

Highlights from the 2002 National Convention

LULACNews

League of United Latin American Citizens

September/October 2002 \$4.50

**Legislative
Awards Gala**

LULAC Challenge

**Immigration
Update**



LULAC Profiles LULAC
leader, Blanca Vargas

**New President's
Vision for LULAC**

**2002 Legislative
Platform**

LULACNews

League of United Latin American Citizens

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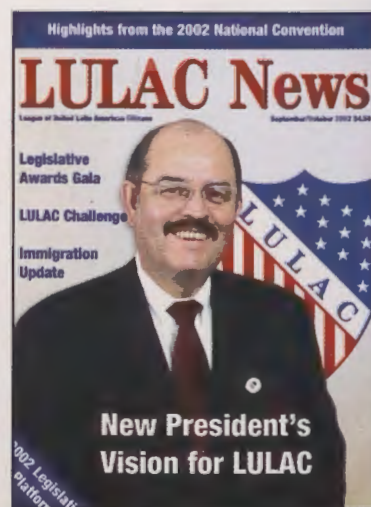
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Cover: LULAC National President Hector Flores, photo by Luis Nuño Briones. All legislative gala photos and most national convention photos in this edition were taken by Luis Nuño Briones.



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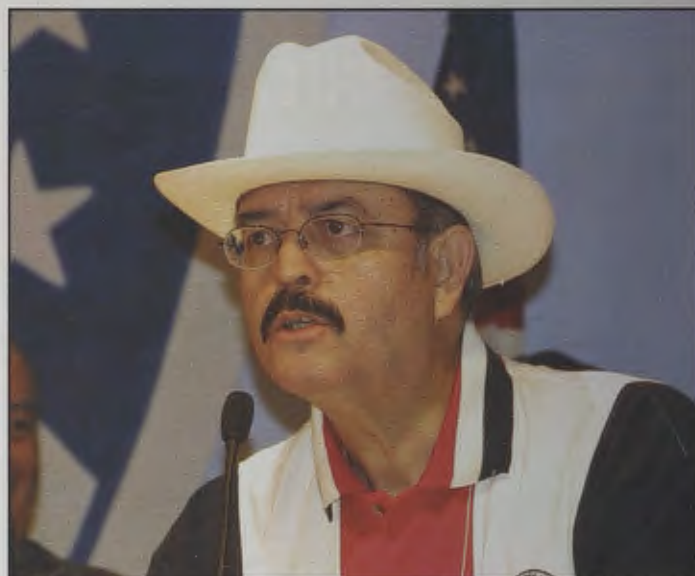
Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC,

It is a great honor to have been chosen as the new leader of this outstanding organization. Not only do I realize what a privilege it is to serve LULAC, I also realize the vast challenges that I must face as president. Thankfully, I will not face these challenges alone because I know that I can count on the various leaders within the organization to make LULAC an even more important force in our country.

As the newest leader in the long and distinguished line of LULAC National Presidents, I pledge to continue LULAC's great tradition of advocacy on behalf of the Hispanic community especially during these difficult times within our country. September 11th marks one year from the date that we endured the worst tragedy in American history. In response to this tragedy, Americans have come together from all walks of life, unified by sorrow, to remember the heroes that helped us through this difficult time and the people we have lost. While we must now be mindful of the fact that we are under the constant threat of terrorism, we must also remind our government that it must not retreat from its responsibility to treat all people equally regardless of their ethnicity. We must remain ever vigilant to protect the rights of immigrants and bring the discussion of immigration reform back to the table at the highest levels of decision-making in our country. In this and other efforts, we look forward to forming coalitions with other advocacy groups that fight for the rights of minority constituencies.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to immediate past National President, Rick Dovalina, the National Board, the many volunteers, national staff, corporations, government agencies, leaders and others that helped make this year's national convention a major success. During this convention, the national assembly adopted several resolutions and a legislative platform that reflect the goals and wishes of the LULAC membership. I ask each member to focus your attention on the platform and resolutions and seek to find ways in which you can make a difference in your community.

In the few short months since I took on this position, we have been very active seeking solutions to some major problems facing the Hispanic community. LULAC has taken the lead on helping the workers of Pictsweet Mushroom Farms obtain fair wages and benefits after more than 15 years of mistreatment by their employer. I have personally met with the workers in Ventura, California and LULAC sponsored a forum through which they could air their grievances and discuss solutions to their situation. I call on all LULAC members to support our fellow Latinos at Pictsweet and I urge this company to come to the table and to negotiate a fair contract for their workers.




LULAC has stepped up the pressure on media companies to increase Hispanic representation both in front and behind the cameras. LULAC has initially focused on NBC because of their recent purchase of Telemundo and complaints received by employees in the Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas markets. We want to ensure that NBC diversifies its workforce and retains the Hispanic talent that it has acquired from Telemundo. We plan to address the under-representation of Hispanics at all the major networks as well to ensure that these stations depict the true diversity of America.

We also plan to focus our efforts on education this year. We are very concerned about the high Hispanic dropout rate and the low number of Hispanics that obtain college degrees. In addition, we plan to focus on educating Hispanic women because if you educate a woman, you educate a family.

These issues are just a few of the items that I hope to tackle with your help during my presidency. In order to succeed, however, we will need your active involvement and support. We must continue to grow our membership and ensure that all LULAC members are actively engaged in helping their communities. We hope to renew old councils that are no longer active and expand our membership in more states including: Utah, Washington state, Oregon, the Carolinas and several Southeastern states. For 73 years, LULAC has been a beacon of light for Latinos throughout the United States who are seeking opportunity and equal treatment under the law. Our struggle continues and our community needs us now more than ever before.

Yours in LULAC,

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President



ALL GREATNESS STARTS HERE.

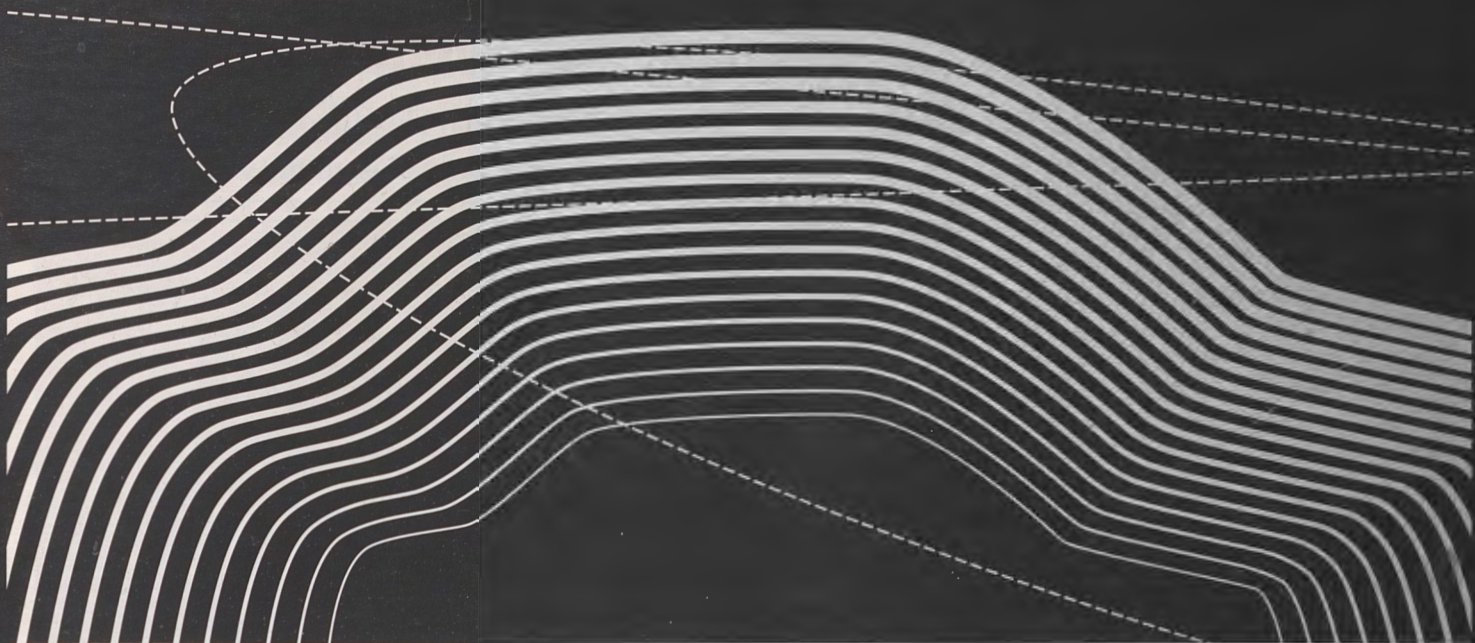
Every child can succeed, and their success is America's future. That's why the NEA and LULAC are working together for excellence in every public school. We're fighting for quality teachers, safe and modern schools, early childhood education, lifting up low-

performing schools, reducing drop-out rates, and increasing the resources needed to help all children achieve. From classrooms to communities to capitals – parents, teachers and community leaders, side by side, can put greatness within every child's reach.

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Highlights from Our 2002 Annual Convention

LULAC's 73rd Annual Convention in Houston, Texas Made National Headlines as the Nation's Top Political Leaders Addressed Critical Issues Affecting the Hispanic Community.

In June, the League of United Latin American Citizens celebrated its 73rd anniversary in Houston, Texas at one of our most successful national conventions. This year's theme "Leading the New Majority; Shaping the Future" emphasized the importance of leadership within the Hispanic community, the new ethnic majority within the United States. Several of the workshops and events reflected on this theme with an emphasis on promoting diversity in leadership positions in the government and corporate world.

Throughout the week, the convention focused on issues of critical importance to the Hispanic community. The convention kicked off on Sunday night with a reception where LULAC members heard from Congressman Gene Green (D-TX) who emphasized the need to remedy the under-representation of Hispanics in the federal government, the importance of immigration reform and educating Hispanic children.

Promoting Diversity

On Monday, Houston Mayor Lee Brown spoke at the opening plenary. Following the mayor's speech, participants in LULAC's Federal Training Institute discussed the need to increase Hispanic representation in the government and heard from



Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez with Immediate Past President, Rick Dovalina and White House Counsel, Al Gonzales.

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA). Commissioner Barnhart discussed how the SSA has succeeded to become the number one government agency in terms of recruitment and Hispanic representation in their federal workforce. This is especially important because the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reported that Hispanics, which comprise 12.5+% of the total U.S. workforce, are the only minority group named in the 1964 Civil Rights Act to remain underrepresented in the Federal workforce. According to the OPM September 2000 Report, Hispanics currently represent only

6.6% of the total Federal workforce and 2.5% of the Senior Executive Service (SES). LULAC members stressed that until the problem is corrected the government was likely to continue under-serving Hispanic communities.

