understand that, then we're in trouble."

Current Issues in Iowa

Iowa councils are vehemently opposing new projects by the INS, which has stepped up its attack on immigrants. The proposed "Rapid Return" program which deputizes local law enforcement to go after people who fit the "illegal immigrant profile." "There is only one problem, it violates people's rights," said

Ramirez. A key concern that also exists about the proposed program, includes officers that may conduct INS functions without the proper training or supervision. Hispanics (including legal permanent residents and citizens) will be subjected to increased illegal traffic stops or other violations of their civil rights.

The Iowa State legislature is also pursuing a divisive "English-Only" law, which passed the Senate, but will receive a stronger challenge in the House.

The Beginnings

"We've been visible for 40 years," Iowa State Director Henry Vargas, who was one of the founders of LULAC Council 10 in 1959. At that time, there were five other councils in Iowa all

(Continued on page 28)



Perry Ramirez, Iowa Council 10 President



News From Around the League



Bringing Out the Best in Lubbock

On February 20, 1999, LULAC Council 263 of Lubbock, TX, held its 16th Annual "Bring Out Your Best," Awards and Scholarships Banquet. This was the last event held during LULAC Week activities celebrating the founding of LULAC seventy years ago. Fifteen corporate sponsors bought tables to help raise funds for scholarships which have benefited many students in and around Lubbock. There were many community dignitaries present, including Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President, who was the honored guest and keynote speaker.

Other events held during the week were "Professional Night," honoring Hispanic women business owners, during which the SBA officials presented certificates of appreciation, honoring more than 50 outstanding businesswomen.

On Thursday, February 18, the council also held its annual Membership Mixer. This is both a membership appreciation function and a recruitment opportunity for new members. The event was the most successful yet with over 150 members and prospects attending. The program included an historical perspective of LULAC and its mission.



LULAC President Rick Dovalina presenting a special achievement awards to Lubbock Council 263 President for the council's long history of service to the community. Right is Robert Lugo, Texas LULAC District 1 Director.

Project Family in Virginia

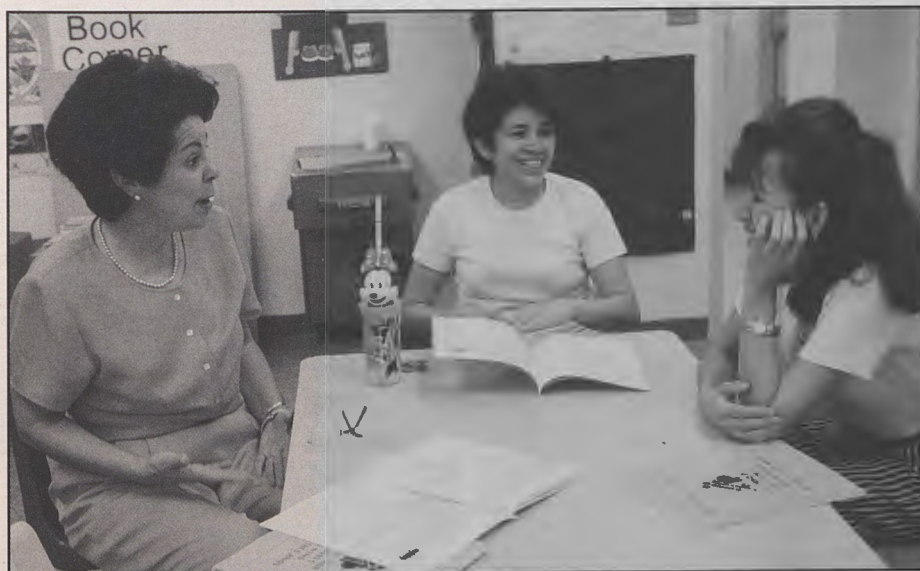
Convinced that learning begins at birth, Arlington's LULAC Council 4606 in northern Virginia, spearheaded the unique and highly successful *Project Family* in 1989. The prenatal and early childhood education program has been very successful in reaching out to the community. Thanks to the generous financial support from Arlington County, the council has successfully trained more than 400 parents and other adults in prenatal and early childhood rearing

strategies.

"The children love it, the parents love it, it has been so successful that the program has expanded into Washington, D.C., and we are very proud of that," said Gloria Starr, who coordinates LULAC's program classes. Council 4606 has also been very active in helping low income Hispanic students attend college. As a result, during the past decade they have granted scholarships to 130 Arlington students. The Virginia council has also been very active with their *Empowering Families* program which teaches literacy skills to many illiterate Spanish speaking adults.

LULAC Speeds onto the Information SuperHighway

LULAC members embarked on a new frontier last month as it began the first *National Interactive Video Conference of LULAC Young Adults*, dedicated to Richard Roybal, LNEC Executive Director. The event, themed: *Alternative for the New Millennium*, was hosted from the Bayamon Campus of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and was connected to Pima Community College, SW Texas University, University of Illinois, and the University of North



LULAC Program Coordinator Gloria Starr with participants of the tremendously successful *Project Family* in Arlington, VA.

(Continued on page 15)



Clockwise: LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund team members cross a river with a makeshift cablecar. The bridge collapsed during Hurricane Mitch's pass. A Honduran girl smiles after receiving medical treatment and a teddy bear. Medical team arrives in La Ceiba, Honduras. (R-L) Herb White, Rose White, Mr. Reyes, Susan Reyes, Dr. Kevin Conrad, Janet Guchet, Mary Anne Levy, Dr. Marie Mahoney, and Dr. Fayne St. John.

(Continued from page 9)

Guidant Corporation, which since then, has expanded to nearly \$40,000 in funding from various organizations and private donations.

The Reyes sisters have also managed to gain the cooperation of the Louisiana National Guard for transportation of medical supplies and personnel. Still with funds and supplies diminishing, Reyes has scaled back her weekly operation to once a month effort. With each trip costing approxi-

mately \$5000 per team, Reyes finds herself searching for more financial support.

"The differences that we made with so little was very rewarding," says Brown. "But it isn't enough. Families ask us when we're going to come again. There are so many resources here in the U.S. And we need to do more, we have to do more," Brown said.

Reyes agrees, saying that the effort has made inroads in alleviating

some suffering, but she continues to work on more donations. She says she finds her inspiration from the great resilience of the Central American people.

"They're indomitable fighters, no one sees this as a burden, and it's quite inspirational to see how they have endured. It really is unbelievable."




If you wish to contribute to the *LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund* please mail your donation to:

LULAC Central American Medical Relief Fund
Attention: Carolina Muñoz
221 N. Kansas, Suite 1200
El Paso, TX 79901

If you wish to contribute medicines, medical supplies, and used eyeglasses, please call (504) 738-1685. Your donations are tax deductible.

Unleash your potential

 Philip Morris is the dynamic company behind subsidiaries like Kraft Foods, Inc. and Miller Brewing Company, whose name is known throughout the world. Today we invite you to be part of our family. If you have experience in sales, finance, computer systems, operations, marketing, or simply the desire to grow with us, come and achieve your potential. For employment opportunities within Philip Morris U.S.A., Kraft Foods, Inc. or Miller Brewing Company, send your resumé to:

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Equal Opportunity Employer.



The School Voucher Debate

LULAC opposes the Implementation of vouchers As they drain needed funds From public schools

As the debate of school vouchers continues, U.S. voters are now forced to make a fundamental choice – to provide vouchers for a few students or improve the education of all children. The League of United Latin American Citizens opposes any implementation of the school voucher program, because we believe they will hurt our public schools.

Vouchers Drain Public Funds

LULAC maintains that rather risking our tax money on voucher initiatives, we should invest in reforms proven to improve our children's education and raise student achievement, by reducing class size, hiring more qualified teachers, and putting more computers in the classrooms.

Vouchers drain deeply needed funding from public schools. This fact has been proven during the voucher experiment underway Cleveland, OH, which is costing the public schools \$8.7 million every year. The recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision to expand Milwaukee's voucher program to 15,000 students will cost that city's public school system more than \$70 million a year. Congress recently succeeded in passing voucher bills to send taxpaying dollars into private and parochial schools, however, President Clinton vetoed these bills. Congress is planning to pass another voucher bill again this Fall.

No Accountability

A significant problem with school voucher programs is that they are not accountable to any public control or oversight. In fact, a recent audit by Deloitte & Touche of Cleveland's voucher plan revealed that \$2 million had been misspent – including 1.4 million in taxicab rides for voucher students.

