

Convention Highlights Inside!

LULACnews

July/ August 2003



Supreme Sacrifice by Hispanics in the Military

Saluting Our Leaders
Women's Conference
Balancing Our Security

LULAC Profiles Margaret Moran, Richard Fimbres and Elsie Valdes

July | August 2003

Contents

Letter from the National President	3
Hispanics in the Military	3
Health Corner	6
La Familia	7
Convention Highlights	8
Policy and Legislation Update	12
Youth Corner	15
Women's Corner	17
Legislative Platform	18
LULAC Profile	23
Emerging Communities	25
Hispanic Leaders	26



Above Photo: Hector Flores LULAC National President with attendees at the National Women's Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Cover Photo: Cpl. Christopher Castro, from San Antonio, Texas, led the team that rescued prisoners of war in Iraq. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge.

One-year subscription price is \$24. Single copies are \$4.50. LULAC members receive a complimentary subscription. The publication encourages LULAC members to submit articles and photos for inclusion in future issues. Once submitted, articles are property of the LULAC News and may be subject to editing.

Advertising rates for LULAC News are available by contacting the LULAC National Office in Washington, DC, at (202) 833-6130.

LULACnews

League of United Latin American Citizens

2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, D.C. 20036

TEL: (202) 833-6130
FAX: (202) 833-6135

National President
Hector M. Flores

Executive Director
Brent Wilkes

Editor
Lorraine Quiroga

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Hector M. Flores
National President

Rick Dovalina
Immediate Past President

Frank Ortíz
National Treasurer

Manuel Olguín
National Youth President

Desiderio Pesina
VP for the Elderly

Vera Marquez
VP for Women

Fernando Escabí
VP for Youth
Juan B. García
VP for Young Adults

Richard Fimbres
VP for Far West

Blanca Vargas
VP for Midwest

Laura Medrano
VP for Northeast

Haydée Rivera
VP for Southeast

Rosa Rosales
VP for Southwest

Ray Velarde
National Legal Advisor

STATE DIRECTORS

Samuel Esquivel
Arizona

Róbert P. Treviño
Arkansas

STATE DIRECTORS

(continued)

Mickie Luna
California

Angelina Najjar
Colorado

Ada Peña
District of Columbia

Anita De Palma
Florida

Cesar Gaxiola
Hawaii

Manuel Isquierdo
Illinois

Alicia Rios
Indiana

Gilbert Sierra
Iowa

Florentino Camacho, Jr.
Kansas

Regla Gonzalez
Massachusetts

Augustin Sanchez
Michigan

Tencha Vasquez Wilcox
Missouri

Carmen Ramos
Nevada

Frank Córdova
New Mexico

Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente
New York

Carlos Romero Barceló
Puerto Rico

Ruth Valverde
Tennessee

Margaret Moran
Texas

Carlos Mauricio Alarcón
Virginia

Gregorio Montoto
Wisconsin

© LULAC National Office

LULAC News is published bimonthly by the national office of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

A MESSAGE from the President



(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you know, this year's convention in Orlando, Florida was by far our most successful yet. Each day was filled with exciting speakers and events. We are very pleased that so many of you were able to be apart of such an important event. This year we broke our attendance record with 10,000 attendees. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the national board, corporations, government agencies, volunteers, and the national staff who helped to make this event such a tremendous success.

I also want to personally thank you for re-electing me. I count it a great honor and privilege to serve as your national president again. Some of the top priorities on the LULAC agenda for 2003 include continuing to press for immigration reform, justice for farmworkers, increasing Hispanic homeownership, economic empowerment and education. In particular on the education side, LULAC plans to fight hard to see that the DREAM Act legislation is passed so that students who meet certain requirements will be able to obtain citizenship. On the program side, LULAC will focus on the "LULAC Leadership Initiative." This is an ambitious project to revitalize Hispanic neighborhoods from within by creating innovative grass roots programs in over 500 Hispanic communities served by LULAC Councils. The initiative will identify best practices and publish a model program guide for Hispanic volunteers.

These issues are just a few of the items that I hope to undertake with your help during my presidency. As you can see there is a great deal of work to be done and in order to succeed we will need your active involvement and support. We must continue to grow our membership and ensure that all LULAC members are actively en-

gaged in helping their communities. We hope to renew old councils that are no longer active and expand our membership in more states, as we recently did in Hawaii. Our struggle for equal treatment under the law and opportunities continues and our community needs us now more than ever before.

In light of the recent war in Iraq, we have decided to dedicate our feature story to Hispanics in the military. Historically, Hispanics have made great contributions to our country through their military service. What is important to note, however, is that many of the Hispanics that serve are not U.S. citizens. These non-citizen service men and women answer the call to serve the U.S. and have even died for our country. It is a shame that we do not always find our government returning the same support and respect to such people and their families. While President Bush has an executive order that helps servicemen and women obtain citizenship, it is not enough. I am happy to report, however, that legislation was recently passed in the U.S. House of Representatives which expedites the opportunity for immigrants who serve to become citizens. While we applaud the house for passing this bill, we also ask the Senate to work to improve on this bill by focusing on the needs of immigrant families as well. As you read about these service men and women I hope it will inspire you to think of ways you can advocate on behalf of these individuals.

After September 11th we have witnessed a tremendous crackdown on immigrants which has affected the lives of Hispanics almost as much as Muslims. In the name of terrorism we have seen our government pass legislation that has changed our country. Let's be sure to keep our eyes open during this time and be ready to speak up to ensure that in the process of obtaining better domestic security we do not lose our basic rights.

Finally, we hope you will start making plans to attend next year's convention, our *Diamond Jubilee 75th Anniversary*, in San Antonio, Texas! Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President

Feature Story

Hispanics in the Military Serving with Pride

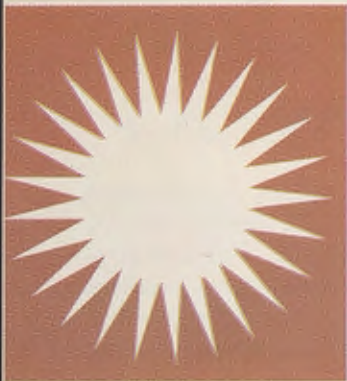
Many of us watched our televisions with great pride when we saw Cpl. Christopher Castro lead the team of Marines that rescued the seven American prisoners of war in Iraq this April. Cpl. Castro exemplifies a hard-working Hispanic serviceman who is serving his country with *orgullo*.

In contrast, we were saddened to learn that one of the first casualties of the war was a Guatemalan citizen who was fighting on behalf of all Americans. Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, who illegally crossed the border from Guatemala as a young man, was not a U.S. citizen. Many of us were surprised to learn that a Guatemalan citizen can serve in the U.S. armed forces. On the other hand, those of us who have brothers and sisters in the military were not surprised at all.

For years Hispanics have served in the armed forces in this country. In fact, Hispanics have won more medals of honor than any other ethnic group and they make up nearly ten percent of the active duty enlisted force. Many immigrants are attracted to serving in the military for a variety of reasons. Frequently the primary reason they join is because of their strong desire to serve the United States, a country they admire and respect for its democratic values. As Major Cindy Lerch, an Army recruiter recently explained to ABC.com, "whether the kid is born here or not, they really want to serve the United States because that is their country and patriotism is a big thing." In addition, many hope that by serving they will obtain citizenship faster than if they did not serve.