On Tuesday, the program focused on breaking down barriers that make it difficult to obtain positions within the federal government. The barriers examined were those identified by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In meetings with OPM Director, Mrs. Kay Cole James and her senior managers, LULAC and other Hispanic organizations discussed the barriers in the hiring process that make it difficult to obtain employment in the Federal government. The barriers identified include: (1) specific agency job qualification descriptions requiring that applicants have prior experience at that particular agency; (2) policies requiring applications be accepted on-line only; (3) job announcements lacking clear, specific and accurate contact information; and (4) agencies' lack of professional and knowledgeable representatives to answer questions concerning job announcements. As a result of these meetings Mrs. James issued a memorandum to all government department and agency heads noting their responsibility to address the role of these barriers in preventing an effective recruitment effort.

This theme continued with an address by Lou Gallegos, Assistant Secretary for Administration, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on need for diversity in the federal



U.S. Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, LULAC Texas State Director, Margaret Moran and LULAC President, Hector Flores.

government. That evening participants enjoyed the Houston Astros vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game at the ballpark.

Immigration and Civil Rights

On Wednesday, attention turned to civil rights after September 11th, 2001. The workshops examined immigration policies, border issues, and the creation of the new Homeland Security Agency that will now house the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). One main issue of discussion was the use of local and state law enforcement to assist the INS in enforcing immigration policy.

During the Membership Luncheon, LULAC heard from Texas Governor Rick Perry and Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham. This event was followed by a reception that featured the presentation of the Otlí Award and remarks by Mexican Foreign Affairs Minister Jorge Castañeda on U.S.-Mexico relations and immigration concerns. The evening activities concluded with remarks by Texas gubernatorial democrat candidate Tony Sanchez gave a bilingual speech during dinner. His speech was followed by a very entertaining special appearance by comedian, Carlos Mencia.

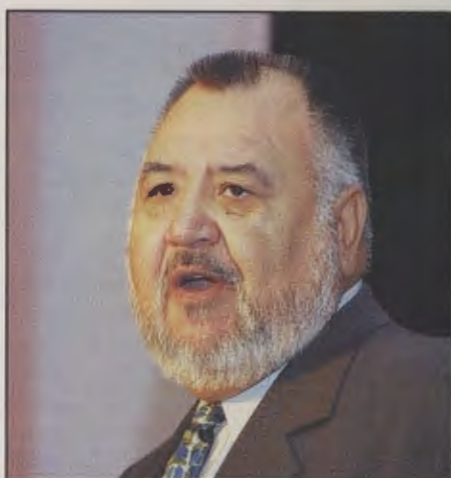
Generación Ñ: the New Americanos

On Thursday, the theme was "Generación Ñ: the New Americanos." The workshops focused on issues of concern to Latinos, such as preserving Medicare and Social Security, Latino political strength, homeownership, financial empowerment, and civil rights. During the Unity Luncheon, participants heard from the Honorable Alberto Gonzales, White House Counsel and the Honorable Mel Martinez, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The LULAC youth and young adults spent the evening at the Houston Space Center where NASA Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, presented the annual LULAC youth awards.

Education

On Friday, the convention focused on the power of education and breaking down the barriers to education. Major topics of discussion were bilingual-bicultural education and the high Hispanic dropout rate. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in five Hispanics in the United States, between the ages of 16-24 left schools without either a high school diploma or an alternative certificate, such as a GED.

Another workshop examined the



Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA, Lou Gallegos addresses the membership.

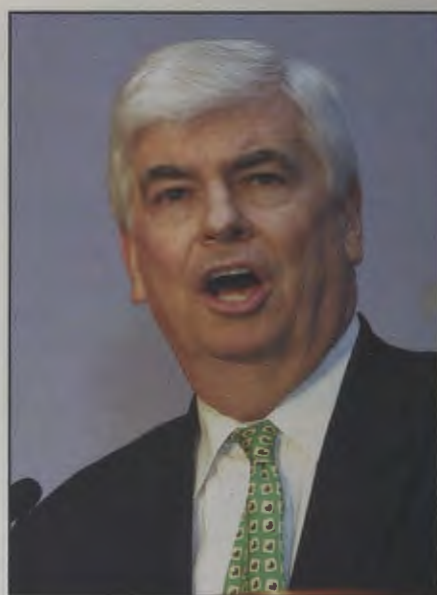
many groundbreaking roles that Hispanic women play in American society. During the LULAC Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, LULAC members heard from female leaders, Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). At the Presidential Awards Banquet Mexican President Vicente Fox addressed convention attendees via satellite. Following his speech, President Fox entertained questions from LULAC members. Later, Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) surprised LULAC members with a bilingual speech. The awards banquet gave LULAC members the opportunity to thank Rick Dovalina for his four years of excellent leadership as national president.

Sponsors and Exhibitors

The Westin Galleria Hotel was filled to capacity with exhibitors and sponsors, making this year's exposition one of our most successful. Convention participants spoke to corporate and government recruiters, sampled products, and were entertained by



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison speaks at the Women's Luncheon.



Senator Chris Dodd gives a bilingual speech at the Presidential Awards Dinner.

music and a fashion show. Our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors who, without them, the convention would not be possible

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL SPONSORS OF THE 2002 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Assembly Elects New Leaders

Finally, on Saturday, LULAC delegates participated in the unique LULAC tradition of setting a legislative agenda for the coming year and electing new officers. Delegates adopted the 2002 LULAC Legislative Platform found on page 10. The LULAC membership also adopted 45 separate resolutions with the purpose of advancing basic human rights and expanding economic and educational opportunities for Hispanics in the United States. During the assembly; Representative Sheila Jackson Lee addressed the membership and encouraged LULAC to push forward with our efforts to ensure all Americans are provided with the opportunity to succeed. Along with the new leadership, the delegates selected Little Rock, Arkansas as the LULAC national convention location for the year 2005.



Little Joe Entertains LULAC.

LULAC's New Leadership

The membership elected Hector Flores as LULAC national president. *Officers that were re-elected include:*

Vice President for the Southeast, Elsie Váldes
 Vice President for the Far West, Richard Fimbres
 Vice President of Young Adults, Dr. Juan García
 Vice President for the Midwest, Blanca Vargas
 Vice President of Youth, Fernando Escabí
Newly elected officers include:
 National Treasurer, Frank Ortíz
 Vice President for the Northeast, Laura Medrano
 Vice President for the Southwest, Rosa Rosales
 Vice President for Women, Vera Marquez
 Vice President for the Elderly, Desi Pesina

Plan ahead: next year's convention will be held in Orlando, Florida!



Lico Reyes and Adrian Rodriguez enjoy a moment at the National Convention.

LULAC National Conferences

LULAC National Women's Conference

This year LULAC celebrated women at the LULAC National Women's Conference held in San Francisco. This year's theme "A Solid Partnership Facing: Tomorrow's Challenges" brought over 100 participants, including male and female college deans, professors, attorneys, police officers, California state representatives, community leaders, and corporate representatives. National Vice President, Rosa Rosales put together a very informative program that included issues concerning the preservation of Social Security and Medicare, education, the Hispanic workforce in the federal government, domestic violence, women's rights and leadership development.



Immediate past National Vice President for Women and new VP for the Southwest, Rosa Rosales.

Keynote speaker, Melba Pría, General Director for the Mexican Communities Abroad Program in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico discussed the unique challenges women face throughout the Americas. Ms. Pría explained that women's rights are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and that the principle objective of the international community should be to ensure the full participation of women on the basis of equality at all levels in the political, civil, economic, social and cultural spheres. She also emphasized that we must eradicate discrimination based on gender and all forms of violence and harassment because they are incompatible with the dignity and values of human beings.

LULAC National Conference for the Elderly

On May 3, 2002, LULAC National Vice President for the Elderly, Damaris Sifuentes and LULAC National Vice President for the Midwest, Blanca Vargas hosted the 2nd LULAC National Conference for the Elderly at Daley College in Chicago, Illinois. The event was a tremendous success with more than 300 participants who discussed important issues and listened to panel experts from the National Hispanic Council on Aging and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security.



Damaris Sifuentes, VP for the Elderly passes torch to Desiderio Pesina.

LULAC Illinois Holds Hispanic Educational Summit

Earlier this year, LULAC of Illinois and Chicago area educators came together for their first Hispanic Educational Summit to address one of the most pressing issues the Hispanic community faces today- the Hispanic dropout crisis. The summit included participation of fifteen Hispanic high schools with representation of administrators, counselors, teachers, students and parents. Manuel Isquierdo, State Director of LULAC of Illinois and Principal of J. Sterling Morton East High School, where Hispanic enrollment is 91%, explained that in Illinois, the dropout rate of 25 percent of all Hispanic students has not changed in the past 15 years. The summit created a statewide network of Hispanic majority high schools and an action plan to address the problem. The summit also shared "best practices" used to combat the problem. The recommendations of the summit will be shared with the next Governor of Illinois and the new state superintendent of the Illinois Board of Education.

Fifth Annual LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala

LULAC Celebrates Political Leaders who Serve the Latino Community.



Actress Jackie Guerra poses with Presidential Award Winner, Representative Silvestre Reyes.

LULAC held its Fifth Annual National Legislative Awards Gala on March 13, 2002. The black-tie event was attended by members of Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, members of the Bush Administration, corporate executives, foreign ambassadors, LULAC members and Hispanic leaders from around the country. This year's mistress of ceremonies was Jackie Guerra, actress from *American Family*.

LULAC National President Rick Dovalina presented the prestigious 2002 LULAC President's Award to Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Texas Representative. Representative Reyes was honored for his work on behalf of Hispanic Americans, especially on issues such as education and access to health care. Representative Reyes humbly stated that he was accepting the award on behalf of the



Secretary Colin Powell with previous LULAC National Scholarship Fund scholarship winner Elvia Morales.

seventeen other Hispanic members of congress that work for the well-being of Latinos.



National Treasurer, Frank Ortiz and his wife, Cookie Ortiz.

Raquel Egusquiza of the Ford Motor Company introduced the evening's first legislative award to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. Secretary Powell was honored for his work on immigration policies and promoting diversity within the State Department. Secretary Powell discussed the need to keep a strong working relationship with Mexico and the importance of diversity within the federal government.

House Democratic Caucus vice chair and the highest-ranking Hispanic ever to serve in Congress, Representative Robert Menendez (D-NJ) presented the second legislative award to Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman. Senator Joseph Lieberman was honored for his outstanding advocacy work on behalf of Hispanics and his dedication to promoting diversity. Senator Lieberman gave a moving bilingual speech and pledged to "do all I can in the future to justify" the award.



Senator Lieberman with his wife Hadassah, Victor Cabral of Verizon and Hector Flores.

2003 LULAC Legislative Platform

Adopted by the LULAC National Assembly on June 23, 2002, at the 73rd LULAC National Convention in Houston, TX.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

LULAC supports equal opportunity for employment, promotion and contracting, and opposes discrimination of any form in the workplace. We support affirmative action as a set of positive steps that employers use to promote equal employment opportunities. We believe that government and private sector employers and educational institutions should ensure their workforce and student body is representative of the community in which they operate at all levels.

LULAC vows to remain active in the judicial and legislative struggle to get rid of decisions that have overturned affirmative action programs across the country.

CENSUS AND DATA COLLECTION

LULAC continues to support the use of statistical sampling in the Census to ensure the most accurate count of the entire population. LULAC supports the use of adjusted census figures for redistricting purposes as well as for the distribution of federal funds for states.