Recent studies of the Milwaukee



Latino children would significantly be affected by voucher programs. These children are with the *Project Family* development play group near Washington, D.C.

and Cleveland plans indicate that participation in voucher programs do little or nothing to improve student education. According to a *Money Magazine* study in October of 1994, private schools are no better scholastically than comparable public schools.

Abandoning Our Public Schools

While studies indicate that reducing class size is an effective way to improve student performance, we also should remain committed to fixing our schools, holding them responsible, but not abandoning them. Cutting funding significantly weakens our public schools, while drawing away the best students and the most engaged parents.

The voucher issue is the most important educational controversy since "separate but equal" schools were declared unconstitutional. Seizing upon undeniable problems in our public schools, particularly in urban areas, many proponents are using vouchers and seductive rhetoric of "choice" to further their goal of privatizing our schools removing them from public oversight and responsibility. In fact, private schools are not required to hold open meetings. Nor are they required to open their records, release test scores, and other basic information. Voucher schools also tend not to provide needed services for children with special education needs or for children who speak English as a second lan-

guage. It's the private school who really chooses the student, not the other way. Thus, schools can reject students based on academics, gender, disability, national origin, and religion.

At a time when our communities need to recommit themselves to equity and high standards for every child, vouchers instead promote a mentality of escape and individual advancement. The issue diverts us from the imperative need to address teacher training, class size, outdated, and overcrowded buildings.

Nearly 90% of America's children are educated in our public schools. We can't leave them behind without the resources to make the needed reforms we know will help them achieve and excel. Instead, we should embrace school reforms.

There is no single formula for reforming public schools, however, LULAC believes that there are essential ingredients for higher achievement. These include reforms made to advance the collaboration among educators, parents and community members. Parents must also be recognized to be a valuable and instrumental part of their children's education decisions.

Latino students, in particular, would significantly be affected by voucher programs in a negative way. Real reforms need to be based on a sincere commitment to equity that promotes high academic standards for all of our children.



Speeding on the information superhighway at the First National Interactive Video Conference of LULAC Young Adults. (L-R) Richard Roybal, LNES Executive Director; Dámaris Sifuentes, LULAC National Vice President for Young Adults; Marilina Wayland, Chancellor Bayamon Campus, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico; Senator Lucy Arce, Majority Whip of the Puerto Rico Senate; and Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. They are holding a resolution passed by Senate of Puerto Rico honoring the event.

(Continued from page 11)

Texas. The mission was to provide an opportunity for young adults attending post-secondary institutions with a forum where they can discuss the problems that concern them. The goal of the video conference was to facilitate the discussion of the obstacles Hispanics confront in their higher education institutions and to highlight effective methods to overcome them.

The new event was planned with the purposes of giving all the participants a real view of the capability of

their higher education institutions, their curriculum, and the technology they possess to formulate solutions. "Today, the computer and its technology provides young adults with the tools needed to face what lies ahead on the verge of a new millennium," said Dámaris Sifuentes, LULAC National Vice President for Young Adults. "It was a very useful event, and we look forward to others in the future," she also said.

LULAC State Conventions

Kansas - March 26-27; Contact: Michael Martinez, State Director. (913) 272-6682

New Mexico - April 30 & May 1-2; Contact: Connie Martinez, State Director. (505) 843-4124 or 856-7379

Iowa - May 14-15; Contact: Henry Vargas, State Director. (209) 954-5150

California - May 21-23; Contact: Marcos Contreras, State Director. (209) 954-5150 or 239-9462

Florida - May 21-23; Contact: Matilda Garcia, State Director (813) 289-1130

Texas - June 4-6; Contact: Oscar Moran, Conference Planner. (210) 733-0406

Puerto Rico - June 10-13; Contact: Elsie Valdes, State Director. (787) 754-4347

Michigan - April 30; Contact: Ramiro Gonzalez, State Director (517) 753-3412

Wisconsin - May 8; Contact: Gregorio Montoto, State Director (414) 297-6717

Indiana - May 15; Contact: Maria Pizana, State Director (708) 371-6144

Illinois - May 29; Contact: Alicia Arellano, State Director (630) 906-7225

Colorado - May 15; Contact: Lillian Gutierrez, State Director (303) 844-4480

Arizona - June 11-13 Contact: Richard Fimbres (520) 740-5807

Dr. Clears Way For A New Start



LULAC member Dr. Steven Maldonado-Popkow helps provide a fresh start to many.

Dr. Steven Maldonado-Popkow believes in second chances. That is why this Los Angeles-based LULAC member has spearheaded an innovative solution to an age-old gang member problem: getting rid of gang tattoos.

Often haunted by the past, former gang members sometimes have difficulty finding jobs or erasing a part of their lives they wish to forget. "Growing up in East L.A., I saw many people trying to start a new life, but had problems getting jobs or staying out of trouble," said Dr. Maldonado-Popkow, who is of Guatemalan-Russian descent.

Providing over a thousand successful treatment sessions so far, his anti-gang program has allowed hundreds of ex-gang members to get rid of their gang insignias and begin a new life. As the medical director of the Hollywood Sunset Community Free Clinic, this family practitioner has also volunteered countless hours providing free medical care to thousands of inner-city patients over the last eight years. The state of California caught on to this wave of success and recently awarded the free clinic a grant to provide tattoo removal for "at-risk" youth.

"Tattoos are like chains, often holding people down, and making it difficult for them to move on towards a brighter future," said Dr. Maldonado-Popkow, who is a graduate of UC San Francisco School of Medicine and is the founder of the Skin Laser Center in Venice, Ca.

For more information on anti-gang programs or donations, please call (310) 915-8060 or log onto www.skinlasercenter.com.

¡AMERICANOS! Latino Life in the United States

Edward James Olmos dedicates latest monumental project to LULAC
Exhibit set to premier in Washington, D.C. before a sweeping world tour

A revolutionary and historic new project designed to reflect an intimate portrait of the Latino community and its contribution to American culture sets to kick off its world tour in Washington, D.C., on April 7, 1999.

Announced by actor and activist Edward James Olmos at the *LULAC Legislative Friendship Awards Gala* last February, the enormous undertaking brings together original images from more than thirty award-winning photographers. The unprecedented work, which has taken two years to complete, also includes essays, poetry, a feature length movie by HBO, and a musical CD to be released by Atlantic Records in conjunction with Warner Music Latin America.

"It will change the way we look at ourselves," says Olmos, of the comprehensive project that he dedicated to the League of United Latin American Citizens. "It will enlighten the non-Latino, as much as the Latino."

Americanos is designed to present the wonderful diversity and vitality of the Latino community and bring together the positive images, sounds, and rich color of Latinos everywhere. "It's incredible. It really does push the cultural dimension to the highest awareness of the diversity in the Latino population," Olmos said.

The exhibit does that by interweaving Latinos of all walks of life, including astronauts, migrant field workers and doctors all contributing to American society. Each of the six sections of the exhibition: *work, family, spiritual life, community, sports, culture and arts*, will be introduced by personal statements written by prominent Latino writers or citizens such as Carlos Fuentes, Julia Alvarez, Sandy Alomar Jr., and Celia Cruz.

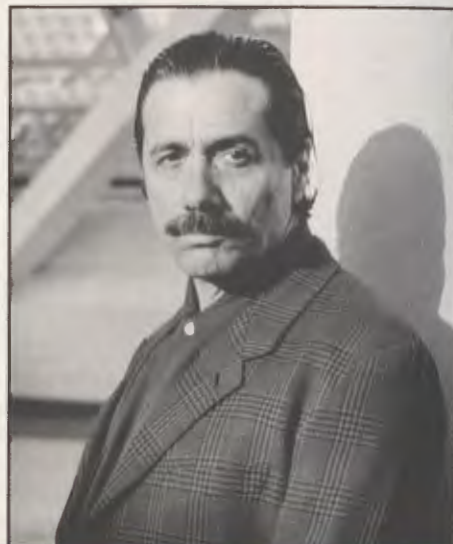
"This important collection reveals people who are diverse in culture, color, ideas, and dreams, who

share a common desire to make life better for themselves, their families, their neighbors, and their nation," said Olmos. "Too often this society sees us not as Americans, but as strangers to this land. We have worked hard to help build this country and we continue to do so everyday. When people see the face of America, they need to also see our images included," Olmos said.

Olmos, and close friends, Manuel Monterrey, and Dr. Lea Ybarra all sharing in the vision, collaborated with dozens of editors, photographers, and writers to portray a stunning array of imagery. Launching from the nation's capital city, the exhibition tour is scheduled to crisscross the nation, and then hit the world stage, landing in over sixty countries around the globe.