According to Defense Department figures, more than 37,000 members of the active-duty military are non-citizens, with one-third of that number Latino. In addition, the *Washington Post* recently reported that "[c]ompared with their U.S.-born counterparts, non-citizen military personnel are significantly more likely to be on active duty, rather than in the reserves."

Hispanics in the Military, continued, page 5.



AT FORD MOTOR COMPANY

we believe in giving back to the communities in which we live and work. That is why we are proud to support and celebrate LULAC and its many endeavors in the Hispanic Community.



Ford Motor Company[™]
100 YEARS

Hispanics in the Military

Continued from page 3.

Meanwhile, most non-citizens are ineligible for promotions within the military which means they often remain on the front lines, not to mention they also do not have the right to vote.

Starting about twelve years ago military members were able to apply for citizenship after three years as a legal U.S. resident, which was two years less than civilian legal residents. President Bush, in response to the war on terrorism, issued an executive order that did away with the waiting period for such immigrants but only during periods of military conflict. Since the rule took effect eight months ago, there has been a 60 percent increase in citizenship applications.

“whether the kid is born here or not, they really want to serve the United States because that is their country.”

Unfortunately, the application process can take awhile and many immigrants who have been serving in the Iraqi war have been unable to obtain citizenship. Sadly, like Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, several immigrants gained citizenship posthumously after they died in combat.

Hearing of these stories raises questions about the citizenship requirements for those who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation. It seems that if a young person is willing to give his or her life for the United States they should also be allowed to obtain citizenship without delay. Of equal importance, we should consider what happens to the families these young people leave behind. Apparently, if they are not citizens, the current laws do not provide the same benefits to their family after their death that a citizen's family would receive. Finally, when we are not in a period of “military conflict” service men and women should not have to wait three whole years before they can start the application process.

Thankfully, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation that seeks to address these issues which could make it easier for such immigrants to obtain citizenship. LULAC praises the House for passing



TSgt. Javier Montanez, is a long time LULAC member and the LULAC youth advisor for Council 301 in San Antonio, Texas. He has served in the Navy and Air Force reserves for nearly twenty years. He is currently stationed in Iraq with the Air Force and is expected to remain there until at least September. Javier is greatly missed by his family and LULAC Youth Council 301. Come home safely, Javier!

the Armed Forces Naturalization Act of 2003 (H.R. 1954). We want to thank Reps. Hilda Solis (D-CA), Martin Frost (D-TX), Doc Hastings (R-WA), Walter Jones (R-NC), and James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and others who have shown extraordinary leadership in securing its passage. LULAC is now asking that the Senate work to improve the bill by addressing the specific needs of immigrant families.

Sources: *The Washington Post*, “For Immigrants, a Special Sacrifice – War Takes Toll on Foreign-Born in Armed Forces,” by Amy Goldstein and Sylvia Moreno, April 7, 2003, Page A17; “Hispanics in the Military,” a study by the Pew Hispanic Center, March 27, 2003; “Hispanics in the Military,” ABCNews.com, April 11, 2003. For more information about Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients please see:

<http://www.neta.com/~1stbooks/medal2.htm>

LULAC Facts

Hispanics Represent:

14% of the Marines
10% of the Navy
Nearly 10% of the Army
Close to 6% of the Air Force

Source: ABCNews.com, April 11, 2003.

Latino Youth at Risk: Smoking is a Habit with Devastating Side Effects

The U.S. Census has declared that Latinos are the fastest-growing population in the country. We are also a very young population and there is worrisome data indicating that tobacco use among Latino youth is up. Latino adolescents are the largest group of minority youth in the country and they constitute over 15 percent of the total U.S. population of children.

According to the American Lung Association, although the prevalence of current smoking is lowest among Hispanics in general (18.1 percent), white and Latino children were significantly more likely to smoke than African-American children. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the smoking prevalence among Latino youth increased to 34 percent in 1999 from 24.3 percent in 1992 then dropped again in 2001 to 28.4 percent. In general, smoking prevalence is highest among people aged 18-24 years (27.9 %) and 25-44 years (27.3%) and lowest for those greater than 65 years of age (10.6%).

LULAC can play a particularly vital role in getting out the message - Don't smoke!

These trends are alarming as there is strong evidence that adult smokers addicted to tobacco began smoking when they were under the age of 18 years. Whereas smoking rates among U.S. high school students is dropping overall, the prevalence for Latino youth is remaining consistent at about 26.6 percent. However, these numbers may not be as accurate as they could be because according to the National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention (LCAT) Latino high school students are less likely to report smoking than other students.

The long-term effects of smoking are catastrophic for the Latino community. A variety of health problems which are aggravated by smoking are over-represented in the Latino community such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease and certain types of cancer. For youth, the problems are more direct and immediate including reducing the rate of lung

growth and impacts physical fitness in terms of performance and endurance. The resting heart rates of young smokers are two to three beats per minute faster than non-smokers, and teen smokers suffer from shortness of breath almost three times as often as teens who do not smoke.

Smoking has also been linked to asthma, and it is estimated that one-half million Latino children have symptoms of asthma; two-thirds of these children are of Puerto Rican origin, which is the Hispanic group with the highest prevalence of smoking.

Other issues related to smoking include alcohol abuse and mental health problems. A survey by the CDC found that teens who smoke are three times more likely to use alcohol. In the case of Hispanic youth, 83.1 percent of high school students had at least one drink in their lifetime, this number is higher than the rates for white or African-American youth. There is also strong evidence that smoking in young persons is a marker for mental health problems, such as depression. According to one CDC study, 25 percent of Latinos meet criteria for clinical depression compared to 18 percent of African Americans and 12 percent of White. Latino youth were also more likely than white students to report contemplating or attempting suicide. These data are particularly troublesome when taking into account that Latino students are less likely to receive treatment for mental health problems than other children.

The data is startling and indicate that our young people are particularly vulnerable to a lifetime of tobacco addiction and related health problems if we don't act now. It is critical that Latino children be included in research on tobacco use among all children. Given that many of our young people are less likely to participate in studies, it is also critical to encourage research organizations like the CDC and universities to include culturally competent investigators who are also bilingual. Ad campaigns to prevent smoking need to also be culturally sensitive and hip for our diverse culture. As Latino leaders, LULAC can play a particularly vital role in getting out the message - *Don't smoke!*

LULAC Facts

Hispanic Females at Higher Risk for Suicide

In 2000, Hispanic females aged 12 to 17 were at higher risk for suicide than other youths

Hispanic female youths born in the U.S. were at higher risk than Hispanic female youths born outside the U.S.

Hispanic female youths in small metropolitan areas were more likely to be at risk than their counterparts in large metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Possible reasons identified by prior research include troubled relationships with parents strained by cultural differences between family members.

If you or someone you know might need help please contact the toll free suicide hotline 1-800-SUICIDE.

Source: The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Report, April 25, 2003.