LULAC urges the Census Bureau to maintain information gathered completely confidential and not share it with other government agencies, including the INS. LULAC also calls on the Census Bureau to include the residents of Puerto Rico in population reports as part of the total count of Hispanics in US territory.

LULAC opposes efforts to prevent the collection of data based on race and ethnicity.

CITIZENSHIP AND VOTING

LULAC promotes active participation of all eligible Hispanics in the democratic process by registering to vote and voting, and encourages all legislative, judicial and educational efforts to promote voter participation. LULAC will continue to conduct voter registration and citizenship projects throughout the United States to strengthen Latino political power. LULAC urges the extension of the Voting Rights Act due to expire in 2007.

LULAC encourages all eligible immigrants to become US citizens and demands that the Immigration and Naturalization Service expedite the processing of two million citizenship applications pending in a backlog for up to two years or more.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

LULAC advocates reform of the criminal justice system to reduce the disproportionate number of Latinos who are incarcerated in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. LULAC supports reform of the court system to ensure fair sentencing guidelines that do not discriminate among races or socio-economic backgrounds. LULAC opposes the incarceration of youth in adult prisons. LULAC supports preventive education and social programs, as well as academic education to reduce incarceration and recidivism.

DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL PROFILING

LULAC works to prevent acts of discrimination and racial profiling against Latinos, including slander by actions or words. We seek to bring issues and instances of discrimination to the attention of all people living in the United States. By exposing discrimination, LULAC encourages a public discourse and educates the public on issues relating to Latinos. We denounce any form of discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, or disability.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Empowerment Zones Along the Border: Unemployment rates along the U.S./Mexican border are estimated at 25 percent. LULAC supports an expansion of empowerment and enterprise zones in communities along the border.

Employment Practices: LULAC urges companies and government agencies to embrace diversity in all aspects of business, whether employment, promotion, or contracting, as well as to support

representation of Hispanics at all levels, from day-to-day management and governance, to the boardroom.

Access: LULAC encourages the expansion of federal and state programs and policies that provide federal funds to stimulate business, job growth and training, and opportunities for venture capital.

EDUCATION

LULAC believes that education is the basis for lifelong success, and strongly opposes any measure that denies education as a fundamental right, including that of immigrant children. School curricula and textbooks should reflect Hispanic heritage positively, be language appropriate, and culturally sensitive.

LULAC supports legislation targeted at decreasing the Hispanic dropout rate and urges Congress to implement targeted programs to encourage Hispanic students to remain in school. Federal funding for LULAC National Education Service Centers (LNEC) should be continued so as to address the specific needs of our community, as well as to expand into areas not currently served.

Federal funding for Headstart, Gear Up, TRIO, Women, Infants, and Children, HEP-CAMP, Title I, Title III programs, and after school programs should be increased and access should be expanded to ensure high participation. LULAC opposes vouchers. All Latinos should have access to safe, quality and desegregated public education. Public schools should be improved and rehabilitated, and be provided with adequate funding to do so.

LULAC supports the Student Adjustment Act and strongly urges all states to pass laws that allow undocumented immigrant children who have completed high school and reside in their state for at least three years to be admitted to colleges and universities as residents, and be eligible for in-state tuition. LULAC also urges the federal government to grant US citizenship to these students after they graduate from high school. LULAC opposes college entry exams as the sole or main determinant in admissions and instead supports multiple factors as the key to admission.

Funding for Title I and Title VII programs should be increased to address adult basic educational programs and bilingual education.

LULAC supports an increase in funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions of Higher Education.

LULAC opposes high stakes testing.

LULAC supports an increase in the number of Latino teachers, administrators and school board members.

ENGLISH PLUS

LULAC strongly opposes all legislation that designates English as the official language of the United States or of any individual state. LULAC supports bilingual education to ensure English proficiency while encouraging students to retain fluency/literacy in their native language. English language proficiency is imperative, but bilingualism and multilingualism are assets to be valued and preserved.

LULAC advocates that English language learners shall receive an equal quality academic education with equal quality materials as native English-speaking students. Such education shall be provided by properly credentialed teachers.

ENVIRONMENT

LULAC opposes the practice of locating environmentally damaging or dangerous sites in Hispanic and other disadvantaged communities, as well as the disposal of nuclear or chemical waste near Hispanic communities. LULAC supports a border buffer to prevent the creation of hazardous waste sites on either side of the US-Mexico border, and encourages the clean up of brownfields (contaminated sites) in Hispanic neighborhoods.

FARM & MIGRANT WORKERS

LULAC supports the National Farmworker Jobs Program (WIA 167) and requests the restoration of \$82 million to the 2003 US Department of Labor budget. The program provides affordable housing, skills-training and important pesticides safety training, as well as adult basic education. LULAC also urges Congress to pass legislation that protects farmworkers from employer abuse, while guaranteeing them safe working conditions, housing, and access to schooling and training. Former Bracero workers who had 10 percent of their earnings withdrawn from their paychecks should have those monies returned to them and their families. LULAC opposes the

expansion of agricultural guestworker programs.

LULAC supports a national holiday honoring Cesar Chavez and commemorating the contributions of farm workers to the United States. School curriculum should include an historical perspective of the farmworker struggle and community service in his honor.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

LULAC promotes higher Hispanic employment in the US State Department, Foreign Service, the United Nations Mission and other international agencies. Latino perspectives should be included in the formulation of policies towards Latin America.

LULAC urges a strengthening of partnerships with Latin America, in particular greater collaboration between the Government of Mexico and LULAC. LULAC urges the US government to include Latin American nations as partners for the war on terrorism and the creation of multilateral agreements on such important cross-border issues as health, labor and immigration, and sustainable economic development.

LULAC urges the US government to refrain from interfering socially, politically, and economically with the elected governments of Latin America.

HATE CRIMES

LULAC urges Congress to pass laws that provide stronger sentencing and more aggressive prosecution for hate crimes. The federal government's role should be expanded in the prosecution of hate crimes by being allowed to assist state and local efforts to prosecute a broader scope of hate crimes.

HEALTH

LULAC supports universal health care insurance that includes affordable and accessible primary and preventative health care that is culturally sensitive. Latino mothers should be provided with pre-natal care and children must have access to immunization, prescription medications, as well as substance abuse education. We urge pharmaceutical companies and medical research facilities to increase the inclusion of Latinos in their clinical trials. LULAC urges greater awareness among health care

providers of the disparities in the health care system and the elimination of bias and stereotyping of Latino patients. LULAC also advocates for patient education programs to increase patients' knowledge about diseases disproportionately affecting Latinos, such as diabetes and AIDS, but also of how to best find health care and participate in the treatment process. LULAC also urges an expansion of health insurance coverage for children in poverty, as well as increased funding of programs to prevent teen pregnancy.

LULAC urges increased funding for emergency rooms to reduce waiting times.

LULAC supports the expansion of state and federal funding for mental health and mental retardation programs.

HISPANIC REPRESENTATION

LULAC promotes public service and strongly supports Executive Order 13171 to increase the representation of Hispanics in Federal Employment at all levels. We urge the administration to work closely with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that Hispanic employment data is collected by the federal agencies to remedy the underrepresentation of Hispanics in government.

LULAC urges the Senate to provide a level-playing field for Hispanic judicial nominees to ensure that Hispanic representation in the judicial system increases proportionally to the numbers of Latinos in the general population.

LULAC supports statistical sampling data be included in the redistricting process across the country to counterbalance undercounts in the Hispanic community in order to increase the likelihood of greater Hispanic political representation.

HOUSING

LULAC supports the expansion of affordable housing and increased funding for policies that create government-sponsored matching funds. LULAC opposes discriminatory and predatory lending practices and supports the strengthening of fair housing legislation to hold financial institutions accountable for unfair lending practices.

IMMIGRATION

LULAC opposes any legislation that threatens the rights of immigrants, including limiting legal immigration. Legal residents and naturalized citizens should have the same government benefits and protections due native-born citizens. LULAC opposes harsh regulations that toughen the requirements for citizenship and stipulations that raise the bar of admissibility for immigrants. Immigrant visas should not be unreasonably withheld.

LULAC opposes the militarization of the border and vigilante attacks on immigrants, as well as the mistreatment of immigrants in the United States regardless of their status. The Immigration and Naturalization Service should focus its service efforts on naturalization, citizenship promotion, and the training of its agents, including the Border Patrol.

LULAC supports the regularization of undocumented workers in the United States by periodically updating the Date of Registry, the reinstatement of Section 245(i) to allow immigrants to remain with their families while their applications are processed, along with the restoration of benefits for legal immigrants. LULAC supports the granting of citizenship to all non-citizen members of the American armed forces.

LULAC urges Congress to pass wage protection for immigrants, as well as to overturn the Hoffman decision. LULAC opposes the use of local and state law enforcement to assist the INS.

LULAC opposes citizenship requirements for airport screeners and other security personnel, and supports legislation that will remove this requirement from the Airport Security Act of 2001.

MEDIA

LULAC strongly advocates for the increase of Hispanic-oriented programming in all facets of the media and demands that more high-level decision-making positions be made available to Hispanics at major media companies and networks. Programs should provide a positive and accurate portrayal of the cultural breadth of Latinos in the United States. As part of their public service obligations, we encourage the FCC to require broadcasters to provide better Latino programming and representation in prime-time slots throughout the day.

PUERTO RICO

LULAC reaffirms its strong support of legislation that provides a congressionally recognized framework for the four million US citizens living in Puerto Rico to freely express their wishes regarding their options for full self-government.

RACIAL PROFILING

LULAC strongly condemns racial profiling, and supports a strong statutory definition of racial profiling along with the institution of data collections systems by law enforcement.

SENIORS AND ELDERLY

LULAC strongly advocates for programs and legislation to protect the quality of life of Latino senior citizens, including: fair cost housing, transportation for those with special needs, in home care, employment opportunities, and the reduction of elderly abuse and fraud. LULAC seeks a reduction of costly prescription drugs and the expansion of Medicare to cover the cost of prescriptions.

SOCIAL SECURITY

LULAC opposes the privatization of Social Security and any tax cut plan that would compromise its future stability. Individual accounts and tax cuts should not be substituted for Social Security's currently defined system. Latinas are particularly vulnerable as they earn less than any other population group. LULAC supports stronger benefits for lower income groups, women, and the disabled.

WELFARE REFORM

LULAC supports fair welfare reform. Welfare should act as a safety net for those who need assistance for valid reasons. It should encompass providing bilingual job training, funding for child car seats, an increased minimum wage and job opportunities to meet the needs of welfare recipients. There should be reasonable time limits on welfare and each case should be reviewed individually. Welfare reforms should be closely monitored to ensure they do not increase poverty. LULAC opposes benefit cuts previously afforded to legal immigrants, and we strongly advocate remedies that restore benefits to legal immigrants and their children.

Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars!