"The biggest challenge is to contain my energy. I have been so excited about this, and the hardest thing to do is maintain its presence," said Olmos, who also says the project, becoming a source of inner peace, has been such a joy for him to produce.

Olmos' visions a record setting six full exhibits touring around the country at the same time (The record is currently



Actor and activist, Edward James Olmos, who is preparing to release *Americanos*, encourages LULAC councils to get involved with the project.

five). "We plan to beat that," Olmos says confidently. "It's just a matter of waking up the sleeping giant," as he passionately refers to the Hispanic community. "And this can be the wake up call."

The Smithsonian Institution agrees. "This is an exciting project that sheds new light on the Latino image and the diversity of the population. The



Baseball Hero Sammy Sosa captured the world's attention as he broke the previously held homerun record last season.

LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION 1999



League of United Latin American Citizens

Dear Friends of LULAC,



On February 17, 1929, representatives from three Hispanic organizations met in Obreros Hall in Corpus Christi, Texas and agreed to form the League of United Latin American Citizens, marking a defining moment in Hispanic American history. LULAC held its first national convention to elect its leadership on May 18, 1929 and we have continued to improve upon the convention every year since that time. On behalf of the thousands of LULAC members across the United States, it is my great pleasure to invite you to join us as we return to our birthplace to celebrate our 70th anniversary at the 1999 LULAC National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas.

LAC National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The 70th annual LULAC National Convention & Exposition will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas from July 11 through July 17, 1999. As the premier Hispanic event in the United States, the LULAC National Convention draws over 6,000 people each year including top leaders from government, business, media, and the Hispanic community.

1998 Convention: At the 1998 LULAC National Convention in Dallas, Texas, over 40 Fortune 500 sponsors and 150 national exhibitors made contacts, recruited talented professionals, and presented their company's messages to key leaders of the fastest growing population in the United States. Outstanding national leaders including Texas Governor George W. Bush, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Senator Bill Richardson, and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt spoke to capacity crowds and received nationwide media coverage.

Make History: This year's convention is expected to be even better as we celebrate 70 years of service to the Hispanic community and benefit from the booming Hispanic market and increased political empowerment that has captured the nation's attention.

The LULAC Convention is always an exciting, history-making event because it convenes the national delegates of LULAC to discuss issues, set policies, and elect the organization's national leaders. For this reason, the LULAC Convention makes news and is covered by national and local media. It is the only convention where representatives from Hispanic communities from across the country determine the positions and strategies of a national Hispanic organization.

Reach Out to Hispanic America: The LULAC Convention is also well attended by major corporations who recognize the importance of reaching out to national Hispanic leaders and influential community members directly. There are opportunities to sponsor workshops and events, to showcase products in the convention exhibit hall, and to recruit Hispanic professionals at the job fare. In addition, all proceeds go to support the dedicated work of LULAC to improve the quality of life for Hispanic Americans.

Please join us at the 1999 LULAC Convention and Exposition in Corpus Christi as we chart a new future inspired by our legacy of accomplishments!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Dovalina".

Rick Dovalina
LULAC National President

Convention Information:

Convention Location

Bayfront Plaza Convention Center, 1201 N. Shoreline Corpus Christi, TX 78469-9277

Convention hotels

LULAC has reserved a block of rooms at the following hotels at a special convention rate until June 15, 1999.

Omni Bayfront Hotel

Omni Marina Hotel

900 & 707 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Reservations—(800) 843-6664

Bayfront #—(512) 887-1600

Marina #—(512) 882-1700

Rate: \$89/Single or Double;

\$109/Triple or Quad

Ramada Inn Bayfront

601 N. Water Street

Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Reservations—(800) 688-0334

Main Number—(512) 882-8100

Rate: \$56/Single; \$72/Double

Travelodge Marina Grand Hotel

300 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Reservations—(800) 578-7878

Main Number—(512) 883-5111

Rate: \$56/Single or Double;

\$72/Triple or Quad

Air Transportation

LULAC has arrangements with the following airlines to offer special discounts for attendees. Contact the airlines or your travel agent and mention the LULAC ID number to receive your discount.

American (800) 433-1790

Star File # 1479UB

Continental (800) 525-0280

Reference Code # JC8NST

Southwest (800) 433-5368

Identifier Code # K5839

About Corpus Christi

The birthplace of LULAC is one of the premiere Hispanic cities in the United States with a population of more than 245,000 Latinos. With a thriving economy, excellent schools, tropical climate, and plenty of family attractions, Corpus Christi is an ideal convention destination.

Convention Program

Sunday, July 11

- 1 to 5 pm LULAC National Convention Registration
- 1 to 5 pm National Training Institute Registration
- 6 to 9 pm Opening Reception

Monday, July 12

- 7 am to noon LULAC National Convention Registration
- 8:30 to noon LULAC National Training Institute
- Noon to 2 pm Opening Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm Registration continues
- 2 pm to 5 pm National Training Institute

Tuesday, July 13

- 7 am to noon LULAC National Convention Registration
- 7:30 to 9 am Law Enforcement Breakfast
- 9 am to noon LULAC National Training Institute
- Noon to 2 pm Diversity Luncheon
- 1:30 pm Golf Tournament, Padre Isles Country Club
- 2 pm to 5 pm Registration continues
- 2 pm to 5 pm National Training Institute

Wednesday, July 14

- 7 am to noon LULAC National Convention Registration
- 9 am to noon National Training Institute
- 10 to 10:30 am Exhibit Opening Ceremony
- Noon to 2 pm 70th Anniversary Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm Registration continues
- 2 pm to 5 pm Exhibit Area Open
- 2 to 2:30 pm Assembly—Committee Assignments
- 2:30 to 5:30 pm Seminars
- 7 pm to 1 am Corpus Christi Banquet & Dance

Thursday, July 15

- 7 am to noon LULAC National Convention Registration
- 9 am to noon Exhibit Area Open
- 9 am to noon Concurrent Seminars
- Noon to 2 pm Unity Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm Registration
- 2 pm to 5 pm Exhibit Area Open
- 2:30 to 5:30 pm Seminars
- 7 pm Youth Banquet

Friday, July 16

- 7 am to noon LULAC National Convention Registration
- 7:30 to 9 am Scholarship Breakfast
- 9 am to noon Exhibit Area Open
- 9 am to noon Concurrent Seminars
- Noon to 2 pm Women's Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm Registration
- 2 pm to 4 pm LULAC Policy Summit
- 2 pm to 4 pm Exhibit Area Open
- 5 pm to 7 pm Presidential Reception
- 7 pm to 1 am Presidential Awards Banquet & Ball

Saturday, July 17

- 8 am to 3 pm National Assembly & Election of Officers
- 8 pm to 12 am Noche de Puerto Rico, Corpus Aquarium

Youth Agenda

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

- 7 am to 5 pm Registration
- Noon to 2 pm 70th Anniversary Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm National Youth Board Executive Meeting
- 7 pm to 12 am Corpus Christi Celebration
- 9 pm to 11 am LULAC Youth Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 15, 1999

- 7 am to 5 pm Registration
- 9 am to 12 pm LULAC Youth General Assembly
 - Welcome by the National Youth Officers
 - Call to Order: 1999 Youth Convention
 - Committee Assignments
- 12 pm to 2 pm Unity Luncheon
- 2 pm to 5 pm Youth General Assembly reconvenes
 - National Youth Officer's Report
 - State Youth Directors' Report
- 7 pm Youth Awards Banquet & Dance

Friday July 16, 1999

- 7:30 to 9 am LNESCH Scholarship Breakfast
- 10 am to 5 pm 1999 Youth Leadership Conference
- 10 am Welcome
- 11 to 11:50 am Breakout Session I
- Noon to 2 pm National Youth Officers Luncheon
- 2 to 2:50 pm Breakout Session II
- 3 to 3:50 pm Breakout Session III
- 4:30 pm Dismissal and depart for hotel

Break out Sessions

- "Argh! I don't understand the Internet!"
- College Connections: Admissions, scholarships & aid
- Youth Officer Training: duties, parliamentary procedure
- Public speaking
- Motivation and team building
- Goal setting and time management
- A look back through Hispanic history
- Latinos in the Arts
- Cultural Beliefs and Curandismo
- Latinas in Business
- Marketing/Publicity/Fundraising
- Successful Community Projects
- Job Search Strategies

- 7 pm to 9 pm Presidential Awards Banquet
- 10 pm to 1 am Youth Dance & Karaoke Night on the Flagship Boat

Saturday July 17, 1999

- 8 am to 5 pm General Assembly Reconvenes
 - Old business
 - National Youth Officer Elections
 - New Business
 - Good Welfare of the League
 - Adjournment

The 1999 LULAC National Convention & Exposition • Corpus Christi, Texas • July 11-17

1999 Highlights

- Celebrity Speakers
- 70th Anniversary Lunch
- Law Awards Breakfast
- Corpus Christi Dance
- Hispanic Unity Luncheon
- Youth Celebration
- Women's Luncheon
- Presidential Banquet
- 1999 Elections

Convention Center

The Convention will be held at Bayfront Plaza Convention Center, 1201 N. Shoreline Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78469-9277

Seminars

Three days of seminars will focus on key issues facing Hispanics:

- Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Social Security
- Grass Roots Empowerment
- Education
- Money Management
- Census 2000
- Health Care

National Training Institute

An intensive training program for government and private-sector employees to enhance career development, employee relations, and manage change. Topics:

- Human Resource Initiatives
- Mediation and Arbitration
- Strengthening Diversity
- Leadership Development

Youth Conference

A three-day conference for Hispanic youth featuring workshops and panel discussions with national leaders.