National SAFE KIDS Week

National SAFE KIDS Week is celebrated during the month of May but that does not mean that every day should not be a "safe kids day."

The leading cause of death among kids is unintentional injuries. According to new research by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and Johnson & Johnson the unintentional death rate for children 14 and under dropped by nearly 40 percent between the years of 1987 and 2000. Overall this is good news, however, the rate among Hispanic children declined by only 6 percent during that time.

While there has been progress in lowering unintentional injuries, the fact remains that it is still the number one killer of children 14 and under in the United States. In fact, unintentional injuries claim more than 5,600 children's lives each year – or an average of 15 children each day. And there were more than 11.8 million medical visits for unintentional injury among U.S. children ages 14 and under in 2000 – or one injury visit for every five children.

The study revealed many findings about Hispanic children:

- In 2000, 807 Hispanic children ages 14 and under died as a result of unintentional injuries.
- In 2001, more than 670,000 Hispanic children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional injuries.
- Motor vehicle occupant injury is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under. The motor vehicle occupant death rate for Hispanic children ages 4 and under is 20 percent higher than that for non-Hispanic children.
- Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury for children. Hispanic children are at greater risk of falls from heights, probably due to their increased likelihood of living in urban, multiple-story, low-income housing.

Learn how you can keep your child safe or how you can become involved in the National SAFE KIDS Campaign by calling 202-662-0600 or by visiting their web site at www.safekids.org.



Arizona Young Adults at the Women's Conference.

LULAC Facts

Top 10 Professions for Bilinguals

- 1 Media
- 2 Translation
- 3 Politics
- 4 Healthcare
- 5 Professional Speaking
- 6 Law
- 7 Real Estate
- 8 Mortgage Finance
- 9 Education
- 10 Sales

Source: CATALINA Magazine, May/June 2003.

For a copy of the complete article, "Top Professions for Bilinguals," or for more information on the latest CATALINA, contact: Monica Aguilera Hincken at 703-848-9228, editor@catalinamagazine.com Or visit <http://www.catalinamagazine.com>

Managing Your Money

Tips by Freddie Mac's CreditSmart Español

CreditSmart Español Program, a partnership between Freddie Mac and LULAC, is designed to help us manage our money and plan for the future by creating and maintaining good credit. The program will actively assist in delivering to consumers, valuable financial literacy and consumer credit education developed by Freddie Mac. As part of this program, LULAC has decided to include a series of financial tips from the program in the next several issues of the LULAC News. In the last issue of the LULAC News, we covered the second part of the series that discussed the importance of developing a budget. In this issue we will discuss sticking to a budget and the role and importance of good spending habits.

Sticking to Your Budget

Once you have developed a budget the hard part is sticking to it. Many people find it difficult to commit themselves to a budget. Unfortunately, budgets are kind of like a diet. On the surface, they may make you feel somewhat deprived. However, both, when handled successfully, can give you a lot of confidence and self-esteem.

Tips to Sticking to a Budget:

- Be determined and exercise willpower.
- Communicate with household members.
- Be prepared to compromise: purchase a less expensive item or hold back on the purchase altogether.
- Develop a user-friendly system of documenting expenses.
- Be creative and use incentives.
- Revisit your budget periodically.

Look for more tips by Freddie Mac in the next issue of the LULAC News.

LULAC 2003 Convention & Exposition



LULAC National President Hector Flores, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and President Flores' grandson Juanito Mercado Flores. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

This year's national convention was by far LULAC's most successful yet. With over 10,000 attendees, LULAC celebrated its 74th anniversary in style at the Wyndham Palace Resort in sunny Orlando, Florida this past June. The convention brought together prominent government officials, corporate executives, celebrities, community leaders and LULAC members from across the country to discuss issues of importance to Hispanics.

This year's theme "Latinos Unidos: Realizing the Promise" reflected the growing needs and responsibilities for the now largest minority population. During the convention the workshops and speakers provided important insight into what it means for Hispanics to hold this position in American society. In addition, attendees learned the importance of organizations such as LULAC that help unify and empower Latinos across the nation.

On Monday night, LULAC National President kicked off the national convention, with a record turnout of LULAC members and others from the Orlando community. Various LULAC leaders addressed the audience and the energy and excitement for the convention week was felt by all there.

During the week, the convention focused

on issues of critical importance to the Hispanic community. Starting on Tuesday, the Federal Training Institute held insightful workshops aimed at increasing Hispanic representation within the federal government. Participants heard from Kay Coles James, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management who discussed various Hispanic leaders within the federal government. In addition, the Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency addressed attendees at the luncheon that day. That evening a lovely reception was held at Sea World with a private Shamu show given in honor of the LULAC guests.

On Wednesday the program focused on emerging Hispanic communities and the Latino economic and political growth that is expected as a result of our rapidly increasing numbers. U.S. Census Director Louis Kincaid drove home the point that Latinos are indeed growing. During the luncheon he announced the latest Census numbers that officially show that Hispanics are now the number one minority group in the United States. That evening world renowned artist Olga Tañón gave a private performance for an enthusiastic crowd of LULAC convention attendees.



Olga Tañón gave a private performance for LULAC attendees. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

On Thursday, LULAC convention participants focused on civil rights and education. To emphasize the importance of these issues, attendees heard from several prominent speakers including the Honorable Mel Martinez, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development who gave a bilingual speech on the need for increasing Hispanic homeownership. Reg Weaver, the President of the National Education Association gave an inspiring speech about how we can make a difference by educating minorities in our country and Raul Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza, gave a moving discussion on the continuing need to fight for civil rights on behalf of Hispanics everywhere. That evening the Youth and Young Adults Award Banquet was held at Epcot Center. The keynote speaker Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch gave a motivational speech to the young people and adults in attendance. The evening ended with the world famous Epcot light show.

On Friday, the participants focused on health in the workshops and celebrated women during the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon. Participants heard from Brigadier General Maria Cribbs, the highest ranking Hispanic in the Air Force, who discussed the growing need for Latinas in

LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION



Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator for the EPA addressed LULAC participants. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



U.S. Census Director Louis Kincannon confirmed that Hispanics are now the largest minority. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

leadership positions. That evening during the Presidential Banquet participants heard from Charles Abell, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Department of Defense, who discussed the many contributions Hispanics have made in the armed forces. To end the evening in style, attendees were treated to the beautiful voice of singer Pablo Montero.

The Wynham Palace Resort was filled to capacity with exhibitors and participants making this year's exposition and job fair our most successful yet. Convention participants had the opportunity to speak

with corporate and government recruiters, sample products while being entertained by live music.

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 2003 LULAC Legislative Platform found on page 18 and re-elected LULAC National President Hector Flores for a second term.

Other officers that were re-elected include: Manuel Olguin, National Youth President; Frank Ortiz, National Treasurer; Vera Marquez, National Vice President for Women; Fernando Escabi, *National Vice President for Youth*; Juan B. Garcia, *National Vice President for Young Adults*; Desiderio Pesina, *National Vice President for the Elderly*; Laura Medrano, *National Vice President for the Northeast* Rosa Rosales, *National Vice President for the Southwest*; Blanca Vargas, *National Vice President for the Midwest*.