August 30- September 2, 2002

Fiesta de las Flores, El Paso LULAC Council 132, El Paso County Coliseum, For more information call, (915) 542-3463 or fiestadlflores@cs.com

September 2002

LULAC National Voter Registration Month and Hispanic Heritage Month

October 2-6, 2002

Washington Youth Leadership Seminar, Washington, DC

October 6, 2002

LNESC Board Meeting, Washington, DC

"One World Jam" - A Concert for Global Harmony

7-Eleven celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a concert of diverse talents at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. 7-Eleven chose its 75th anniversary year and this celebration to launch its new public charity called *Education is Freedom*. The charity is designed to remove economic obstacles to higher education by providing college scholarships and job training grants for hard-working young people. "This is a company that clearly understands and is committed to diversity and giving back to the communities in which it operates," said Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director. The event featured some of today's hottest national and international talent, including actress Rosie Perez, and Latin singers Juanes and Soluna, along with other artists including Boys II Men, Souljahz, and Nelly.

Check your local listings for the televised concert showing August 25th - September 8th, 2002.

LULAC Profile: Blanca Vargas, VP for the Midwest

In future issues LULAC News will profile a LULAC member that has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling, Blanca Vargas, Vice President for the Midwest and LULAC member for the past thirty years.



Blanca speaks before the LULAC National Convention.

When did you join LULAC?

I joined LULAC in 1972 and I feel very fortunate to participate in this organization.

Who do you admire most?

The people I admire most are my parents because thanks to their example of persistence and tenacity I am a person with strong values. I also admire President George Bush for his courage and leadership.

What is your best personality trait?

I consider myself a perfectionist and I like to help others. I am persistent and I try to achieve my goals.

Where and when were you born?

I was born in Durango, Mexico on January 7, 1947.

What compelled you to join LULAC?

What attracted me to LULAC is the work it does for the community. For example, LULAC's dedication to the preservation of civil rights and its commitment to providing financial support to those children who want to go to college.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

My goals as a leader of LULAC are to expand the organization to encompass the entire United States and to unite the Spanish speaking community. I would also like for LULAC to grow both nationally and internationally.

What is your passion as a LULAC leader?

My passion is to be a leader who is consistently dedicated to my ideals.

What is your most memorable LULAC moment?

My most unforgettable LULAC moment was when I received the Ohtli award.

What is your greatest LULAC accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment has been my ability to assist a great number of young people reach their goals in obtaining a higher education through LULAC.

How should LULAC assist the Latino youth of today?

LULAC should continue to assist the Latino youth in reaching their goals, especially in receiving higher education. We should always appreciate their great work, contributions, and dedication.



Blanca receives the Ohtli Award from Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jorge Castañeda at the National Convention.

What do you perceive to be the most important Latino issue?

In my opinion, the most important Latino issue is the growing high school drop out rate among Latino youth. With a stronger educated community we will gain political and professional influence and a better quality of life.



Blanca with President George Bush.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

¿Donde Esta la Justicia?

Report Reveals that Latino and Latina Youth are at Risk

In July 2002, *Building Blocks for Youth*, a multi-year initiative to reduce overrepresentation and disparate treatment that affect youth of color in the justice system and to promote rational and effective juvenile justice policies, issued its seventh report focusing on Latino and Latina youth in the U.S. justice system: *¿Donde está la justicia? A call to action on behalf of Latino and Latina youth in the U.S. justice system.*

The report was clear: Latino communities and their youth are singled out by the justice system. They are treated more harshly and receive disparate treatment at every stage of the justice system, including police stops, arrests, detention, waiver to adult criminal court and sentencing. These disparities are compounded by the rapid growth of detention juvenile facilities, jails, and prisons across the nation.

Available data demonstrate a strong bias against Latino and Latina youth, and other youth of color. They generally

receive harsher treatment than white youth charged with the same offenses.

One discovery made by the study that also contributed to the difficulty in assessment is that information available is limited due to states' unsystematic data collection processes. In general, Latino and Latina youth are not disaggregated by ancestry or by country of origin, and oftentimes are lumped in with either African-American and/or White youth. Therefore, neither a true picture of the real numbers nor the full extent of punitive and disparate treatment at key points in the justice system easily emerges.

Further impacting these children are problems related to a lack of bilingual and culturally competent staff and services in the agencies and institutions as they go through the judicial process. Oftentimes family members do not speak English and have trouble understanding or advising their children on best counsel practices.

Two additional factors that are unique to the Hispanic community are immigration status and whether or not the child is part of a migrant farm-worker family. The first variable can create problems if and when the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) becomes aware of the situation. The child is often deported, thus separating him or her from family members and other support. The second factor can create problems in complying with probation requirements, turning minor misbehaviors into serious violations.

For a complete report, in Spanish and English, please go to the *Building Blocks for Youth* website: <http://buildingblocksforyouth.org/>.

Recruiting Hispanics – Why not? A Dialogue on Federal Public Service

On Monday, June 24, 2002, LULAC released a white paper entitled: *Recruiting Hispanics—Why Not? A Dialogue on Federal Public Service.* According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Hispanics, which comprise 12.5+% of the total U.S. workforce, are the only minority group named in the 1964 Civil Rights Act to remain underrepresented in the Federal workforce. Hispanics currently represent only 6.6% of the total Federal workforce and 2.5% of the Senior Executive Service (SES) as of September 2000.

This under-representation is symptomatic of a much larger problem—namely, longstanding and institutional neglect of a growing and sizable part of the American population which will constitute the largest majority group in 2005. Federal agencies are required to develop programs that ensure that the Federal workforce reflects the diversity of the nation it serves. This policy is founded in the Civil Service Rules governing minority recruitment programs requiring the OPM and Executive Order 13171 of October 12, 2000 on Hispanic

Employment in the Federal Government. The Executive Order requires that each agency provide a plan that creates a diverse workforce for the agency in the 21st century.

In 1986, the Hispanic representation in the federal civilian workforce totaled 105,191. Fourteen years later in 2000, OPM reports that Hispanic employees totaled only 115,247. This represents a recruiting increase of little more than 10,000, within a base of more than 2 million civilian employees in the Executive Branch.

The key to meeting the challenge is an administration commitment at all levels of management, beginning with the agency head. Further, that commitment must have a succession planning strategy based on core recommendations that ensures a sustained commitment and continuity of leadership even as individual leaders arrive and depart. *For a copy of the white paper, please go to LULAC's website at:* <http://www.LULAC.org>.



Rick Dovalina presents an award to Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner, Social Security Administration at the LULAC National Convention. She is recognized for having a work force that is representative of our nation and making the business case for why it makes good sense to have a workforce reflective of the customers it serves. The Social Security Administration is noted for its outstanding record in hiring Hispanics.



LULAC Member Confirmed as U.S. Surgeon General

Dr. Richard Carmona was confirmed as U.S. Surgeon General on July 23, 2002 by the U.S. Senate. Dr. Carmona becomes the second Latino to ever hold this position. Carmona has been a member of Council 1057 of Arizona for the past four years and was recognized by Rick Dovalina, immediate past national president in March of 2000 when he received the National Presidential Citation Award for his Community Service. "Richard Carmona is a great friend. He leads by example. His confirmation is something we should all celebrate. He knows the Latino community and has dealt with our problems

first hand through emergency services," said Richard Fimbres, LULAC National Vice President for the Far West. "He will bring fresh ideas to find solutions to problems, as opposed to simply applying band-aids to the critical health concerns our country faces."



President Vicente Fox addressed the LULAC National Convention via satellite.

Tony Garza Nominated Ambassador to Mexico

The Bush Administration nominated Tony Garza to become Ambassador to Mexico. Garza, a second generation Texan whose grandparents are from Mexico, has a long and distinguished record of public service. His public service career began in 1988, when he became the first Hispanic Republican in Texas history to be elected to statewide office as railroad commissioner with oversight over the state's energy sector. Garza currently awaits U.S. Senate confirmation.

Action Alert: Farmworkers Loose Support

Five million farmerworkers will be affected by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) decision to eliminate the "National Farmworker Jobs Program" under Title 167 of the Workforce Investment Act. If this \$81 million dollar program is eliminated, over 50 agencies nationwide that provide vital employment, training and supportive services to migrant seasonal farmworkers will be put out of business. Without a national program targeting farmworkers, there is minimal initiative by individual states to serve a largely transient, limited English speaking, economically disadvantaged, and undereducated population. Funding for this national program has been limited, yet its impact has been significant allowing farmworkers – largely Hispanic- whose average income is below \$10,000, to survive crises through the program's supportive services components. The program has offered services and assistance to millions of farmers for the last 25 years. The Senate has included in its Labor/HHS bill \$82 millions dollars for the program, whereas the House does not have a Labor/HHS bill at all. LULAC is soliciting the federal government to restore the program. *Contact your congressman now.*

McDonald's Responds to Kansas LULAC

Last Spring, Kansas LULAC members lead by state director, Tino Camacho and Ascención Hernández, picketed outside a McDonald's in Kansas against the corporation for their alleged exploitation of immigrant workers and racially profiling its customers in Kansas. At the beginning of this year, fifteen Hispanic workers protested against discriminatory treatment at the McDonald's in Overland Park, Kansas. Later the protestors' leader was fired and many of the rest were detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) or went into hiding. In Salina, Kansas, a McDonald's employee called in the sheriff when he suspected that a group of Hispanic customers might be undocumented. Recently, McDonald's representative Dave Kelles publicly apologized to the Hispanic community on behalf of the McDonald's Corporation. Kelles has previously met with LULAC and other area Hispanic groups. As a result of meetings held between Kelles, Rick Dovalina, immediate past national LULAC president and Kansas LULAC members, Kelles promised that three franchises will be set aside for Hispanic applicants to operate by the end of 2003. In addition, they will include information on their packaging and products in Spanish.



Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA) gives the invocation at LULAC's Legislative Gala.

Immigrant Rights in Limbo: DOJ Policy Becomes More "Restrictionist," While Congress Moves Slowly

By Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation

At the beginning of the 107th Congress, immigration analysts were optimistic that immigration problems would be addressed by lawmakers and the White House. The new president, George W. Bush, was a good friend of the new president of Mexico, Vicente Fox. Both were prepared to negotiate on immigration flows. There had been a modest win at the end of the 106th Congress with the passage of the Legal Immigrant and Family Equity Act, with a brief restoration of the 245(i) rule that enabled certain individuals who qualify to fix their status. It also looked as if the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) would finally get the overhaul that it so desperately needed to become more efficient in services processing.

Over time, however, bilateral talks between Mexico and the United States stagnated. Restrictionists and conservatives further hardened their determination not to move forward on immigration legislation. Ranchers along the U.S.-Mexico border began to round up at gun-point undocumented persons lost in the desert. Increased security along the border contributed to an increase of deaths, resulting in a 15-year peak in fiscal year 2000. And, lastly, the horrific events of September 11th and the subsequent war on terrorism focused the country's energy on protecting America, and dampened hopes for any significant positive shift in immigration policy.

Consequently, any substantive discussion on immigration policy has been sidelined, with the exception of certain smaller but still-significant bills, such as the Dream Act, which would allow foreign, undocumented children to pursue university studies as state-residents and eventually place them on the path towards citizenship. The original discussions on INS restructuring were also pushed to the margin, even as the agency was included in the Department of Homeland Security.