Job Fair

During the expo, many Fortune 500 companies & government agencies will be recruiting minority professionals.

LULAC Expo

A three-day expo showcasing products and services of major corporations, organizations, and government agencies.

Registration

For registration, contact:

LULAC National Office
1133 20th St., NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 408-0060
www.LULAC.org

Come Join LULAC as We Celebrate 70 Years of Service to the Hispanic Community

Sponsorship, Exhibitor, & Advertising Agreement

Please print or type the requested information below as it should appear in the convention program and name badge:

Name _____ Title _____

Title _____

Corporation/Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Sponsorships

Sponsoring an event or workshop at the LULAC Convention is an ideal way to reach out to national Hispanic leaders and influential community members. The following packages are offered at the levels indicated:

☐ **Presidential—\$50,000:** Convention Sponsor; 9 Exhibits; 2 Tables; 2 Color Ads; 9 Registrations

☐ **Judicial—\$35,000:** Dinner Co-sponsor; 6 Exhibits; Table; Color Ad; 6 Registrations; Signage

☐ **Senatorial—\$25,000:** Dinner Co-sponsor; 4 Exhibits; Table; Color Ad; 4 Registrations

☐ **Congressional—\$20,000:** Dinner Co-sponsor; 3 Exhibits; Table; Color Ad; 3 Registrations

☐ **Patriot—\$15,000:** Lunch Co-sponsor; 2 Exhibits; Table; BW Ad; 2 Registrations

☐ **Patron—\$10,000:** Lunch or Workshop Co-sponsor; 2 Exhibits; Table; BW Ad; 2 Registrations

Advertising

The 1999 LULAC National Convention Program provides an excellent opportunity for placing recruitment and community relations advertisements highlighting your corporate contributions to the Hispanic community. Over 6,000 copies will be distributed. Please indicate choices below (trim sizes):

☐ Full Page Color (8.5"x11")\$2,000

☐ Full Page B&W (8.5"x11")\$1,500

☐ Half Page B&W (8.5"x5.5")\$750

☐ 1/4 Page B&W (4.25"x5.5")\$500

☐ Inside Cover (8.5"x11")\$3,000

☐ Back Cover (8.5"x11")\$3,500

Notes:

- 1). 1/8" bleed area all around.
- 2). B&W ad slick with film negatives, right side reading, emulsion side down, 133 line screen. Four-color ads require a color proof. Live area is 1/4" less than trim all around.
- 3). Material returned upon request.
- 4). No cancellations after 6/1/99.

Exhibits

The LULAC Convention Exposition is the premier venue for showcasing products and services to the Hispanic community and recruiting employees. Open to the general public, more than 6,000 people attend the exposition each year. Please indicate your choices below:

_____ Number of 10 'x 10' spaces requested.

_____ Indicate Exhibit dimensions

☐ Yes, I need the exhibitor's equipment package consisting of an 8' high backwall, 3' high side rails, six foot table, two chairs, and I.D. sign.

☐ I don't need the standard package.

Each exhibit space will be sold in 10' x 10' increments. The cost per space is indicated below:

	Before 6/1/99	After 6/1/99
Corporate	\$1,250	\$1,500
Non-Profit/Federal	\$750	\$1,000

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ Date _____

Total _____ Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express Signature _____

Make checks payable to the 1999 LULAC National Convention and mail to the national office at the address on the right. Credit card orders accepted by fax. For more information, contact (202) 408-0060 or visit our website at: **www.LULAC.org**.

LULAC National Office
1133 Twentieth St., NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 408-0060 FAX (202) 408-0064

1999 LULAC National Convention Registration

Print or type the requested information below as you would like it to appear on your name badge:

Name _____

Title _____

Company/Agency _____ Council # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Check the appropriate box(es). Voting members should check delegate, alternate, or their office.

General

- ☐ Guest
☐ N.T.I.
☐ Sponsor
☐ Exhibitor
☐ Media

LULAC Council*

- ☐ Member
☐ Delegate
☐ Alternate

LULAC Officer[†]

- ☐ District Director
☐ State Director
☐ National Officer
☐ Past National Officer

Youth*

- ☐ Member
☐ Delegate
☐ Alternate

*Must enter Council # in Council line. [†]Must enter district, state, or position in Title line.

Registration Packages

	Pre	Onsite
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Members	\$100	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> LULAC Members	195	220
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members*	250	275
<input type="checkbox"/> N.T.I. Attendees*	300	325
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Attendees*	350	375

Pre-registration must be received by 6/1/99. National Training Institute and Corporate packages include registration, seminars, meals, and all events except the golf tournament. Youth, member and non-member packages include registration and all seminars, meals, and events from Wednesday through Saturday except the golf tournament.

Individual Tickets

<input type="checkbox"/> Registration	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Law Awards Breakfast	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Opening Luncheon	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Corpus Banquet	50
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Unity Luncheon	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Youth Banquet	50
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Women's Luncheon	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Presidential Reception	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Presidential Banquet	50
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament	100

No cancellations or refunds after 6/1/99.

Corporate & National Training Institute participants must purchase the full package.

*Non-member, N.T.I. & Corporate packages include associate LULAC membership for those who are not members.

Total _____ Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express Signature _____

Payment can be made by cash, check, or major credit card. For pre-registration, mail completed registration form along with check or credit card information to the address on the right. Credit card orders accepted by fax. Visit our website at: **www.LULAC.org** for more information.

1999 LULAC National Convention
1133 20th Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 408-0060, (202) 408-0064 FAX
Email: AGutierrez@LULAC.org



Philip Morris Companies Inc.
is pleased to join the
League of United Latin American Citizens
in celebrating its 70th annual convention.

A future inspired by a legacy of accomplishment.

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American people will see the many ways Latinos contribute to American culture," says Dr. Refugio Rochin, who is the director of the Smithsonian's Center for Latino Initiatives. "This is just a beginning for the Smithsonian in trying to capture the many riches of the Latino community. Olmos has dedicated much of his time and energy to this project to make it happen," Rochin said.

Americanos is praised as both an educational and entertaining piece of work. "It's about community. It's about family. It's about dreams, it's about pride," added Sol Trujillo, President and CEO of US West. "When Eddie came to me on the *Americanos* project, I could not resist. And now to see the photo exhibit is positive proof that my instincts were right when I decided to make US West the initial sponsor of this project," Trujillo said.

But the work for Olmos is not finished there. In fact, although Olmos has raised \$1.5 Million for the project so far, he still needs to raise approximately \$550,000 more to ensure its completion. Although Olmos remains confident that the Latino community will support this project, he calls on Latinos to overwhelm the Smithsonian Institution and demand that this exhibit be taken to their hometown. "I've never asked for any kind of support for any project of mine," Olmos says, who speaks at over 250 events a year for various organizations and community events. "I would now like to call in the chips, in hopes



One of many photographs under display in *Americanos* exhibit that captures the diversity of Latino life in the United States.

that people will watch and embrace this project, the same way we would embrace our cultural heritage with pride, dignity, and a sense of self-esteem that allows us to grow spiritually and mentally," Olmos said.

Dedicating this project to LULAC on its 70th Anniversary, Olmos hopes LULAC members would begin working to bring this exhibit to each of their communities. "I will come to each community, I'm willing to dedicate myself," says Olmos, who has offered LULAC councils who bring the exhibit to their hometowns portions of the history making display.

"This is an amazing and historical project that will affect the lives of many people around the world," said LULAC National President, Rick Dovalina. "I encourage our LULAC councils to get in-

involved with this project in their hometowns which it will serve to educate and stimulate our community."