Newly Elected Officers include:

Haydee Rivera, *National Vice President for the Southeast*; Dave Rodriguez, *National Vice President for the Far West*

The delegates also selected Milwaukee, Wisconsin as the LULAC convention location for the year 2006.

The following received the prestigious LULAC awards this year: Octavio Salazar, Sr., *Man of the Year*; Ana Hart, *Woman of the Year*; Tampa, Florida Council 7006, *Council of the Year*; Michelle Bobadilla, *Raymond Telles Education Award*; Marjie Aguirre, *Felix Tijerina Service Award*; Edward Elizondo, *Aztec Civil Rights Award*; Jose Fernandez, *J.C. Martinez Award for Membership Expansion*; Joe Sanchez, *Cesar Chavez Leadership Award*; Rosa Rosales, *Dr. Anita Del Rio Award*

President's Law Enforcement Awards:

Luis A. Arias, *Community Service Award*; Carol J. Hale, *Equal Employment Opportunity Award*; Oscar A. Ramirez, *Excellence Award*; Robert Rivera, *Career Enhancement Award*.

Bureau of Prison's Recipients for LULAC President's Award:

Jose Gonzalo Esparza
Frances Jimenez
Warden Berta L. Lockhart
Maria Rodriguez



LULAC National Chief of Staff Roman Palomares with U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Pablo Montero performs during the LULAC Presidential Banquet. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Hector Flores with the LULAC youth during the Youth Banquet. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

LULAC 2003 Convention Highlights



Reg Weaver, President of the National Education Association gave a moving speech regarding the importance of improving education for minorities during the convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Raul Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza inspired convention attendees with a speech during the convention on civil rights. Pictured on his right is Blanca Vargas, National Vice President of the Midwest and Jose Ruano, Corporate Relations Manager of the Miller Brewing Company who received the Ohtli award this year.



Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Director of the Office of Personnel Management Kay Coles James who addressed convention attendees with LULAC National President Hector Flores. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



LULAC Labor Advisor, Jaime Martinez with Brigadier General Maria Cribbs, Director of Manpower and Personnel, J-1, the Joint Staff, U.S. Air Force, who spoke during the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

LULAC 2003 Convention Highlights



Carlos Romero Bracero, the former Governor of Puerto Rico who was elected LULAC State Director of Puerto Rico with world renowned singer Olga Tañón. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



LULAC National President Hector Flores with Raquel Egusquiza of Ford Motor Company, a presidential sponsor of the LULAC National Convention and National Vice President for Women Vera Marquez. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



The Latin Music Ensemble who performed during the Presidential Banquet and opened for the Olga Tañón concert. The group is made up of extremely talented high school students from Texas. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Mark Dollins, Vice President of Public Affairs for the Quaker Oats Company, Michelle Jordan, Senior Manager of National Community Affairs, PepsiCo, Inc. and Ray Callender, Jr., Consultant for the PepsiCo, Inc. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

and Legislation

In the Wake of 9/11:

Walking the Tightrope between Security and Civil Rights

By Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation

Immediately after the terrorist attacks on the twin towers and on the Pentagon, Congress passed the USA Patriot Act in an effort to ensure that the Attorney General's office had the leverage it needed to weed out terrorists and protect the security of the nation. Subsequently, Congress is considering Patriot II, which would give the Justice Department the power to deport, deny legal residence and even strip the citizenship of immigrants, with virtually no oversight or check on this power. Even with the newly created Department of Homeland Security it has become increasingly unclear as to which agency is in charge of immigration and how certain decisions are being made. As a result, restrictions on all immigrants have grown, along with an environment of fear and distrust in neighborhoods across the country.

For many years, one of the greatest complaints among local law enforcement agencies was that they lacked access to intelligence in order to be able to prosecute suspected drug traffickers and other organized crime elements. Furthermore, federal agencies were notorious for turf battles and inter-agency task force activities were often hampered by agency rivalry, technological barriers and a host of other relationship problems, dependent on individual personalities of task force leaders for success. On March 4, 2003 – Attorney General John Ashcroft reported to the Senate Judiciary that “the defense of life and liberty – requires a new culture of prevention, nurtured by cooperation, built on coordination and rooted in our Constitutional liberties. The excessive constraints imposed in the late 70s – that erected barriers to cooperation between government agencies, segregated law enforcement and intelligence gathering, and prohibited information sharing – must be replaced systematically.” Despite the goals set by the Bush administration, John Ashcroft and Congress, a recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report concluded that many federal agencies are still failing to share critical information about terrorist suspects with other agencies because of continued cultural and technological barriers.

New security measures appear daily and the focus is on immigrants, which is due to the perception that weak immigration enforcement presents a huge vulnerability that terrorists can exploit. The new measures are similar to those undertaken in the 1940s and 1950s when, because of mounting fears of war and Soviet infiltration, the U.S. government conducted mass registration of approximately 2 million immigrants.

In October 2002, the government began registering foreign visitors from Syria, Sudan, Libya, Iran and Iraq at airports and border crossings. Immigration officials interviewed people from 25 countries, most of them Muslim. Since beginning national registration procedures, eleven suspected terrorists were detained, though it is unclear whether they were charged with crimes, immigration violations, or were being held without charge as material witnesses. The program required tens of thousands of males age 16 and over to report to federal immigration offices to be photographed, fingerprinted and interviewed. Recently, however, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge officially signaled the end of the controversial registration program for foreign visitors in late April, most whom were living in the United States on work, student or tourist visas.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, this year domestic security agencies will begin to use biometric computer equipment that recognizes fingerprints and facial characteristics to verify the identities of foreign visitors and to verify that they leave on schedule. The machinery will be installed at some airports, border crossings and seaports within the next few months. The new entry and exit systems will be called the U.S. VISIT program, an acronym for the Visitor and Immigrant Status Technology System. As part of the U.S. VISIT program, Homeland Security officials also plan to include a foreign student tracking system in the database.

While there have been improvements in how agencies share and exchange intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has also been granted a much-expand-



POLICY and Legislation

ed authority including the ability to detain and deport immigrants. What is worrisome is that the guidelines for investigation are very broad and include some rather vague and definitions and criteria. For example, the guidelines state that the FBI may initiate an "inquiry" in response to the allegation or information indicating the possibility of criminal activity. The guidelines, however, are unclear as to what an "inquiry" entails or how "threshold standards" for inquiry are defined, much less how quickly they can move from a preliminary inquiry to a full investigation. Furthermore, the decision-making process to approve and renew preliminary inquiries has been moved from FBI headquarters to FBI field officers.

The domestic security of our nation is critical, but so is the safeguarding of our nation's bill of rights and constitution.

The FBI has been given additional investigative authorities including: 1) allowing FBI agents to access government, public, and private information and databases; 2) allowing FBI agents to visit public places or events, such as rallies; and 3) allowing FBI agents to conduct online and topical research and access online sites and forums.