Immigration and Homeland Security

On July 26, the House version of Homeland Security HR 5005, sponsored by Rep. Dick Armey (R-TX) – passed by a more than two to one vote

(295 to 132). According to the bill, the proposed Homeland Security Agency would contain four divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. The security aspects of the INS – Border Patrol and Enforcement – would be included in the Division of Border and Transportation Security. Immigrant advocates, including LULAC, argued strongly against including the INS in the Department of Homeland Security, as that would mean effectively equating immigrants with terrorists.

The decision to separate INS enforcement and inspection functions from immigrant services and move them into the Department of Homeland Security raises the likelihood that the services function will be overshadowed by enforcement. Immigrant services and adjudications would remain in the Justice Department. Critics of the proposal argue that services and enforcement are inextricably linked and that immigrant communities would suffer from their division. According to the American Immigration Lawyers Association, "services will be ill-served by this arrangement – with policy guidance and legal opinions coming from Homeland Security, and no coordination structured between the two agencies."



On May 2, 2002, the Senate introduced the Immigration Reform, Accountability, and Security Enhancement Act of 2002 (S2444) to abolish the INS as it currently stands. It proposes to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and to establish in the DOJ an Immigration Affairs Agency, which would be headed by a Director of Immigration Affairs. The Senate's version of the Homeland Security bill (S2452) maintains immigration functions together as a fifth column within the Homeland Security Department and incorporates S2444 as the way to restructure immigration functions. On July 25, Senator Lieberman (D-CT) began marking up a modified version of S2452. It is expected that the Senate and House staff will probably meet in September when Congress returns from August recess to hammer out differences between the two bills.

Increased Border Security: Is it Working?

LULAC has long worked on border safety and its eyewitness accounts of the behavior and treatment of immigrants have been confirmed with research. According to a recently released report from the Public Policy Institute of California, *Holding the Line: The Effect of the Recent Border Build-up on Unauthorized Immigration*, the policy of 'prevention through deterrence' implemented in

Impact Congress!

Let your representatives know your opinion with these Congressional postcards on education for immigrants.

Right now Congress is debating whether or not to support education for immigrant students. LULAC is urging Congress to include relief for these immigrants. We are calling on every LULAC member and our allies to send these postcards to their representative and two senators.

To verify the names of your representative and two senators, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Tell the operator will look up who represents you in Congress. You can also look up your representatives on the website.

Please take the time to mail these postcards as soon as possible. Fill in your home address and sign each postcard so that your congressmen know that they are hearing from one of their constituents. Also be sure to place a 20 cent stamp on each postcard for postage.

You should receive a response from your congressmen in several weeks. We encourage members to send copies of responses to the LULAC National Office, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036

Make a difference today!

Dear Representative:

As a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, I am writing to urge you to support the Student Adjustment Act, H.R. 1918, a bi-partisan bill which would eliminate the federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition. It would also provide an opportunity to obtain legal status for young people with good moral character who have been in the U.S. for five years or more and are at least 12 years old on the date of enactment. H.R. 1918 would eliminate the federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition. It would also legalize young people who have good moral character, have lived in the U.S. at least 5 years, are in school in 7th grade or above, and are under 21 years old. This act does not provide immigrants with any special rights. It merely eliminates the artificial barriers that currently prevent them from achieving their full potential. In addition to helping out the affected immigrants, this bill will provide a practical benefit to the United States, because when significant numbers of talented students in our communities are prevented from reaching their full potential, our whole society suffers.

As one of your voting constituents, I urge you to support the Student Adjustment Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dear Senator:

As a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, I am writing to urge you to support the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, S. 1291, a bi-partisan bill which would eliminate the federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition. It would also provide an opportunity to obtain legal status for young people with good moral character who have been in the U.S. for five years or more and are at least 12 years old on the date of enactment. To qualify for legal status under the DREAM Act, the students would also have to earn a high school degree and be under 21 years old on the date they apply to change their status. The DREAM Act does not provide immigrants with any special rights. It merely eliminates the artificial barriers that currently prevent them from achieving their full potential.

In addition to helping out the affected immigrants, this bill will provide a practical benefit to the United States, because when significant numbers of talented students in our communities are prevented from reaching their full potential, our whole society suffers.

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Sincerely,

Affix
\$.23
Stamp
Here

Impact Congress on Immigration!

Let your Congressmen know your
opinion with these Congressional
postcards on immigration.

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Send this postcard to
your Representative.**

Affix
\$.23
Stamp
Here

Check List:

- Fill in your home address for each card.
- Fill in the names of your representative and two Senators.
- Sign the card.
- Affix a 23 cent stamp to each card.
- Mail today!

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

**Send this postcard to
one of your Senators.**

Affix
\$.23
Stamp
Here

**Send this postcard to
your other Senator.**

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

1994 by then Attorney General Janet Reno and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, has not achieved its primary goal of reducing unauthorized immigration. In fact, it has led to an increase in the duration of stay in the United States during periods of increased enforcement. Nor did the report find a statistically significant relationship between the build-up of border security as a deterrent and the probability of an individual choosing to migrate. In effect, the report demonstrates that economic opportunities in the United States and Mexico have a stronger effect on migration than does heightened enforcement.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, because of the increase in border enforcement immigrants began taking alternative routes to the United States, relying more on smugglers, or *coyotes*, who in turn have raised their fees. One unintended consequence of the border strategy has been an increase in the number of deaths at the border since 1994 – more than 350 in 2000, according to the INS. Many of these deaths are due to risks inherent in border crossing. In 2000, the Border Patrol tracked 135 deaths from exposure to heat, and 92 deaths from drowning. In contrast, in 1994, when the border strategy was barely up and running, there were nine exposure deaths and 48 drownings. The report attributes the increase in deaths to changes in crossing locations through more dangerous and remote areas.

Department of Justice Regulations Become Stricter

Other immigration control measures being considered by the Department of Justice (DOJ) include a regulation to cross-designate local law enforcement agencies to aid the federal government in enforcing the civil component of federal immigration law. In many instances Latino communities have not had good relationships with their local police departments. If they suspect that the police will harass them

over their immigration status, they will be far less likely to report crimes or come forward as witnesses. Also, most police departments around the country are very reluctant, if not completely opposed, to participating in these actions, given that most are already overburdened.

The DOJ is seeking the clarification of a 50-year old regulation – never before enforced – which requires non-citizens to report their address to the INS within ten days of moving to a new location or risk deportation. Latinos are a fairly mobile population group, in many cases moving seasonally for work. This is particularly true for migrant farm-workers, who move with the rotation of crops. Stepped-up enforcement of these rulings would create additional hardship for foreign-born Latino communities. LULAC opposes both of these proposals.

Furthermore, the INS is notorious for being unable to process paperwork in a timely manner, and just recently it was discovered that more than 2 million documents sent to INS field offices around the country were sitting in a Kansas City, Missouri warehouse complex. These included change of address notices, along with other documents and had never been processed. More than 300,000 were applications for citizenship. Some of the foreigners that were secretly deported after September 11 may have been in compliance for the laws they were expelled for breaking.

Social Security Administration Negatively Impacts Immigrants

Since March, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has undertaken several initiatives that are strongly impacting immigrants. The agency denied requests for social security cards which are required in order to obtain a driver's license, open a bank account, and to use other services. The agency also expanded its "no match" letter program that sends letters to employers of eleven or more

employees whose social security cards do not match SSA's records. There has been much confusion as to what employers' rights are and actions they can and should take. To pre-empt problems, many employers are simply laying off workers, rather than following procedures that allow the worker to rectify their situation. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is expected to begin documenting infractions so as to fine those employers whose employees' social security numbers do not match SSA's records.

The Hoffman Decision

In March of this year, the US Supreme Court ruled that federal immigration policies prohibit the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from awarding undocumented workers "back pay" under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). To date, the Hoffman Plastic decision has had far reaching effect. It has provided a platform for many to call areas of federal and state law into question – including unrelated, discrete areas such as wage and hour laws, worker compensation claims, sexual harassment claims, and even First Amendment rights to name a few – causing immigrant workers and advocates great concern.

Where do We Go From Here?

The immigration debate as we have known it has changed dramatically. The focus is now on national security. Yet the needs and dreams of immigrant families have not faded or gone away. Immigration reform is still necessary both for those who are already here and for future generations of immigrants. Congressman Dick Gephardt (D-MO) has promised movement on immigration legislation, after the August recess. As the nation faces the challenges of countering terrorism, it is important to maintain the traditions, values, and freedoms that made this country strong. President Bush said it best. "Immigration is not a problem to be solved. It is the sign of a confident and successful nation...New arrivals should be greeted not with suspicion and resentment, but with openness and courtesy."

LULAC Launches Democracy Initiative: A Latino Voter and Advocacy Project

"Que nuestras voces se hagan oir, Que nuestros votos se hagan contar"
"Making our voices heard, Making our votes count"

The LULAC Democracy Initiative is an ongoing project to increase Hispanic voter participation and advocacy at the local, state, and national level. It is an education program designed to engage LULAC members and the Latino community in the political process, to tap into our intellectual capital and talent, and make our voices heard. It is also an effort to move those who practice politics from Spanish-language sound-byte campaigns, towards the establishment of policies that positively address Latino concerns by engaging each other in a meaningful dialogue and sharing of perspectives.

The purpose of the LULAC Democracy Initiative is to increase LULAC's year-round efforts for the turnout of Latino voters nationwide and to improve Hispanic political engagement through advocacy.

It builds on the information and experience garnered from prior LULAC voter outreach projects, such as *LULAC Voter 2000*, to accomplish the following:

- To conduct research to identify issues or factors that break the cycle of neglect and motivate Latinos to vote and participate in the democratic process, and to develop the language through which we articulate such issues through surveys and focus groups in targeted states around the country;
- To develop best practices, resource tools and training, consensus-building strategies, and a vision for LULAC members to be more effective in voter outreach and advocacy so as to be even better connected with the communities they serve, to be better able to overcome challenges in Latino voter participation by educating voters about issues and stimulating an interest in voting;
- To provide a road map for LULAC Councils to improve their working relationships at the grassroots level with government officials so as to facilitate voter participation and engage policymakers to better address community concerns;
- To develop a civic engagement approach and conduct candidate debates,

town hall meetings, and other types of forums to enlist candidates running for office into a direct dialogue with Hispanics by using such tools as the "*LULAC Challenge*" to put potential elected officials on notice that we are organized, are clear about what we want and need, and that there are benchmarks that they must respect if they wish to gain our vote;

- To disseminate the research and results in English and Spanish through white papers, radio, television, print and internet media outlets that reach the Hispanic community;
- To partner with Latino organizations – both national and local – as well as, with other "mainstream" organizations and corporations in voter outreach and advocacy efforts to the Latino community so as to better coordinate and maximize limited resources without duplicating efforts.

Why is the LULAC Democracy Initiative Important?

In a representative democracy, the authority and power of government is placed in the hands of those we elect. They, in turn, must assure that public policy is deliberated and crafted through a process that is truly democratic, accessible, and inclusive. For our part, we must ensure that we are educated about the issues, the process of participation – both voting and advocacy – and motivated to get involved.