The reality is that if Hispanics support Latino projects with the same numbers as they do to the likes of *Titanic* and *Terminator* movies, more movies will be made about Latinos. To movie industry executives, "It's all about the dollar," Olmos says.

Many believe that this event will touch the heart of many, and reflect the positive images of the Hispanic community. "We turn out when things are edu-

(Continued on page 19)

The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit

The wonderful Ice Cream Suit is a delightful film about friendship, sharing and realizations of dreams. Making its video debut March 16, 1999 from Touchstone Home Video, the story of five men who, down on their luck with only \$100 between them, buy one magical suit that will ultimately transform their lives. An eclectic bunch of characters living in a contemporary Los Angeles neighborhood, the men arrange to wear the suit for one night each. This enchanted suit brings out their innermost desires and makes each of their dreams come true in a multitude of hilarious and meaningful ways. Written and inspired by Ray Bradbury growing up in East Los Angeles, *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit* stars Edward James Olmos, Esai Morales, Joe Mantegna, and Clifton Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Gregory Sierra.



Clifton Gonzalez-Gonzalez, Edward James Olmos, Joe Mantegna, Gregory Sierra, Esai Morales in *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit*.

Saving One Child At a Time

From the Field of Dreams
To the halls of academia,
Educator takes home high
Honor

Education is a nonnegotiable. Just ask LULAC member Mike Sanchez, who over the past twenty years has changed the face of education in the northern California town of San Benito.

During his tenure as principal at San Andreas High School, Sanchez has turned the lives around of countless students dealing with various problems and turning challenges into positive solutions. How has he been able to affect so many lives? Easy. One at a time, he says.

In fact, the approach has been so effective over the past two decades, he has rid his school of instituted age-old policies that, according to Sanchez, promotes confusion and reclusion. The end result: an effective approach of reaching at-risk children.

"It requires a lot of time, but it's worth it to avoid having the student come in later when he's confused," Sanchez said, who visits each student at home to build an active relationship.



Mike Sanchez with Gerardo Rodriguez
California State Youth President.

"It really gives us an edge," he says of his regular visits to students.

His simple, yet powerful mantra, was recognized by The California Association of Alternative Education earlier this year, nominating Sanchez as the recipient of the prestigious Jerry Dean Award for outstanding service in alternative education. Sanchez was also recognized as the California Central Coast Educator of the Year in 1998 by LULAC.

Yet Mike Sanchez hardly seem phased by the recognition. "Nobody does this alone. I receive this on behalf of everyone and I take credit for nothing," Sanchez said, who attributes his success to his solid family upbringing. "We were raised with guidance that 'you are to help others' and with the mentality to create a better world," he said. Sanchez became a member of LULAC Council 2890 in 1989.

"He is seen as an older brother, a *tio*, and the students just look up to him. He is such an inspiration to the community," says Mickie Luna, Council President. "He is such a kind gentleman, and his sincerity really shows through. If you meet him, you'll never forget him," adds Luna.

Louisa and Ricardo Sanchez moved from San Antonio, TX, to northern California in 1964 with their ten children in search of more opportunity. Instead, they found a new set of struggles waiting for them. "We headed to the promised lands and ended up in the garlic fields in San Benito County," he says. His family worked in the fields longer than he can remember, picking cucumbers and other fruits and vegetables. "The only field we didn't pick was the little league field," he laughs, remembering all the hard work that instilled within him a powerful work ethic and pride that resonates throughout his family.

There were many years when the Sanchez family struggled, but they remained optimistic. "Whenever my mom discussed hardships or being on public assistance, she would always say 'this is just temporary, stay in school, this will end,' Sanchez recalls.

School was always a priority, says



Coach Mike Sanchez with sons Ricky and Robby.

Sanchez. It was his ticket out, and most importantly, his home had always been fertile ground for growth and love. "My parents gave their unconditional support with the sense that people were there for you, and that was important. In fact, we still call home headquarters," he says proudly.

But the fields harvested a lot more than just produce. It wasn't just coincidence that the same fields Mike Sanchez used to pick from, is now the location of where his high school now stands. "I used to live across the street and over look the same hills that I see out of my office window," he recollects. "I had no idea what was going to come out of those fields."

At a time when more and more students struggle to find worthy role models, Sanchez has effectively reached out to many with his tireless energy. "Let's get with it, we can do this," he tells his students. After high school, Sanchez received an A.A. degree from Gavilan County College and attended the University of San Francisco, where he received a degree in Sociology and in Public Service. He later received his Master's degree and teaching credential at San Jose State University, and became a principal in 1980 - at the mere age of 28. Today, Sanchez is a leader in Harvard University's *Principal's Institute Program*.

Growing up, role models were
(Continued on page 19)

(Sanchez Continued from page 18)

very important for Sanchez, who remembers his uncle Arturo being there as another pillar of encouragement. "My family has been the flame, and creating a better situation for ourselves has been the driving force in my life," Sanchez says.

Sanchez views the current Hispanic education crisis with wise optimism, believing that many of the challenges his students face are conquerable. Money isn't always the answer, he says. Rather the ability to establish and reason goals are important elements to success.

"We need to develop talents and give them back. It's absolutely crucial to understand that many of us walk a different path and to the same end, if our destination is to develop capable people, we'll be okay," he says, optimistically.

Sanchez insists that each student should recognize that who they hang out with also affects who they are. What is also vital to children's education and lifetime achievement falls on a strong foundation. "We have to realize this by finding out what each student is facing. We have to be willing to truly involve ourselves, not just reach out, but find out is what's important to them. And that foundation will allow them to take on the challenges they face," Sanchez says.



Hector Flores National Vice President of the Southwest, toasts to LULAC's 70 years.



Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and Vice President Al Gore at the LULAC Legislative Friendship Awards Gala in February.

(Gala continued from page 5)
love our country and have served it proudly," Flores added.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA-D) led the invocation with the LULAC Prayer, while Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair, Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-D), led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

LULAC held its first *Legislative Friendship Awards Gala* in 1998 and presented *Legislative Friendship Awards* to Rudolph W. Giuliani (R), Mayor of New York, and Xavier Becerra (CA-D), former Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Pedro Rosselló, Governor of Puerto Rico, was presented with the *LULAC President's Award*.

(Americanos continued from page 17)

cational, entertaining and substantive. When they try to exploit us, we will not partake, and this time, we can show that," Olmos said.

Olmos encourages LULAC to hold fundraisers to get this project to their states and communities. The event costs about \$10,000 for ten weeks of the exhibition. Many positive spin-offs will come from this exhibit, Olmos said, citing contests for young children 15-21 to take photographs in their community inspired by the project.

For more information please call Rugio Rochin, Director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives in Washington, D.C. at (202) 357-4546, or log on to www.si.edu/latino.

Americanos is a project of Olmos Productions and has been organized by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, and the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives. Following its premier at the American History Museum, the exhibition will travel to the Museum of the City of New York, followed by the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, and includes stops in Chicago, San Antonio, Houston, and Fresno, among other cities.

LULAC stands by US Troops

LULAC is very pleased by the release of three U.S. servicemen who were captured by Serbian troops in Macedonia last March. Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, Spc. Steven Gonzales, and Staff Sgt. James Stone, were a part of the U.N. peacekeeping force.

"We are united behind all of our U.S. troops seeking to stop ethnic cleansing in Kosovo," said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina. "Hispanic Americans have an exemplary record of service in our country and these men continue to uphold our community's fine tradition of military service that includes 38 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor," said Dovalina.

LULAC has invited the three servicemen to its 70th annual National Convention in Corpus Christi, TX, July 11-17, 1999.

LULAC National Women's Conference Enjoys Success

As the world prepares for the beginning of a new era, LULAC members are forging stronger ties between the sexes and among inter-generational groups to be leaders in the 21st century. The theme of this year's National Women's Conference in Tucson, AZ, was *Leadership for the New Millennium*. It tied the youth education conference to the women's conference in an effort to understand how our home, community and political environments affect how women are called to leadership in each of these areas.

"More than anyone else, women work closest with the youth and see their need to succeed," said Ana



Ana V. Estrada, LULAC VP for Women and LULAC National President Rick Dovalina opened LULAC's Women Conference.

Valenzuela Estrada, conference coordinator and LULAC National Vice President for Women. "I challenge women to work with youth and young adults and lead them into the new millennium by being mentors and leaders at every level," added Estrada. The two-day conference featured volunteers that fashioned a series of workshops on domes-



(L-R) Ingrid Sanchez, National Membership Director; Dámarias Sifuentes, National President for Young Adults; Zadia Vasquez, LNEC Director of PR; Carolina Muñoz, National Treasurer; Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director; Vera Marquez, Chair of the CA Scholarship Institute, Mary Loenardi, AZ State Secretary, Mary Fimbres, Army Major Kate Johnson; Alma Yubeta, Richard Fimbres.

tic violence, trends in bilingual education, and AIDS. Women have played a vital role in LULAC which has sparked a greater activism in communities around the country.