These changes raise questions, especially when added to the new authorities given to the FBI for investigation. Decisions about whether asylum-seekers should be detained are being taken by the Attorney General and not by an immigration judge who traditionally handles such matters and has more experience. In addition, it is alarming to consider that the Attorney General can simply override a judicial decision without question. For example, recently, an 18 year old Haitian man applied for asylum and was found by a judge to be eligible for release on bond. Subsequently, the Attorney General overrode the judge's decision and denied bond on the basis of national security.

In sum, in order for immigration policy to

be effective, efficient, and fair there must be a clear source of authority. The domestic security of our nation is critical, but so is the safeguarding of our nation's bill of rights and constitution. Too much power invested in the hands of one or two individuals endangers the system of checks and balances that ensures the continuance of rule of law and democratic processes.

LULAC Facts

Hispanics Falling Behind in Education

56% of Hispanic students graduate from high school.

32% of Hispanics enroll in college.

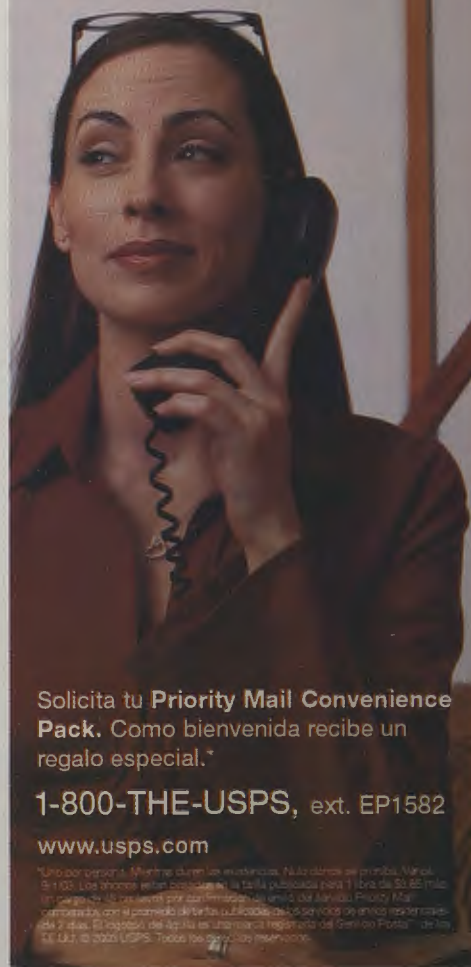
16% of Hispanics graduate with a bachelor's degree.

Source: Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the Pew Hispanic Center

Entran ahorritos

para ti del  UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

En negocios la clave es bajar costos. El **servicio Priority Mail®** te ofrece la tarifa más baja en entregas que promedian de 2 a 3 días. Ahorra tiempo y dinero con el Priority Mail Convenience Pak de sobres prepagados. Y por unos centavos más solicita Confirmación de Entrega™ del día y la hora. Con lo que ahorras... ve pensando en qué invertir.



Solicita tu **Priority Mail Convenience Pack**. Como bienvenida recibe un regalo especial.*

1-800-THE-USPS, ext. EP1582

www.usps.com

*Uno por persona. Muestra dentro de 60 días. No aplica a pedidos. Véase el formulario de solicitud. Los ahorros en el envío de la tarifa publicada para 1 libra de \$3.65 más un cargo de \$1.00 por el servicio de entrega de urgencia del servicio Priority Mail. El paquete debe ser el promedio de la tarifa de envío de servicio de entrega de urgencia de 2 días. El paquete de 1 libra es el tamaño máximo del servicio de entrega de urgencia de 2 días. El paquete de 1 libra es el tamaño máximo del servicio de entrega de urgencia de 2 días. Todos los precios en dólares.

Celebrating

LNESC

LULAC *National Educational
Service Centers, Inc.*



National Headquarters

Richard Roybal, Executive Director
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9646

California

Maria Vanegas, Director
360 East Holt Avenue
Pomona, CA 91767
(909) 623-0588

5339 E. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 838-0091

Rosie Flamenco, Director
4877 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 333-114

Colorado

Steve Garcia, Director
720 N. Main Street, Suite 455
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 542-9074

829 North Circle Drive, Suite 101
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 637-0037

715 Galapago St., Suite 1
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 893-0100

Florida

Dulce Diaz, Director
7100 S.W. 99th Ave., Suite 104
Miami, FL 33173
(305) 270-0063

Illinois

Ernestina Bobe de Mendez, Dir.
4355 W. 26th Street, Suite 3
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 277-2513

Missouri/Kansas

Yvonne Vazquez-Rangel, Director
301 E. Armour Blvd., Suite 460
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 561-0277

New Mexico

Frances Gandara, Director
500 Second St., NW, Suite 500
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 243-3787

Pennsylvania

Marisela Garrott, Director
Marianna Bracetti Academy
2501 Kensington Ave., Suite 111
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 423-4811

Puerto Rico

Zaida Vazquez, Director
Calle Maceo #29
Bayamón, PR 00961
(787) 785-8080

Texas

Feliberto Valdez, Director
400 Mann Street, Suite 513
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(361) 883-5134

Ray de los Santos, Director
345 S. Edgefield Avenue
Dallas, TX 75208
(214) 943-2528

Cesar Garcia, Director
10 N. Oregon, Suite 416
El Paso, TX 79901
(915) 351-1133

Rose Ann Blanco, Director
2220 Broadway
Houston, TX 77012
(713) 641-2463

Miguel Martell, Director
1011 South Brazos
San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 226-2772

YOUTH CORNER

Youth Submission

History of the Bracero: A Tribute to Cesar Chavez

by Raúl Francisco Pacheco Guevarra



Raul Francisco Pacheco Guevara with his father.

Have you ever wondered who puts the food on your table? The migrant farm workers of America do. They do what no machine can do. They are the most important piece of the puzzle toward getting the fruits and vegetables to the people of America. These farm workers, also known as "braceros," are often overlooked, under paid, and overworked. These farm workers do the job that no one else wants to do, and after their twelve hour day is done, they go home to some rubble they call their house.

The migrant farm workers have had to fight for their rights as well as fulfill their

responsibility to feed a nation. As consumers, it is our responsibility to see that the people feeding you, your family, and children get something for themselves. This was not the case in the 1940's through the 1960's. I read a book called "Cesar Chavez" that sparked my interest about the braceros and my heritage. The braceros are mostly Mexicans who generally speak only Spanish and pick fruits, vegetables, and cotton. It has been said that they have "no past, no future, only a brief and anonymous present." Historically, the big companies hired

and brought Mexicans from across the border because they would work harder for less money. These men, women and children, as young as three, were being treated like farming tools. The companies would use them under harsh conditions and send them away once they didn't need them anymore. The braceros would not just pick one harvest a year they would travel this great nation in search of jobs throughout the year. For example, they would start by picking cotton and peaches in Texas, then go on to California for grapes and lettuce, and finally to Washington for apples. Nearly a half million farm workers came to America in one year. They were all searching for the American dream of safe neighborhoods, schools for their children, and a suitable place to live.