The U.S. Census reports that in the 2000 presidential race, the registration of the citizen population was lower than in 1996, but the percent of those who voted was higher. Yet, in 2000, 111 million citizens voted compared to the 114 million who voted in 1992. Of these, white non-Hispanic citizens had the highest voter turnout in 2000 – 62 percent, followed by Black citizens at a rate of 57 percent, Hispanic citizens at 45 percent and Asian and Pacific Islander citizens at 43 percent. But all is not bleak, because of all those Latinos who registered to vote, 79 percent actually voted.

"The key to voter turnout is registration, an important factor in the willingness and ability of citizens to vote."¹¹¹

The characteristics of Latinos who are most likely to go to the polls are no different from what motivates the rest of society to vote: these individuals are older, homeowners, married, they have more schooling, higher incomes, and good jobs. Unfortunately, the demographics of the Latino population demonstrate that we suffer in most of these very same categories.

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What holds us back?

Our population is very young.

- Approximately 35 percent (10 million) of 35.3 million Latinos are under the age of 18 years, compared to 25.7% of the entire US population. By the year 2030, Latino school-aged children (ages 5-18) are projected to number almost 16 million, 25 percent of the total U.S. school population.

Latino home ownership is low.

- Only 48.1 percent of native-born Hispanics are homeowners, compared to 65.4 percent of national homeowners.

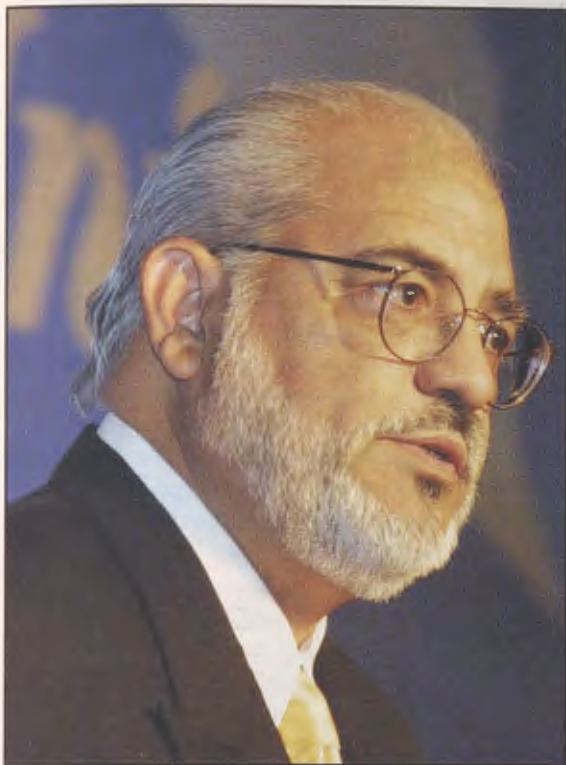
Latino dropout rates are the highest in the country.

- One third of the Latino population is under the age of 18. Latinos not only have higher dropout rates than the rest of the population; they also tend to drop out earlier than other students. In 1993, 40 percent of Hispanic dropouts had not completed the 8th grade. Another 18 percent of Latino dropouts completed the 9th grade, but left school before completing the 10th grade, and over one half (58 percent) of Hispanic dropouts have less than a 10th grade

Democracy, continued on page 22.

We Can Stay Secure While Welcoming Newcomers

by Rick Dovalina



Immediate Past National President, Rick Dovalina speaks before the National Convention.

Hispanic-Americans take great pride in our record of service and significant contributions to the American military. We have won more medals of honor than any other ethnic group. Latinos comprised an important and disproportionate percentage of American troops in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. What motivated us to serve was our commitment to defending the American values of democracy and freedom at home and abroad. Hispanics make up a majority of the close to 50,000 non-citizens serving on active duty in the United States military.

In this context of service, Latinos began to formulate their response to the events of September 11th. On that day, the United States entered into a new phase of American political history. We woke to the undeniable fact that much of the world could indeed be divided into American allies and American enemies. We were heartened by the reality that the former outnumbered the latter by a vast margin. Yet, for many, the

retorical solution is to define the American republic as a nation under siege and to redefine foreigners as enemies.

As a country, we are re-evaluating our priorities. The Bush Administration has proposed the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, consolidating several existing agencies into one cabinet-level department that collects, analyzes and disseminates intelligence. The new cabinet department would include the entire Immigration and Naturalization Service with an emphasis on border security, which many consider the Achilles' heel of U.S. national security.

We understand the risks and consequences of this process. Latinos, by virtue of our history, military service and the efforts of our forefathers to fight

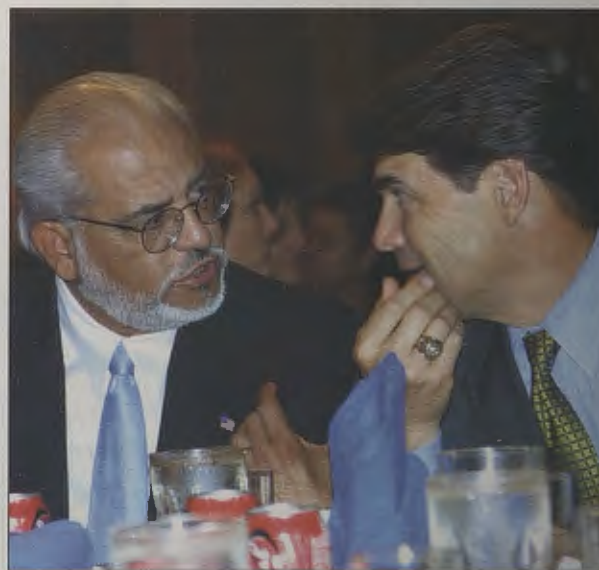
for democracy here, know the magnitude of the terrorist threat facing America. We understand firsthand the complexities of American immigration policy - the delicate balancing act between two poles: maintaining America's commitment to welcoming those who would contribute to its greatness, while securing its borders against those who would do it harm. By accepting newcomers, we uphold the embodiment of the American dream and our commitment to civil rights.

Several members of Congress have expressed their concern over the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security. Some critics, for example, are concerned with the rapid pace of the department's evolution and scope of its powers. The president's dedication to this goal also raises serious

questions for the Hispanic community, particularly the many of us who live in border-states. While we understand the need for heightened security against terrorism, the need to bridge gaps in intelligence-sharing and coordination among law enforcement agencies, we hope that in the process we do not subvert the principles of the U.S. Constitution.

We are defending the country against open violence and, as a people, we are closely defining patriotism. Let us not forget that many foreign-born citizens are true Americans not only because of allegiance but because of alignment. Our vigilance as Latinos is a result of our belief in the American values of freedom and democracy. American self-understanding embodies the principles of freedoms and civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson envisioned a millennium when civil liberties would be fully secured and when freedom, not force, would be the bond of the union. The concerns we pose are merely questions; these should not imply that we are un-American. Quite the opposite, in order for a democracy to flourish, we must continue to fight for our fundamental rights as individuals.



Rick Dovalina speaks with Texas Governor Rick Perry at the National Convention.

Youth Corner

The LULAC Youth had a strong presence at this year's National Convention. With a new national president, hopes are high for our youth - Nuestro Futuro."

Letter from the New LULAC National Youth President



Manuel Olguin speaks before the LULAC Youth at the National Convention.

Dear LULAC Youth Membership,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Manuel Anthony Olguin, your 2002-03 elected National Youth President. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the National Youth membership, for entrusting me with such a prestigious position. It is an honor to serve you in such a capacity and I look forward to working with the youth across our nation on our two main goals: to improve communication and to expand our membership.

In this day and age, we the youth, are fortunate to have the availability of communication technology in our midst. Through the use of the internet, email, cell phones, etc., communication with someone across the country has become easier and the possibilities are endless. It is through these mediums that we have chosen to expand our membership to the vast and remote areas across our nation. Communication through these means with other youth members has already proven successful in the first few months of my tenure. I have no doubt that we will be successful in launching our first "Youth Electronic Newsletter" within the upcoming months.

We must understand that LULAC has always been known as an adult organization. Many adult LULAC members are not aware that within this organization, there is a segment dedicated to us, the youth. In addition, many youth members are not aware that there are youth chapters throughout the United States. This is why we need this newsletter. With the success of our newsletter, expansion is inevitable. We must let other Latino youth learn, understand and live by the LULAC Code. It is this code which LULAC members - adult, young adult and youth have used and will continue to use as a guide in their lives to becoming more respectful and honorable citizens of our great nation. We must communicate these attributes to youth across the nation and encourage and help them to establish their own youth councils in their communities and schools.

We seek the help of all youth members in this worthwhile endeavor and hope that you will encourage others to do so as well. So as we take on this task, I encourage all youth councils across the nation to play a part in our efforts to expand membership for our youth organization. I am counting on you, the youth members. Together we can make it happen!

Sincerely,
Manuel A. Olguin,
National Youth President



NASA Astronaut, Franklin Chang-Díaz, Marta Arciniega, LULAC Young Adult Woman of the Year and Dr. Juan García, National VP for Young Adults.

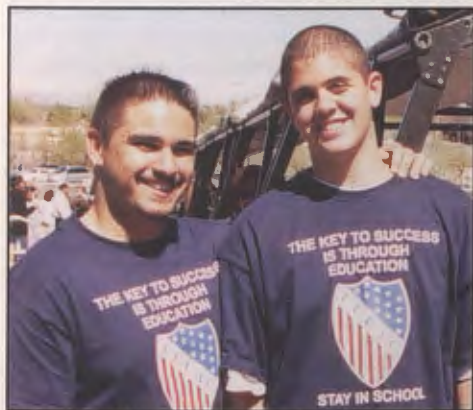
Youth Highlights from the Convention

This year the LULAC youth enjoyed both memorable and educational moments during the National Convention. During the week, participants attended a workshop presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that encouraged students to pursue a college education and eventually apply for positions within the federal government. Another helpful workshop focused on parliamentary procedures. Finally, the career fair brought many colleges and universities which encouraged students to apply to their schools. A major highlight of the convention was a tour of the Houston Space Center given by Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz. Having just returned from a space flight, Mr. Chang-Díaz made a special effort to meet with the LULAC youth. Mr. Chang-Díaz's selfless act exemplifies his commitment to the Latino youth and inspired all those who attended the event. Special awards were presented to several LULAC youth who make a difference in the organization. Congratulations to the Young Adult Woman of the Year, Marta Arciniega, to the Young Adult Man of the Year, Jose Luis Jimenez, Young Woman of the Year, Ximena Jimenez and Young Man of the Year, Johnny Ray Soto. Congratulations are also in order to the San Benito, California council which was named the Youth Council of the Year and to Mountain View College Council for Young Adult Council of the Year.

13th Annual Youth Leadership Conference in Arizona

In March 2002, Pima College West Campus hosted the 13th Annual Youth Leadership Conference and Educators Banquet. This year's theme was *"Education Leads to Success Through Leadership, Values, Life Choices, Patriotism, Unity and Freedom."* The Mayors of Tucson and South Tucson proclaimed it was "Youth Leadership Week" for the week of the conference that drew 5,000 6th-12th graders from all over Arizona. This year's keynote speaker was Tejana music star Patsy Torres. Patsy and her Positive Force Tour Band gave an outstanding concert that motivated students to stay in school, and to stay away from alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, and gangs.