LULAC National President Rick Dovalina opened the conference while LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes presented a workshop on national policy issues particularly impacting Latinas' small business concerns, health care, education and opportunities for top level Hispanics, women managers in government and in the private sector. And in keeping with the conference theme, Ingrid E. Sánchez, National

Membership Director, facilitated an interactive workshop on leadership and community involvement.

The highlight of the day's events was the keynote speech by former LULAC member, Lydia Camarillo, Executive Director of the Southwest Voter Registration & Education Project. Camarillo eloquently spoke to the great role that women leaders would have in the coming years - not because of political or social endgames, but rather because of the nurturing, inclusive and community oriented nature of women who, in general, are visionaries of positive productive futures.



U.S. Army Major Kate Johnson, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Army speaks to participants of the 10th Annual Women's Conference.

LULAC AND THE ARMY SHARED VALUES:



RESPECT * COMMUNITY * SELFLESS SERVICE

The Army salutes the League of United Latin American Citizens
as partners in education and career advancement for Hispanic youth.

Left to right: Richard Roybal, Executive Director, LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESEC);
Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera; Clarissa Lara, LULAC Program Director, and Richard Fimbres,
President, Arizona LULAC.

For more information call toll-free: **1-800-USA-ARMY**
or visit our website at: **www.goarmy.com**

Membership Briefs:

Second Opportunity for Councils to Recharter

On March 31, most LULAC councils submitted their recharter applications for 1999. We are truly grateful to these councils and members for their promptness and attention to detail. This allows us to process your applications more efficiently and at the same time ensure your standing to vote at local, state, and national elections.

However, a number of councils have not yet mailed their applications for this year. According to the LULAC constitution, this means that their charters are revoked and they are consequently stripped of the right to vote at the district, state, and national conventions.

The active participation of all LULAC members is important because each of you, and each council, is the lifeblood of the organization. Working together, our members have a tremendous impact on the well-being of the Hispanic community.

Recharter Deadline

We want you and your council to maintain your membership, but more significantly, maintain the opportunity to be truly active! The only way to do this is to update your council membership. Therefore, the National Executive Committee voted to allow those councils that have not yet renewed their charters to apply for a new charter in accordance with constitutional guidelines. This is not an extension; rather, this is an opportunity to reapply while retaining the council number. The required fees remain the same as well: \$50 annual recharter fee; \$12 for active members; \$16 for new members. Once the recharter application is received by May 11, 1999, it will be submitted to the National Board for approval. Pending approval, the council will have its charter reinstated.

This is the final opportunity to participate in the electoral processes. If



LNESC staffers Lisa Smith and Clarissa Lara rally against the impeachment of President Bill Clinton earlier this year. LULAC was the only national Hispanic organization that called for a fair, speedy, and bipartisan resolution to the Clinton scandal.

your council does not submit application by May 11, then you may recharter at a later date under the prescribed guidelines. Notices were mailed to council presidents reminding them of this option.

We all appreciate your commitment to LULAC and hope that you stay a part of the LULAC team as we continue working to create a better future

A) proof of payment to the national office in the amount of \$300 and/or B) a certificate of recognition, receipt, or any such documents that would validate status as a Life Member.

We certainly appreciate your help in this endeavor. If you should have any questions regarding this search, please call Ingrid Sánchez, National Membership Director, at 202-408-0060.

A Call To Recognize Life Members Of LULAC

The LULAC National Office in Washington, D.C., is requesting the assistance of all LULAC members in identifying those valued individuals who registered as and paid for Life Member status previous to 1996.

We regret that due to a lack of records, we are unable to recognize these members who not only have given of their time and efforts, but also of their financial resources. It is important to note that this particular recognition is given by the national office. If a council has elected a particular member to Life Member status, the council must continue to pay that person's council dues including that dues at the district, state, and national levels. Any Life Member who meets the following criteria is waived from ever paying National dues but must continue to pay dues to the council, district, and state offices:

National Candidates & Positions

Rick Dovalina:
LULAC National President

Ana Valenzuela Estrada:
National Vice President for Women

Juan Carlos Lizardi:
National Vice President for Youth

Damaris Sifuentes:
National Vice President for the Elderly

Carlos López Nieves:
Nat. Vice President for the Southeast

Maria Pizana:
National Vice President for Young Adults

Hector Flores:
Nat. Vice President for the Southwest

Augustin Sanchez:
National Vice President for the Midwest

Regla González:
Nat. Vice President for the Northeast

Joe Pacheco:
National Vice President for Young Adults

Women In LULAC:

From Breaking Barriers
To Setting the Curve,
Women's Lasting
Contributions have
Forever Changed LULAC

In the beginning, LULAC was a man's organization. However, women were instrumental in the organization's rapid expansion. By the early 1930s, women had quickly organized themselves into "auxiliaries," and eventually established the first women's LULAC council in 1934.

There was some indication that the women were not well received by general LULAC membership in El Paso. Some records indicate that in 1936, Women's Council 9 voted to withdraw from the League because of "the failure of the general office to cooperate." However, the council was reorganized in 1937.

"Women did not accept 'no' for an answer. Instead, they remained committed to the cause and ended up contributing in many different ways," said LULAC member Vera Marquez, a veteran LULAC member of nearly 40 years, and who has seen the growth and progress of women in LULAC.

Whatever difficulties women may have experienced soon subsided and women became well received by the



Vera Marquez has been with LULAC for 40 years.



By the early 1940s, women had fully integrated and were instrumental to LULAC's successes.

general membership. This was affirmed when Ester Machuca, who served as Treasurer of Council 9, was elected as the official hostess of the 1938 national convention, held in El Paso, TX. Machuca was named the first Ladies General Officer by National President Filemon T. Martinez, was also appointed as the first woman vice-president.

"Women have come to play a vital part in the political, religious, social, and cultural aspects of the modern world that was unheard of until a relatively short time ago...and LULAC women must realize that it is now time to get into our League and stay in it," said Mrs. Montemayor years before women's liberation movement began.

Women have also played a leading role in developing youth leaders and aiding the socially and financially deprived, as well as the elderly. Women led the formation of *Abrazar* program in Arizona, which was established in 1974. The program surveyed Arizona's elderly and focused on the needs of the Spanish-speaking elderly, as it was discovered were undercounted in the 1970 census by 150 percent.

In the late 1950s, LULAC attracted Belen Robles of El Paso, who was impressed by LULAC's strong educational drive in her community. Robles went to become the first woman national president, serving four consecutive suc-

cessful years. Previously, she served as the LULAC national secretary, LULAC executive director, and chairman of the board of directors of LNESEC.

"There are many ladies who are still making a difference because of past courage and commitment to stay in the League despite early obstacles," said Sylvia Quintana, current president of Council 9. The council still remains active in providing shoes for low-income children, feeding the elderly, and often visiting nursing homes. "Trying to capture much of the enthusiasm that past members gave is very rewarding," Quintana said.



Belén B. Robles was elected the first woman President of LULAC.

10th Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference Continues To Empower the Leaders of Tomorrow.

"You can make a difference! Take responsibility for your future and use your Godgiven talents to help others and yourself. Go to school; stay off drugs! You are special!" These are the messages that permeated the spectacular program of performer and youth motivator Patsy Torres, who opened each of the three days of the youth leadership conference. More than 10,000 middle and high school participants - Hispanic,



Hon. Louis Caldera, U.S. Secretary of the Army, speaks to a Youth Leadership Conference participant at Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ.

black, Native American and Anglo students were touched with her message and enthusiasm for their future.

This excitement was shared by veteran conference organizers Ana Valenzuela Estrada, LULAC Vice President for Women, Richard Fimbres, Arizona State Director, and the countless dedicated LULAC members of Council 1057 who made this conference the best attendance to date. "For the last ten years, Tucson council 1057 has worked



Students from the Luz Academy of Tucson participating in the 10th Annual Youth Leadership Conference.

hard to motivate young people into staying in school. "We want to impress upon them that education is the key to success," said Fimbres. With workshops ranging from how to get into college to information on sexually transmitted diseases, conference organizers created a forum in which students could learn about real issues, their real consequences, and the possibilities that lay before them if they make the right choices. The U.S. Army, one of this year's conference sponsors, drove the point home with workshops, display tables and the presence of the Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the U.S. Army.