Relief didn't come for the braceros until the 1960's with Cesar Chavez. Chavez organized unions to boycott such things as lettuce, grapes, and cotton. These boycotts lead to the first union contract settlement in farm worker history. These farm workers sustained billion dollar multi-national companies. Chavez said "[t]he hands that pick the lettuce, grapes, and cotton of this nation may also pick the next president of the U.S." Sure enough Chavez registered 200,000 new voters with the "Su Voto Es Su Voz" campaign and without a doubt all the braceros spoke up.


In conclusion, the braceros were ignored, badly treated, and bent over backwards for less than minimum wage. They were exploited, brought over the border and worked in unsuitable conditions. If they tried to stand up for their labor rights the big companies would threaten to send them back. Next to my dad, Cesar Chavez is my hero! You see my father, Raúl Rubio Guevara, who was also a former migrant farm worker, went on to obtain a graduate degree and is now the manager of the Kansas Department of Transportation's support services.

Note from the editor: Raúl gave this speech as an introduction to his father's speech which was given to celebrate Cesar Chavez in Kansas City, Missouri. Raúl is a fourteen year old gifted eighth grade student at French Middle School in Topeka, Kansas. Raúl would like to help start a LULAC Young Adult Council in Topeka. His father previously founded a LULAC Council in Manhattan, Kansas and worked for a LNEC Center in Topeka in the 1970's.

We would like to continue to publish stories like this in the LULAC News. If you are interested in sharing a story, poem, essay or artwork that reflects your experience as a Latino youth – please send them to LQuiroga@LULAC.org or mail to LULAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036.



LEFT: Arlinda Arriaga was named National Young Woman of the Year, National Youth President Manuel Olguin, was named Man of the Year, and Shannon Anderson-Rodriguez received the National LULAC Youth Loyalty Award pictured with Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch who gave an inspiring speech before the LULAC youth at the Youth Awards Ceremony held at Epcot Center during the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



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, education support professionals and community leaders, side by side, can put greatness within every child's reach.

**MAKING PUBLIC SCHOOLS GREAT
FOR EVERY CHILD.**

nea

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
www.nea.org

WOMEN'S CORNER

LULAC Women's Conference - a Success!



Attendees enjoy a moment at the Women's Conference in Arizona.

This year LULAC celebrated women at the LULAC National Women's Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's theme "Cultural Strengths & Leadership to the Young Generation," brought women of all ages to this important event. National Vice President for Women Vera-Marquez put together a very informative program that included issues concerning mentoring, civil rights and education, health, advocacy tips, home buying and domestic violence. The speakers were top quality, powerful women who truly motivated and inspired the over two hundred attendees.

Special thanks go to the conference's major sponsor Tyson Foods, Inc. and kudos go to Ann Hart, a Tyson's representative and the LULAC VP for Arkansas and to the Arizona delegation who helped to make this event such a success.

An Unsung Heroine



Paula Martinez Gonzalez is a LULAC unsung heroine. Paula grew up in Texas but has lived in South Bend, Indiana for several years.

As a young child, Paula remembers her mother telling her that she lived in Texas when it was still Mexico. She has never forgotten how she and other Mexican-Americans were treated like outcasts in their own land. At a very young age Paula worked long days in the fields harvesting tomatoes to help her family. When her parents returned to Mexico, she took on the role of housekeeper for her brothers that remained in Texas. Her background limited her opportunities, but that did not stop Paula from becoming a pillar of her community. She has been an activist in the South Bend community for the past fifty years. Paula, the founder of LULAC Council 5001 in 1966, has dedicated herself to the well-being of Hispanics in her neighborhood. At seventy-something she still fights for minorities by serving on twenty-five committees in her community. She has inspired Hispanics to be proud of their heritage and has encouraged them to preserve their important traditions. LULAC salutes you, Paula! Keep up the great work!



Rosa Rosales, National VP for the Southwest and U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin who addressed the LULAC membership during the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon at the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Ana Hart, a representative of Tysons Foods (a major sponsor of the LULAC National Convention) and the LULAC VP for Women in Arkansas received this year's "Woman of the Year" award. She is pictured with Vera Marquez, the National VP for Women, who was re-elected for a second term during the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

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.

LULAC remains committed to fighting efforts to overturn decisions that have upset affirmative action programs across the country. LULAC supports the University of Michigan's admissions practices and its efforts to increase the diversity of its undergraduate and graduate student bodies.

CENSUS AND DATA COLLECTION

LULAC continues to support the use of statistical sampling in Census decisions to ensure the most accurate count of all peoples possible. 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.

CHILD LABOR

LULAC strongly supports ending child labor through education and by supporting the International Labor Organization's (ILO) international programs to eliminate child labor world-wide. LULAC opposes the exploitation of children working anywhere for low wages and under hazardous conditions, such as poisoning from picking fruits and vegetables covered with pesticides, damaged eyesight from continuous complex work like weaving, or physical abuse.

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 and advocacy. 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 Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services 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 race or socioeconomic backgrounds. LULAC opposes the incarceration of youth in adult prisons. LULAC supports preventive education and social programs to reduce incarceration and recidivism.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

LULAC opposes the growing deficit in the federal government and supports efforts to lower it through sensible fiscal management and economic stimulus that favors all people equally. The federal government should support states in their efforts to reduce state deficits by contributing fiscally to their attempts to secure the population at large from public safety hazards, such as terrorism, and improve education and health care services.

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 national origin discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability. 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.

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 American 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: Hispanic-owned businesses comprise 40 percent of all minority firms in the United States with receipts of approximately \$184 billion. LULAC encourages the expansion of federal programs and policies that provide federal funds to stimulate business, job growth and training, and opportunities for venture capital.

LULAC LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2003-2004

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 the diversity of Hispanic heritage positively, be historically accurate, 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 Head Start, Gear Up, TRIO, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), HEP-CAMP, Title I and Title III programs should be increased and access should be expanded to ensure high participation of Latino children. Funding for Title I and Title VII programs should also be increased to address adult basic educational programs and bilingual education.

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 strongly supports the Student Adjustment Act and the DREAM Act. LULAC urges all states to pass laws that allow undocumented immigrant children who have completed high school, are of good moral character, and reside in the state for at least three years to be admitted to colleges and universities as residents and eligible for in-state tuition. LULAC also urges the federal government to grant these students citizenship after they graduate from college or university.

LULAC opposes college entry exams as the sole or primary determinant in

admissions processes and supports instead multiple factors as the key to admission. LULAC opposes high stakes testing.

LULAC supports an increase in funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) of higher education. LULAC supports an increase in the number of Latino educators, administrators and school board members, as well as teacher training and development programs to encourage Latinos to become teachers.

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 proficiency in their native language. English language acquisition 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 oppose 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. LULAC supports the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions that are harmful to Latinos of all ages. LULAC opposes drilling for oil on federal lands.

FARMWORKERS, MIGRANT AND SEASONAL WORKERS

LULAC supports the National Farmworker Jobs Program (WIA 167) and requests the program to remain a critical part of the 2004 US Department of Labor's 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 funds returned to them and their families immediately. LULAC opposes the expansion of agricultural guestworker programs that do not provide adequate labor rights protections, health benefits, and housing.

LULAC supports a national holiday honoring Cesar Chavez and commemorating the contributions of farmworkers 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 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 supports fair trade and sustainable development for Latin America and encourages any and all future free trade agreements with these nations to include strong labor rights and environmental protection provisions.