The Educators Banquet raised approximately \$58,000 to support LULAC's Roskrige's Young Readers Program, LNES's Scholarship Program, and several other education and community based projects. For the past five years the conference has seen especially positive results with 100 percent of Upward Bound seniors graduating and more than 85 percent enrolling in colleges.



Richard Michael Fimbres and Paul Leonardi, at the Leadership Conference

From Rusia with Amor

LULAC Council 100 of Dallas, Texas recently sent two exceptional students to study Russian in Russia. Carlos and Maria Vidales, brother and sister and LULAC members are grateful to LULAC and the Hispanic Institute for Progress for sponsoring their trip. Carlos and Maria are excellent students at Bryan Adams High School in Dallas, Texas. They plan to further their Russian language skills in college.



Patsy Torres Positive Force Tour performed at the 13th Annual Youth Leadership Conference.

Express Yourself!

Submit your poems, essays and/or artwork to be published in our LULAC Youth Corner. We are looking for forms of art that reflect your experience as a Latino youth in today's society. We will select one article, poem and/or piece of artwork to publish in each issue of the LULAC News Youth Corner. Essays or poems should be no longer than 500 words each. Please email or mail your works to the national office: lquirola@lulac.org or LULAC, 2000 L

Hispanic Wins Winter Olympics Gold Medal

Dereck Parra is believed to be the first Hispanic to win a Winter Olympics gold medal. Parra, 31, won the speedskating competition in the last Winter Olympics. A Mexican-American from California, Parra made many sacrifices to succeed at his sport. Unlike many other Winter Olympians who have big-money sponsors or professional contracts, Parra had to worry about money. While Parra trained in Utah, his wife and newborn daughter had to stay with relatives in Florida because he could not afford to support them during that time. In the end, his sacrifices paid off and he now encourages all Hispanic kids to follow their dreams.



Representatives from the Mountain View College Council receive the award for Young Adult Council of the Year.



Carlos and Maria Vidales in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Russia.

Democracy,

-continued from page 18.

education. Only 29 percent of white dropouts and 24 percent of black dropouts leave as early as Hispanics. One in five Hispanics in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 who ever enrolled in an American school left without either a high school diploma or an alternative certificate such as a GED (US Census Bureau 1998).

Latinos earn less than the national average.

- On average, the wage premium, associated with education, has risen over time. In 1999, Hispanic males who completed a college degree earned 146 percent more than Hispanic men who had not completed high school. Yet, the high school completion rate for Hispanics is only 63 percent – in comparison to 88 percent for non-Hispanic whites and African Americans. The relatively low levels of Hispanic earnings are explained in large measure by lower levels of educational attainment.

What can we do?

Education, education, education... We are at a defining moment. Both political parties are currying Latinos' favor. We are walking a tightrope between being exploited for political gain and becoming agents of our own political destiny. Latinos must stand up and be counted. LULAC, with its long history and tradition of voter education, registration, get-out-the-vote, and civil rights advocacy is committed to take the challenge. In the short-term, we cannot change the demographics overnight. But, we can educate voters and we can inspire confidence in the power of the democratic process.

The LULAC Democracy Initiative is a comprehensive approach to engage LULAC members and Latino communities in the democratic process, while taking into account and addressing those issues that are considered a hindrance to voter participation and advocacy in the following ways:

- The engagement of Latino communities by conducting a national survey and through focus groups with LULAC councils to ask the community about their political and social concerns and what it takes to get them.

- The coordination of LULAC Councils' voter education, registration, and get-out-the-vote efforts nationwide through the Washington, DC office by tracking best practices and new trends, as well as compiling databases of donors, volunteers and coalitions.

- The engagement of young people through our Youth and Young Adults councils by signing a *Declaration of Participation*. We will seek out a commitment from our youth under 18 years of age, a commitment that they will register themselves to vote on their 18th birthday, as well as their eligible family members and five of their friends. We will seek out a commitment from our Young Adults Councils to register at least 10 young Latino voters between the ages of 18 and 25 per council member at their universities and community centers nationwide.

- The creation of bilingual materials for educating the community about the significance of participating in democratic process and the process of participating in voting and advocacy.

- Holding civic forums at least in the top five Latino states nationwide – to get Latinos aware, educated, and motivated about public issues affecting us, as well as providing forums for political candidates to address our communities.

- The institutionalization of the "LULAC Challenge," to keep the Latino community up to date on how we are being affected by public policies and to provide the community with a data set of 10 top policy issues. The "challenge" provides information and questions for LULAC members and interested Latinos to ask candidates running for office. The "challenge" also provides a diagram from which to better track issues and candidates' opinions/proposals.

- The establishment of a wide array of partnerships at the national, state, and local levels with organizations also involved in the democratic process to consensus-build and coalition-build to eliminate duplication of efforts.

Remember, "*Hágase contar...*" Vote on election day or your voice won't be heard. September is LULAC National Voter Registration month. For more information, contact Gabriela Lemus, LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation at 202/833-6130 or email at glemus@LULAC.org.

¹¹ US Census Bureau. "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2000." February 2002.



Voter Education Project

The National Student/Parent Mock Election, the nation's largest voter education project, announced a partnership with American Online, Inc., the world's largest interactive services company, to facilitate an expanded online voting capability through the AOL@SCHOOL program and AOL's GovernmentGuide resource for students and their parents. The National Student/Parent Mock Election will take place on November 1, 2002 in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and around the world where Americans are based. Through this initiative, AOL@SCHOOL, AOL's free online learning service, and AOL's GovernmentGuide will encourage American students, teachers, and parents to participate in the National Student/Parent Mock Election through special links from AOL@SCHOOL and AOL's other election-related areas. To enroll in the National Student/Parent Mock Election, log onto one of the following websites:

<http://school.aol.com>,
<http://www.governmentguide.com>
(AOL subscribers may use Keyword: mockelection.)
OR <http://www.nationalelection.com>

Statistics: Latino Growth Rate*

The Hispanic population is growing in most metropolitan areas, but the rate and location of increase varies widely.

- Established Latino metros such as Miami, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago had the largest absolute increases from 1980 to 2000.
- Atlanta and Orlando, the new Latino destinations, charted the fastest growth rates.
- Houston, Phoenix and San Diego, became the fast-growing Latino hubs during the past 20 years, with population growth averaging 235 %.
- 54% of all U.S. Latinos now reside in the suburbs.
- Latino suburban population grew 71 % in the 1990s.
- Hispanic men outnumber Hispanic women by 17 % in new Latino destination metros where the Latino population grew fastest.

Ten Metro Areas with the Largest Latino Population, 2000

City	Hispanic Percent of Total Population
Los Angeles	45%
New York	25%
Chicago	17%
Miami	57%
Houston	30%
Riverside-San Bernadino	38%
Orange County	31%
Phoenix	25%
San Antonio	51%
Dallas	23%
TOTAL	31 %

* *Latino Growth in Metropolitan America: Changing Patterns, New Locations.* Roberto Suro, Pew Hispanic Center and Audrey Singer, Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy.

Employer Pays High Price for its English-Only Policy

A district judge in Illinois ordered Regis Corp. to pay six of its employees up to \$60,000 each. The ruling came as a result of a suit brought by the Chicago district office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of Hispanic hairstylists employed by Regis who were prohibited to speak Spanish in the workplace, even with Spanish-speaking clients. (Source: *The Miami Herald*, 6 August, 2002).



Johnny Mata with Convention Chair, Mary Ramos at the National Convention.



Texas gubernatorial candidate, Tony Sanchez reaches out to voters at the National Convention.

LULAC and Advance America Unveil New Voter Empowerment Project

On June 5, LULAC and Advance America® joined together with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), People for the American Way, and the Southwestern Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) to launch a nationwide, non-partisan voter registration initiative. Through this project, LULAC, Advance America®, NAACP, PFAW, and SVREP seek to empower voters nationwide to shape better communities through active participation in the process of democracy. By encouraging the act of voting, the program is designed to remind citizens of their ability to impact the process by registering to vote and, subsequently, casting votes in primary and general elections.

For more information on how you can participate, contact Gabriela D. Lemus, LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation at 202/833-6130 or by email at glemus@lulac.org.



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee addressed the Assembly at the National Convention.

Attention LULAC Councils! Councils Must Comply with IRS Requirement

All councils must have a federal employer identification number (EIN). The IRS will not allow LULAC to add your council to our group exemption number without an EIN number. If your council does not have an EIN number, your council will not be recognized as exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. This can also jeopardize LULAC's group exemption ruling. In order to obtain an EIN you must fill out a SS-4 form. Please contact Carolina Munoz, National Fiscal Officer, at (915) 577-0726 for more information or a SS-4 form. Your prompt cooperation is appreciated as this matter needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Campaign Finance Reform

LULAC has joined the *Free Air Time Coalition* in order to educate the public about the need for free air time. Free air time is the next step in greatly needed campaign finance reform. A winning ticket to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives will cost at least \$1 million this fall. One of the highest costs in political campaigns is the cost of broadcast television. It is also the most promising place to find relief from the soaring demand for political money. Unlike virtually all the world's other democracies, our country has never defined this public interest obligation to include a system of free political air time. If we have free air time for candidates it will help to open up our political marketplace to those currently priced out of it – including candidates who aren't wealthy, don't have an "in" with special interests and aren't already in office. When more candidates like that can afford to lose, who knows, a few might actually win. And so would the rest of us! To learn more about the *Free Air Time Coalition* visit their website at freeairtime.org.

LULAC and the Selective Service System Join Forces

LULAC and the Selective Service System have formed a partnership to ensure that the young Latino men in the United States understand their civic responsibilities, and remain eligible to take full advantage of important educational and employment benefits. The Selective Service System is a small federal agency with the mission of providing manpower to armed forces in a national emergency.

Every young man living in the United States is required by law to register with Selective Service within 30 days of this 18th birthday. This law applies regardless of whether he is a citizen, a legal resident immigrant or an illegal immigrant. Any young man who has not registered by his 26th birthday is ineligible to receive student loans, job training, and federal job opportunities.

LULAC News Survey

With elections looming this fall the LULAC News has commissioned a survey to better gauge our membership's commitment to the following issues.

Please rank the following ten issues on a scale from one to ten; one being the most important and ten being the least.

- Education__
- Civil Rights and Justice__
- Political Access__
- Economic Empowerment__
- Immigrant Rights__
- Environment__
- Housing__
- Health__
- Learning English__
- Women's Issues__

In order to better understand your responses we ask that you answer the following supplemental questions:

- Age:_____
- Gender:_____
- Marital Status:_____
- Number of Children in Household:_____
- City in which you reside:_____
- Profession:_____

Optional:

Are you registered to vote?_____

When was the last time you voted and for whom?

What, if any, is your party affiliation?

Do you intend to vote in the upcoming elections and if so for whom?_____

Please feel free to include any additional comments regarding this survey._____

Please feel free to send your responses anonymously; your name will not be used for any purpose. Please cut out and mail this survey to Lorraine Quiroga, Communications Manager, LULAC, 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 610, Washington, D.C. 20036 or fax it to 202-833-6135.