Secretary Caldera delivered an im-

passioned and candid speech on how hard work and dedication can lead to great opportunities and a bright future. Growing up in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Caldera was told by school counselors that he should take vocational classes in computers or construction to guarantee a job for himself upon graduation. This son of non-English speaking immigrant parents, instead graduated at the top of his class and went on to succeed at West Point, served in the Army with honors, and receiving both an MBA and a law degree from Harvard University. His message stressed that young people should listen to the instruction and ad-

(continued on page 28)



Over 10,000 future leaders attended the successful LULAC Youth Conference held in Tucson, AZ.



A community is made up of dreams,
ideas and hard work. It is a blend of the ideals of men
and women from diverse backgrounds,
like woven threads in a colorful tapestry.

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creating opportunities and jobs for suppliers and professionals
of different cultures. Each new idea inspires us to work
and grow within this diverse fabric called community.

GTE

PEOPLE
MOVING
IDEAS

1999 LULAC Convention Rules

1999 LULAC National Convention

Richard Fimbres, Convention Rules Chairperson

These 1999 convention rules were approved by the National Board of Directors during its February meeting.

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by roll call standup vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any one election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three Official Counters.
10. Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take, as per Robert's Rules of Order (revised), a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be,
 - National President
 - Southwest Vice President
 - Southeast Vice President
 - Northeast Vice President
 - Farwest Vice President
 - Midwest Vice President
 - Vice President for the Elderly
 - Vice President for Women
 - Vice President for Young Adults
 - Vice President for Youth
 - Treasurer
 - 2002 Convention Site
14. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment with three speakers for and three speakers against.
15. All resolutions must be in written form and submitted by a local council in good standing. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to ten minutes with two speakers for and two speakers against. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.
16. Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be in written form and signed by the total delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolution Committee shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 15 shall apply to this rule.
17. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws and Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.
18. These adopted 1999 Convention Rules may be change by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.

LULAC National Awards

LULAC within its membership will bestow seven national awards presented during the Presidential Banquet at the LULAC Convention. These awards are the highest honor bestowed by LULAC and are given to those individuals whose achievements and community service most exemplify the ideals of the League. The recipients of these prestigious awards are selected by an awards committee which is appointed by the national president. The awards committee reviews the nominations of LULAC Councils and selects the recipients based upon established criteria.

The Awards

The following awards have been established by the awards committee and will be presented at the convention:

- Man of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Council of the Year
- Raymond Telles Award for Education
- Felix Tijerina Award for Service to the League
- Aztec Award for Civil Rights
- J.C. Martinez Award for Membership and Expansion

Criteria for Council of the Year Award

1. Council must be chartered and in good standing in the League.
2. Council must have been awarded Council of the Year at the District and State levels.
3. Council must have sponsored a LULAC Youth Council in the past year.
4. Council will receive special consideration for participation in the LNESCS scholarship program.
5. Council must have participated in humanitarian and civic causes that have made an impact on LULAC and the community.
6. Council must have proof of all LULAC - and community-related awards and recognition it claims, i.e., newspaper clippings, scrapbook, award letters, etc.
7. Council must have letters from its District and State Directors certifying that it was selected at the respective conventions.
8. The period of consideration for Council of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

Criteria for Man of the Year Award

1. Nominee must be a member of a chartered LULAC Council in good standing in the League.
2. Nominee must be in good standing in the League.
3. Nominee must have been selected as Man of the Year at the Council, District, and State levels.
4. Nominee must have contributed talent, skills, and time to the betterment of LULAC and the community.

5. Nominee must provide proof of involvement in LULAC and the community, including newspaper clippings, award letters, etc.
6. Nominee must have letters from his Council President, District, and State Directors, certifying that he was selected at their respective conventions.
7. The period of consideration for Man of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

Criteria for Woman of the Year Award

1. Nominee must be a member of a chartered LULAC Council in good standing in the League.
2. Nominee must be in good standing in the League.
3. Nominee must have been selected as Woman of the Year at the Council, District, and State levels.
4. Nominee must have contributed talents, skills and time to the betterment of LULAC and the community.
5. Nominee must provide proof of involvement in LULAC and the community and include newspaper clippings, scrapbook, award letters, etc.
6. Nominee must have letters from her Council President, District and State Directors certifying that she was selected at their respective conventions.
7. The period of consideration for Woman of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

Criteria for LULAC Special Awards

- Membership
 - Loyalty
 - Service
 - Achievements
 - Awards
 - Contributions
 - Leadership
 - Recognition
 - Actions
 - Projects
 - Accomplishments
 - Volunteerism
1. Any LULAC member in good standing is eligible to be nominated for a LULAC Special Award.
 2. Any member of LULAC can nominate a LULAC member for a LULAC Special Award.
 3. Nomination and questionnaire forms must be submitted to the LULAC National Office prior to the National Convention.

(Youth continued from page 24)

should also rise to the challenge of achievement.

The notion of *high achievement* surrounded the young students during the conference. Through the efforts of educators, public and private entities, concerned citizens and LULAC members, the Tucson chapter has succeeded in developing partnerships that provide the necessary resources for planning funding and implementing leadership and dropout prevention strategies. These initiatives, combined with LULAC's advocacy in education policy, will help our youth set higher educational goals and raise the benchmark on academic and professional achievement for all Hispanics.

Arizona State Director Richard Fimbres challenged all councils to learn from and use the conference as model



LULAC 1999 Essay Contest Winners with LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.

for others to follow. It is an event of this caliber that helps our youth realize that they are not alone, that they are cared for, and that by working together we can establish a better future for all of us.

For more information on the Youth Leadership Conference, call Richard Fimbres at (520) 740-5807 and Ana Valenzuela Estrada at (520) 206-6790.

(Iowa continued from page 10)

working together to improve the social and economic conditions of Hispanics. Most Mexican Americans

lived in sections of town that were isolated from the main part of town. Many members worked on the Rock Island

Railroad and other railroad companies.

The Davenport Council hit the ground running, often defending Hispanic small business owners and workers, and often promoting Latino interests before the Davenport City Council and the Davenport School District. The hard work continuously paid off as the formation of the Davenport Civil Human Rights Commission developed, bilingual education passed, and antidiscrimination lawsuits began to protect Latino farm workers.

In subsequent years the council bought some property in the west end of Davenport which it improved and expanded over the years. The LULAC Activity Center now hosts a senior meal program and LULAC conducts a bingo operation on weekends to raise money for scholarships. Many of the career professionals in the area owe their success in part to the scholarships they have received from LULAC Council 10.



Iowa LULAC council members Joan Lopez and Pas Martinez play bingo to raise money for scholarships and educational programs. The Davenport council has raised over \$350,000 in scholarship money for local students.

Sweetheart Contest Raises Money for Scholarships

Over 750 people gathered at the luxurious ballroom of Lombardo's in Randolph, Massachusetts, for a spirited competition to determine *Miss Sweetheart LULAC 1999*. On March 12, 1999, the innovative fundraiser included seven young Hispanic ladies who participated by demonstrating their talents and intellect.

The winner of the contest was 13 year-old Osiris Cespedes. Cespedes was also elected by the other participants as *Ms. Sympathy*. The first runner up was Miss Nadia Colon, 18. The participants



Cespedes, Miss Sweetheart LULAC 1999



(From Left to Right) Stephanie Garcia, Dayanara Alicea, Nadia Colon, Osiris Cespedes, Regla Gonzalez, VP for the North East, Paula Miranda, Glennys Arias, and Sihorell Henandez.

received a great variety of awards, including a round-trip ticket for the winner to the 70th Annual LULAC National Convention in July held in Corpus Christi, TX, compliments of Melia Travel, and Esperanza Travel & Tours. All the participants also received first row tickets to attend Latin music sensation Chayene's concert. The thrilling fundraiser was led by master of ceremonies, Ileana Vasquez, former MC of Pachanga Latina.

Over \$10,000 was raised from the fundraiser, which will be awarded to students in July for the Fall semester. The judges for the evening were: Luis Martinez, member of Council of Young Professionals of LULAC; Dr. Maria Irizarri, of the Boston Public School System; Milagros Cruz, Justice of the

Peace; Edwin Morales, Boston Public School System, bilingual program; Elmer Eubank, Director of Casa Las Americas of Worcester; Ivelissa Escalera, member of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, Boston Chapter; Lizamarie Cintron, State VP for Youth of LULAC; and by Carlos Linera, Director of the Office of the Government of Puerto Rico. Linera had the honor of tallying the final vote. The event was attended by artists of the *Ballet Folklórico de Colombia* that performed several numbers of dances.