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

Universal health care is a priority for Latinos that includes affordable and accessible primary and preventive health care that is culturally competent. Latino mothers should have access to 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 insurance coverage for children in poverty, as well as increased funding for programs to promote self-esteem and prevent teen pregnancy.

Because of the disproportionate number of Hispanics who are uninsured and under-insured, LULAC strongly urges the creation of a universal health care coverage plan that insures all people in an equitable manner.

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

HISPANIC REPRESENTATION

LULAC promotes public service and strongly supports Executive Order 13171 to increase the representation of Hispanics in Federal Employment. We urge the administration to work closely with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that Hispanic employment data gathered by the Interagency Task Force so as to remedy the under-representation of Hispanics in government.

LULAC urges the US Senate to provide a level-playing field for Hispanic judicial nominees so as 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 redistricting processes across to country to counterbalance undercounts in the Hispanic community so as 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 banking institutions accountable for fair lending practices.

LULAC supports the improvement of quality of life for areas known as "colonias" along the US-Mexico border with such basic amenities as access to potable water and electricity.

IMMIGRATION

LULAC opposes any legislation that threatens the rights of immigrants, including limiting legal immigration. Legal residents and naturalized citizens should have the same benefits 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 Food Stamps for legal immigrants. LULAC supports citizenship for America's non-citizen troops and the passage of legislation such as the Naturalization and Family Protections for Military Members Act and the Citizenship for America's Troops Act.

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

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 cultural breadth of Latinos and their contributions to the United States. We encourage the FCC to require broadcasters to provide better Latino programming and representation in prime-time slots throughout the day as part of their public service obligations.

LULAC LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2003-2004

OIL WORKER STABILITY

LULAC is concerned about the stability of oil prices and its impact on oil workers, many of whom are Hispanic. We support state and federal efforts to stabilize the price of oil and put the Hispanic oil field worker back to work. Specifically, LULAC supports: 1) training programs for oil workers; and 2) federal income tax incentives to domestic oil producers. LULAC is in support of a federal energy policy designed to assist oil workers and reduce dependency on foreign oil by also encouraging the development of alternative fossil fuel and other environmentally friendly energy sources.

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.

SENIORS

LULAC strongly advocates for programs and legislation to protect the quality of life of Latino seniors, for 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. 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 care, an increased minimum wage and job opportunities to meet the needs of urban and rural 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



Past LULAC National Presidents: Ed Peña, Oscar Moran and Belan Robles with National LULAC President Hector Flores and Rick Dovalina, Immediate Past President during the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

immigrants, and strongly advocates the restoration of benefits to legal immigrants and children.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

LULAC strongly supports legislation that would guarantee pay equity for women, strong penalties for sexual harassment, and support for women who file complaints against their employers. LULAC supports the expansion of leadership development programs for women of all ages and encourages more Latinas to run for public office.

LULAC strongly supports programs to protect women and their children from domestic violence, and strong penalties for abusers that include but are not limited to community service, appropriate time in jail, and mandatory anger management training.

WORKER'S RIGHTS

LULAC strongly supports the rights of working men and women to organize under the law and form labor unions dedicated to continuing the struggle for equality, social and economic justice. LULAC supports extending the benefits of a bountiful society for all workers, without regard to age, sex, race, nationality or creed, and all times improve the working and living conditions of all workers worldwide.



National Executive Director Brent Wilkes with Chris Patterakis, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Community Relations U.S. Air Force and National LULAC President Hector Flores during the National Convention when they signed a partnership agreement to foster cooperation to increase and promote U.S. Air Force active duty. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

*Siempre puedes confiar
en que su **Curiosidad**
no tiene límites.*



Lo bueno es que también siempre puedes confiar en la calidad del pollo Tyson.

*Todos los productos Tyson comienzan con pollo rico y nutritivo, **naturalmente.***

Por donde le busques, no hay pollo más confiable.

*Arroz con Pollo
hecho con pechugas de pollo
desbuesadas sin piel Tyson.
Más recetas en www.tyson.com*



Lo que tu *familia* se merece.™

LULAC Profile

Margaret Moran, Texas State Director

Every month we profile a LULAC member in the LULAC News that has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling, Margaret Moran, Texas State Director and LULAC member for the past eighteen years.



What do you believe to be the best leadership traits?

Being a good listener and having the ability to follow-through on goals.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

To expand our membership and enhance our effectiveness in the community.

What is your most memorable LULAC moment? When my husband Oscar Moran

was elected LULAC national president during the national convention in Anaheim, California.

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

Increasing the number of Latinos that successfully complete higher education.



Above: Margaret with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

Right: Margaret with Jose Ruano, a representative from the Miller Brewing Company, a LULAC corporate sponsor. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

What advice can you give to young Latinos?

Identify a successful, busy person in your community to get involved with and learn from. You can learn a great deal from others.

What do you do when you are not serving LULAC?

I have been an employee with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for the past 22 years.

What do you enjoy doing when you have some spare time?

I really enjoy reading to our grandchildren: Caleigh (4) and Dyland (9); traveling; cooking Sunday dinner for our family; and listening to classical and jazz music.

What is your deepest wish? To see our grandkids become professionals and to instill in them the gift of giving back to their community.

What is your greatest accomplishment as a LULAC leader?

Establishing the LNEHC center in San Antonio and presiding over the LULAC state office in Austin, Texas.



Where were you born?

I was born in San Antonio, Texas. My family is originally from Mexico and the Canary Islands.

What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

Patience.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be?

Pope John Paul, because of his knowledge and vision.

What is your passion as a LULAC leader?

Education and first class health care for our children and their families.

What compelled you to join LULAC? The desire to do more in the community.

Who do you admire most?
My mother.

TRACFONE®

nationwide prepaid wireless

TracFone Congratulates Hector Flores on his re-election as President of LULAC.

- We are the largest prepaid wireless service provider in the U.S. offering an off-the-shelf, prepaid wireless service for as low as \$7.99 a month.
- We have more than 2.4 million customers.
- We require no contracts, credit checks, monthly bills, security deposits, or age restrictions.

Special Offer for LULAC members

Receive **15% off** the purchase of a new Motorola or Nokia TracFone only at www.tracfone.com. Enter promotional code 80019 upon checkout.

Offer expires September 30, 2003.



Para más información. . .

www.spanish.tracfone.com visit www.tracfone.com

for information in English

EMERGING COMMUNITIES

Hispanics in Orlando

By Gigi Modrich, LULAC National Intern



Gigi Modrich majors in government and Native American studies at Dartmouth College and hopes to attend law school after completing undergraduate school.

In the last decade, we witnessed an explosion of Hispanic communities across the United States. These emerging communities have crept up in places like Cicero, Illinois; Little Rock, Arkansas; and Orlando, Florida. What is noteworthy is that none of these cities are considered traditional receiving places for Hispanic immigrants.

If you are a resident of Orlando, Florida, you too may have noticed the growing number of beautiful Hispanic faces that greet you each day. For this reason, LULAC chose Orlando as the site for its 74th LULAC National Convention.