LNESC News

LNESC Awarded \$3.4M Grant from Department of Education

The LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (LNESC) has been awarded a \$3.4 million grant to continue its educational outreach and counseling services in sixteen metropolitan areas around the country. "We are very excited about the award and are eager to continue our outreach and assistance to the Hispanic community," said Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director about the notification.

The program, operated under the United States Department of Education's Educational Talent Search program, will provide LNESC with the ability to go into middle and high schools in the communities we serve and help Hispanic and other underrepresented students overcome the obstacles that prevent high school completion or post secondary education.

We are extremely proud of the role that we play in helping the nation's Hispanic students succeed and are pleased to have the Department of Education recognize the value of our contribution. Over the next four years, LNESC will continue to provide excellent service and has plans for expansion into additional Hispanic communities around the country.



Christopher Fernandez (far left) and Orlando Padilla (far right) of General Motors present a \$70,000 check to Hector Flores, LULAC National President and LNESC Chair and LNESC Executive Director, Richard Roybal



A youngster in Miami enjoys the Young Reader Program.

Reading for Life

The Young Readers program brings families together to develop a strong love of reading. The program also recognizes the fundamental nature of reading and how it relates to later academic success. Targeted for first through third graders, the program is sponsored around the country by several national corporations and organizations including Verizon, Procter & Gamble, the National Education Association, General Motors, Coors and Tyson Foods. In addition to the national program, LNESC centers have established additional Young Readers sites through collaboration with local interests.

The Kansas City center has taken the lead in the LNESC network of developing a strong local Young Readers program. Under the leadership of Yvonne Vasquez Rangel, Center Director and a ten-year member of the LNESC team, Kansas City has secured \$198,000 in local grants including \$125,000 from the Kansas City, Missouri Independent School District, \$65,000 over two years from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and \$8,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

The center will provide Young Readers programming at seven area elementary schools including Garcia, Gladstone, James, McCoy, Scaritt and Wittier in Missouri and Whittier Elementary in Kansas.

Scholarship Programs in High Demand

The LULAC National Scholarship Fund grew by 6% during the 2002-2003 competition. A total of 80 LULAC Councils in nineteen states and the District of Columbia participated along with twenty-one national corporations. Together, from funds raised by local councils and those contributed by our corporate partners, the LULAC National Scholarship Fund (LNSF) disbursed a total of \$661,461 dollars to 1,056 scholarship recipients.

Of the 80 councils that participated, five contributed at the top dollar amount of \$18,000. Those councils included Council 2 in San Antonio, TX; Council 7 in Laredo, TX; Council 319 in Milwaukee, WI; Council 624 in Laredo, TX and Council 2895 in Monterrey, CA. Major corporate partners in the scholarship included the Procter & Gamble Commercial Company with a \$50,000 contribution and both the Ford Motor Company Fund and Blockbuster, Inc. with \$30,000 contributions each. The Shell Companies Foundation and the Chevron Corporation also contributed at the \$20,000 level.

LNESC's two other major scholarship programs the General Motors/LULAC Scholarship and the General Electric/LULAC Scholarship have received a record breaking number of applications. Demand for the GM and GE scholarships is growing at a tremendous rate as the number of minority students pursuing business and engineering degrees increases.

News from Around the League

Missouri Holds its First State Convention

Congratulations to LULAC Missouri for holding its first state convention. The successful program was held in Springfield this past June. Education and civil rights were the main topics of the convention. LULAC Missouri plans to make this an annual event. Hats off to LULAC Missouri state director, Ms. Hortencia Wilcox, who in the past year learned about LULAC, started councils in her state and hosted the Missouri convention. As Hortencia likes to say, "sí se puede."

LULAC Offers Forum on Discrimination

Last May, Kansas LULAC held a forum on discrimination in response to numerous calls received by Kansas LULAC from Latinos complaining of worksite discrimination. The forum was offered to federal, state, county, city employees and the general public. The forum informed employees of their rights under the Equal Employment Opportunity law.

LULAC Holds Career Fair

LULAC for the Midwest teamed up with the NAACP to host a diversity career fair with Chicago's leading employers on July 30th. The event was a real success.



Dr. Antonio Gonzalez, Julian Garcia, Mary Almendarez, Ester Alaniz, Andres Ortiz, Mamie Garcia, Johnny Mata, Danny Gonzalez, Sylvia Gonzalez and Herlinda Garcia during National LULAC Week in Texas.

National Vice President Wins Man of the Year Award

Richard Fimbres, LULAC National Vice President for the Farwest was named "Named Man of the Year" by the Tucson metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for his community service. Mr. Fimbres became concerned about high dropout rates among local high school students about 15 years ago and decided to do something about it. Through LULAC, he got involved in outreach programs to help at-risk youths stay in school. Mr. Fimbres founded the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference that has brought more than 47,000 youths in the 6th through 12th grades to Tucson to teach them the value of education. Pima Community College Chancellor Robert Jensen describes Fimbres as a "tireless worker, a real advocate for Pima (College) and education. He is a real warrior who really works hard for Latino issues."



Richard Fimbres, National VP for the Far West.

Congratulations LULAC Kansas Members

LULAC Kansas held its 7th annual state convention at Garden City, Kansas this year. There they congratulated Kansas LULAC Woman of the Year, Maria Lopez; Kansas LULAC Man of the Year, Rod Bonilla; LULAC State Director of the Year, Florentino Council #11077.

Kansas LULAC Serves the Community

Last May, Kansas LULAC honored more than 30 Kansas citizens for their community service and work in the media during a ceremony and reception held at Donnelly College. The awards were given to several LULAC members in eight separate categories including: government, education, media, law enforcement, organizations, legal, community and religious leaders. This special ceremony was a continuation of the Kansas LULAC 2002 State Convention which was held in Garden City, Kansas. LULAC award recipients include: Sabina Hacker and Lucinda Jones for the education category; Oscar and Minnie Johnson for the organization category; Father Michael Hermés for the religious category; and Dr. Stan Gerber, Anthony and Ruth Quirarte, Ascención and Rosemary Hernández, Max and Elizabeth Cerda and Raymond Brown for the community leaders category.

Welcome New Councils

LULAC welcomed 70 new councils since the beginning of 2002. Arkansas gained 2 young adult councils; Arizona 1 council, California gained 8 councils and 1 Airforce council; Florida gained 8; Illinois gained 2; Missouri 5 councils and 1 young adult council; New Jersey gained 1 young adult council; Ohio gained 1, Oklahoma gained 1, Wyoming gained 1 and finally, Texas takes the lead with 33 new councils and 5 young adult councils. *Keep up the great work!*



National LULAC Week



Henry Cisneros speaks before Texas LULAC members during National LULAC Week.

LULAC Council 402 hosted this year's National LULAC week. Opening remarks were made by Mary Almendarez, LULAC 402 President-elect. Texas State Representative, Rick Noriega, introduced this year's keynote speaker was Mr. Henry Cisneros, the former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton, who presently serves as Chairman CEO of American City Vista. Mr. Cisneros spoke about the LULAC's history of involvement in civil rights work and the educational advancements achieved as a result of LULAC's efforts. The program concluded with a Resolution presented to Mr. Andres and Mrs. Carmen Caballero who lost their son Daniel Martin Caballero, Petty Officer 3rd class, at the Pentagon on September 11th.

California Holds its First Legislative Gala

California held its first legislative gala earlier this year in Sacramento. The formal event's master of ceremonies was David Cruz of NBC-4 Los Angeles. The event honored six legislators who have made a difference in the Latino community in their state. The following legislators were honored at the event: Senator Richard Polanco, Senator Joe Dunn, Senator Deborah Ortiz, Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh, Assemblyman Simon Salinas, and Assemblyman Gil Cedillo. The event was a true success with over 200 attendees. The next legislative gala is planned for February 19, 2003. Please contact Mickie Luna, California State Director at (831) 637-1342 for more information.



Mickie Luna, California State Director and Gala Chair with Rick Dovalina at the California LULAC Legislative Gala.

Submission Criteria

We would like to include as much as possible in the LULAC News. To ensure quality and accuracy please be sure to properly label all information that you submit. If sending photos, please send high resolution photos and be sure to provide sufficient information on each photo.

Congratulations to LULAC Arizona Members

Congratulations to the following Arizona LULAC members Ray Gano for being LULAC Arizona Man of the Year and Alma Yubeta for being selected LULAC Arizona Woman of the Year. Also, congratulations are due to Phoenix Council 1083 for being selected Council of the Year. Congratulations to Mary Fimbres, Arizona State Director, who was named as an "Everyday Hero" by the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona for her LULAC leadership and community service.

LULAC Arizona Contributes to V-Day



Annabelle Nunez, Council 1081 President and director of play, Anna Valenzuela, and Linda Leatherman.

V-Day is a global movement that helps raise awareness of worldwide violence against women and girls. To support V-Day, LULAC Arizona was the first to premier the Spanish version of the "The Vagina Monologues" in the United States. Earlier this year, approximately 500 individuals from both the United States and Mexico attended the production by Eve Ensler. Three LULAC members contributed to the success of the staged-reading

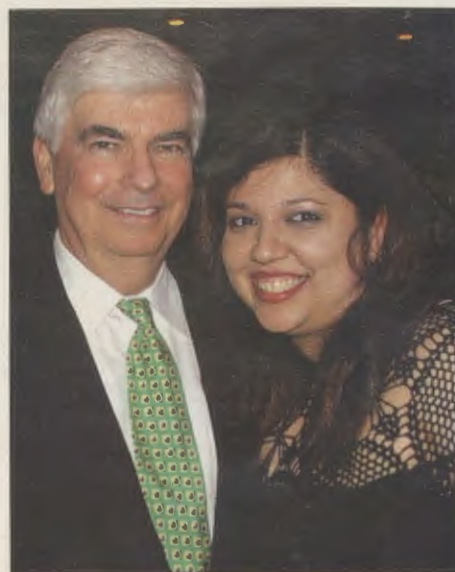
by participating on all levels of this event. Linda Leatherman, President of LULAC Council 1060, worked with other community members to coordinate a resource fair that was held prior to the reading; Ana Valenzuela, Council 1001 President, brilliantly preformed a number of the monologues hysterically engaging the audience, and Annabelle Nuñez, President of Council 1081, masterfully directed the work with great success. The event was a tremendous success and created an awareness of domestic violence and other significant issues. To start a "V-Day" project in your community please visit www.vday.org.

LULAC Leader Addresses the NAACP



LULAC President Hector Flores addresses the NAACP.

Hector Flores, President of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, addressed the National Association of Colored People, NAACP on July 10th at their annual convention, a historic first for the two largest minority civil rights organizations in the United States. Flores' appearance at the NAACP is part of a broader effort by LULAC to explore new strategic alliances on issues that are part of the Latino organization's Legislative Agenda for 2002-2003 including: affirmative action, citizenship and voting, education, criminal justice reform, hate crimes, health, immigration and racial profiling.



Senator Dodd with Raquel Egusquiza of Ford Motor Company, a Presidential Sponsor of the 2002 LULAC National Convention.

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 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____



League of United Latin American Citizens

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