"We want to thank the community for supporting our youth, and the members of LULAC for their assistance," said Regla Gonzalez, LULAC VP for the Northeast. Special Thanks goes to primary sponsor, Bell Atlantic.



Members of the LULAC Young Adult Collegiate Summit in Texas last Fall.

LULAC Young Adult Summit

Southwest Texas State University, LULAC Council 4512, and the office of Texas Deputy State Director for Young Adults, held its *Texas Young Adult Collegiate Summit* last Fall. The goal of the summit was to introduce students of Texas colleges and universities to the benefits of having a LULAC young adult council on their campuses. The summit will also hope to serve as a catalyst for a national movement towards increasing the number of adult councils at colleges and universities. Themed *Nuestro Tiempo*, it emphasized that it is now the time for young adults to build upon LULAC's esteemed history and forge a new feature with leaders that ensure success.

Policy Briefs:

No Rest for Late Amnesty Applicants

On Tuesday, March 9, more than a 100 members of the Late Amnesty class joined LULAC, Congressional leaders, and other national Hispanic organizations at a press conference urging a swift administrative resolution to the issue of Late Amnesty.

LULAC National President Rick Dovalina led the Conference at the Capitol and stated, "We are all here to send a clear message to the administration, urging an INS directive allowing individuals wrongfully turned away more than a decade ago to assert their legal right to apply. What we ask is reasonable, right, and very long overdue."

Other speakers included Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), the first Senator to speak on behalf of the applicants, Congressman Gene Green (D-TX), Congresswoman Shelly Berkley (D-NV), and Congressman Luis Gutierrez, (D-IL), who welcomed the applicants to their Capitol and recognized the mobilization of applicants in their local and national political arena.

Late Amnesty members are individuals who were eligible to apply for the amnesty program under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). Signed into law by the Reagan-Bush Administration in 1986, it allowed noncitizens in the country before 1982 to apply for citizenship. Thirteen years later, IRCA has still not been implemented in the spirit in which it was signed.

After a federal court ruled that the applicant eligibility criteria, established by the Department of Justice, did not reflect the language of IRCA and had been used to wrongfully turn away eligible applicants, the court protected the Late Amnesty applicants by allowing them to legally reside in the country until the issue was resolved. A section of the immigration bill of 1996 ultimately restricted the court from ever ruling on the class action suit against the INS.

Legal residents for nearly a de-

cade—and parents to American children—these taxpaying *common law* citizens, who have annually contributed an estimated \$270 million in taxes. Now they are being deported.

"For the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the plight of these applicants is a high priority. The Late Amnesty class members have been in limbo for far too long. Their call for fairness and justice must be answered," said Rep. Roybal-Allard.

The applicants marched in front of the White House chanting in an array of foreign languages, yet calling for justice in the same voice. "This issue and these people are not going away—we must right the wrong of past injustices to finally put this issue to rest," added Dovalina.

Restored Benefits For Legal Immigrants

Earlier this year, Vice President Gore proposed a five-year, \$1.3 billion plan to restore some of the disability, health, and food stamp benefits for legal immigrants that were eliminated in the 1996 welfare reform. The proposal would restore disability and health benefits to 420,000 legal immigrants who were in the country before August 22; food stamps would be provided to 225,000 children, elderly and disabled. The proposal would also restore eligibility for immigrants who have entered the country since the passage of the welfare bill, and is expected to breeze

through Congress. "LULAC is glad to see the Administration continue to correct some of the provisions against legal immigrants passed in the 104th Congress," LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes.

LULAC Supports Health Care Program

The Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services have launched a cooperative national health benefits education program. The goal of the program is to help Americans better understand their medical benefits allowing families to make more informed decisions concerning health care. The national office of LULAC plans to play an active role in the implementation of this new program. Among other things, the program provides literature in English and Spanish on how to choose a health care plan and how to maintain health care coverage between jobs. Marriage, divorce, childbirth, job loss, and retirement can all affect one's insurance coverage. With the increasing cost of health care and longer life expectancy of Americans, it is important to ensure that Hispanics know their health care rights and options. "Playing an active role in the dissemination of information concerning such an important issue as health care is part of the service LULAC can provide to its members and our community," said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.



LULAC has demanded for a quick resolution for members of the Late Amnesty class. Here, LULAC holds a press conference on Capitol Hill.

Dovalina Urges Congress to Amend Census Act

Last winter, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a narrow ruling of 5-4 against the use of scientific sampling for apportionment purposes in the 2000 census. The court decision does not bar the use of sampling for the drawing of state or local legislative districts or for the distribution of government funds. The narrow ruling by the Court on the issue of census sampling indicate how close of a call this is; LULAC holds that the issue of census sampling is a high civil rights concern for the Hispanic community and urges Congress to pass legislation that would not preclude any method that could produce the most accurate census. LULAC National President Rick Dovalina emphasized that the decision does not bar the use of sampling techniques for non-apportionment purposes. "LULAC intends to press Congress to appropriate funds to allow the census to use sampling for all other uses including local and state redistricting and the disbursement of federal funds," said President Dovalina. The political implications for the House if sampling were considered are significant. While it is assumed that minorities are the group largely undercounted, by an estimated four million, it is also inferred that such minorities would all vote Democratic and would shift the power in Congress back to the Democrats. "I propose

a test of faith for Congress: will they put aside partisan politics to truly consider and allow for the best and most accurate census for our nation, or will they allow another decade of inaccuracy to continue," said President Dovalina.

Cuba Resolution

Accepted by the National Board of Directors of LULAC by the LULAC Committee on Cuban Affairs.

WHEREAS: Article II of our Constitution establishes our belief in the democratic principle of individual political and religious freedom; and

WHEREAS: part of LULAC's mission is to advance the civil rights and political influence of the Hispanic population of the United States; and

WHEREAS: Cubans living in the United States are part of the Hispanic population that we serve; and

WHEREAS: the violations of political rights and civil liberties by the Cuban government have been well documented by local, regional, and international organizations and governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED to the National Board of Directors of LULAC by our Committee on Cuban Affairs; that:

1. LULAC supports the establish-

ment of free and direct elections, free speech, democracy, and political and religious freedom in Cuba; and

2. U.S. policy toward Cuba should seek to advance the same political rights and civil liberties enjoyed by U.S. citizens; and

3. LULAC's position toward Cuba should take into consideration the positions of our Cuban-American members due to their unique knowledge and experience with this issue.

LULAC Agreement With SBA

Earlier this year, LULAC National President Rick Dovalina signed a partnership agreement with the Small Business Administration (SBA). This joint agreement between the SBA and 30 national Hispanic organizations aims to encourage the entrepreneurial growth and economic development of the Hispanic community. Mutual objectives of this agreement include increasing capital access and procurement opportunities for Hispanics. The agreement announces the technical and training assistance the SBA will provide to the Hispanic community; in turn LULAC and other national organizations will host lender forums to increase the number of Hispanic small business owners. The SBA has also committed to strengthening their participation at the LULAC National Convention. For more information, log on to www.sba.gov.

First Woman Elected as President of LULAC Council 1

Mary Helen Salazar of Corpus Christi, TX was elected as the first woman council president of LULAC's founding council. Salazar has been a member of LULAC Council 1 for the past 11 years and served two years as second vice-president, being the first woman to serve as first vice-president.

Salazar is president and chief financial officer of SS Structure Inc. With 27 years of experience in marketing, administration, and management procedures, she oversees the company's financial operation, in-

cluding working capital, capital investments, and asset management and control.

"I am an individual who will strengthen LULAC by utilizing the skills and talents that we have within the organization. As we enter the next millennium, the entire nation is noticing demographics showing that we will be the largest minority group in the nation by 2004. As a dedicated businesswoman, I will continue to promote the founding principles of our organization into the 21st century," said Salazar.



Mary Helen Salazar, Council 1 President



National Staff

Washington, D.C. (L-R) are Edward Acevedo, LULAC News Editor; Azabel Gutiérrez, Executive Assistant; Brent A. Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director; Ingrid E. Sánchez, National Membership Director; Selena Walsh, Director of Policy and Communications; Ydalmí Noriega, Special Projects Assistant; and Travis Nesbitt, Membership Coordinator. **Not Shown:** Washington, D.C.: Javier Cuebas, Special Events Coordinator. El Paso Office: Lupe Morales, Treasurer Assistant. **Houston Office:** Desi Pesina, Administrative Assistant to the President; Carina Castillo, Secretary to the President.

Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*.

- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.
- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.
- ☐ I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.
- ☐ My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.
- ☐ Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

Name

Address

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Work Phone Home Phone

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