With the advent of the year 2000, Hispanics in Orlando saw their population almost double, growing from 8.8 percent of the city's population in 1990 to more than 16 percent. In addition to the large increase in the Hispanic population, Orlando residents have also experienced a number of challenges and conflicts that often accompany the rapid growth of a new population group.

Hispanics are often tested when coming into a new town. The most poignant challenges that Orlando Hispanics face deal with education, health care, homeownership and unemployment. While these challenges may be obvious – the question is, are there legitimate programs being implemented to tackle these conflicts? Who is helping the community? How can the community help itself? Orlando Hispanics should not only look to their leaders for answers but also hold them accountable. One of the best ways to do this is by joining a LULAC council or forming one of your own. LULAC offers a variety of training opportunities for advocacy and

leadership so as to facilitate the transition of Hispanics into leadership roles. It is critical to remember that in Orlando, as in other emerging communities Hispanics should not only hold those currently in office accountable, but also grow their own leaders to represent them.

José Fernández, President for Orlando LULAC Council #7101, commented in current challenges for LULAC in Orlando. He claims that the major challenge lies within uniting these Latino/Hispanic communities. "Orlando and Orange County are thriving with people from Latin America and the Caribbean, and because of the booming communities in Orlando, we need to unite these people who are sometimes not interested in coming together" said Mr. Fernández. Because LULAC focuses on protecting the civil rights of all Hispanics, Mr. Fernández feels that it is important for LULAC to find the leaders of these different Latino communities for the sake of communication, mobilization and goal achievement. "Once we get them involved, then we can unite. Once we unite, then we can communicate and aim to achieve our common goals," added Fernández.

Bringing together this dynamic Hispanic community can only better the situation for Hispanics everywhere. Therefore, since this is such an important topic, Dr. Gabriela Lemus released a policy paper at this year's convention. It further examines the Hispanic population growth in the United States, focusing on Orlando, Florida; Cicero, Illinois; and Little Rock, Arkansas. This policy paper will soon be available on our website at www.lulac.org

(Right) President Hector Flores with LULAC members during the LULAC National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Goofy represented the Walt Disney Company, who is a major sponsor of LULAC and the largest employer of Hispanics in the area.

(Photo by Luis Nuno Briones).



LULAC President Hector Flores at a press conference in Orlando with Mayor Buddy Dyer (right) and Orlando council President Jose Fernandez (left). (Photo courtesy of La Prensa Orlando).

Orlando Facts

- In 1990 Hispanics were 8.8% of the city's population
- In 2000 Hispanics grew to encompass 16.5% of Orlando's population
- In 2000 12.2% of Hispanics were recorded to have less than a 9th grade education
- In 2000 48.6% of Hispanics don't own their homes
- In 2000 6.6% of Hispanics were unemployed



LULAC Salutes

LULAC salutes National Vice President for the Far West Richard Fimbres and National Vice President for the Southeast Elsie Valdes whose four year terms ended this June. Both Richard and Elsie have demonstrated strong and invaluable leadership within the LULAC family and have made several outstanding contributions to the organization.

Richard Fimbres, a LULAC member since 1986, has had many accomplishments during his years with LULAC. During his tenure as vice president he helped to build an incredibly strong network of councils in his region, a region which now has a council in every state. One of the things Richard is very proud of is his role in helping to create the "Border Summit" which is an annual event that has been successful in heightening the awareness of vigilantes and other border problems. Richard has also been involved in successfully extending an important act that protect immigrants and calling for congressional hearings on border issues and viable guest worker programs.

In addition, Richard has been instrumental in seeing that Puerto Rico receive funding for self-determination and that funding be restored for job training and education programs for migrants. He also helped to bring the LULAC national convention to Phoenix and Los Angeles, which are both within his region. Finally, Richard is proud of being the longest serving elected member of the

LNESC board where he worked toward expanding LNESC's programs and obtaining the renewal of Department of Education grants. Richard has some big shoes to fill, let's hope the next vice president for the Far West works as hard as Richard!



Richard and his wife Mary, who is the immediate past LULAC state director of Arizona. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Richard with Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) at the national convention in Houston last year. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

Below: Richard with LULAC National President Hector Flores at this year's national convention in Orlando, Florida (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore with Richard, his wife Mary and their son Joseph.



HISPANIC LEADERS

Two Great Leaders!

LULAC's Vice President of the Southeast, Elsie Valdes, has been a LULAC member for the past 16 years. She has held several other positions within LULAC including the state deputy for women for Puerto Rico's chapter and the state director for Puerto Rico. She has also served as a member of the SER Jobs for Progress board of directors and a member of the LNES national board of directors.

Elsie has had many accomplishments during her tenure. She is perhaps most proud of increasing the number of LULAC councils within Puerto Rico to 189 councils. Elsie has also worked hard to promote the integration of the residents of Puerto Rico into the U.S. Hispanic leadership community. Her passion has been to help these residents develop their advocacy skills in order to fight for equal rights.

Elsie's family has also been very involved with LULAC. Her son Juan Carlos A. Lizardi served as the national vice president for youth for four years and their daughter, Maria Lizardi, served as the national youth vice president for the southeast. Hats off to Elsie for being a great leader for LULAC!



Representative Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), LULAC VP for the Southeast Elsie Valdes and Hector Flores, LULAC National President at the last board meeting in San Antonio, Texas.



Elsie with her husband Carlos A. Lizardi and their grandchildren.



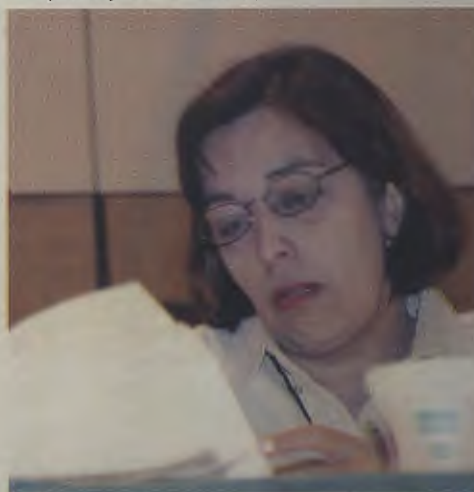
Above: Elsie with LULAC members at the LNES center in Puerto Rico.

Left: Elsie speaking before the Olga Tañón concert during the National Convention.

(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Elsie with LULAC National President Hector Flores at last year's national convention in Houston, Texas. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



Elsie at work during the LULAC National Convention Assembly in Orlando, Florida. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).



LULAC National President Hector Flores and other LULAC board members recently met in San Antonio, Texas during Fiesta Week. Hector Flores (far left), State Director of Texas Margaret Moran (right), and National VP for the Southwest Rosa Rosales (far right) are shown here with Dr. Reyes who was named El Rey Feo and his wife Mary Ann. Dr. Reyes earned his title by raising the most money for the LULAC Rey Feo Scholarship Committee. He raised over \$250,000 for LULAC Council No. 2 scholarship committee. The scholarships will be awarded to high school students for college. This photo was taken right before they boarded the LULAC float during the Battle of Flowers parade during Fiesta Week. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

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
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 244