

LULACnews

November/December 2003

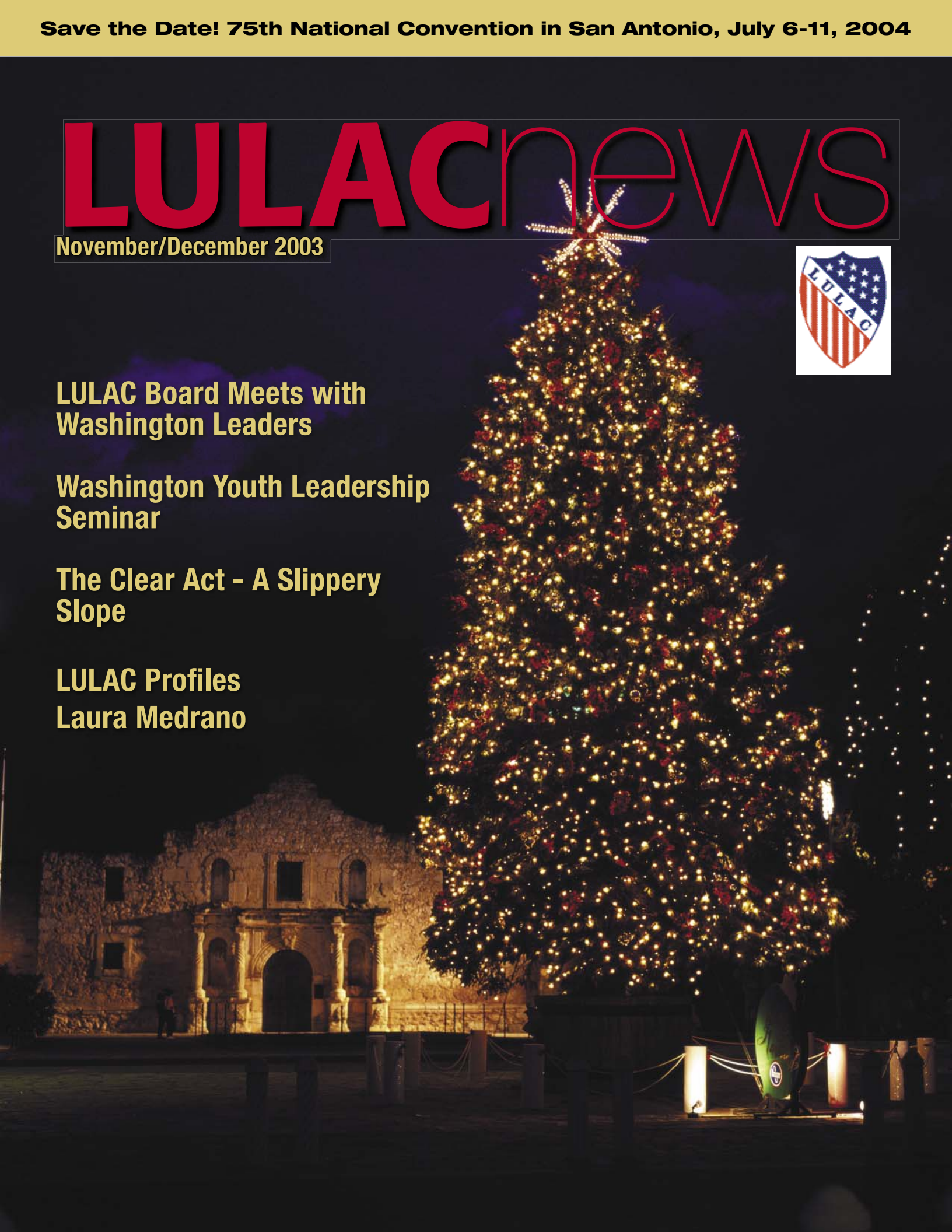


**LULAC Board Meets with
Washington Leaders**

**Washington Youth Leadership
Seminar**

**The Clear Act - A Slippery
Slope**

**LULAC Profiles
Laura Medrano**



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Representative Hilda Solis (D-CA), LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez, and LULAC President Hector Flores during the Immigrant Freedom Ride rally in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE from the President



(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Another important way to help our community is to advocate for legislation and policies that will benefit the Hispanic community. For instance, we need to continue to press Congress and the Bush administration to pass the DREAM Act, which will allow undocumented high school graduates going to college legal status if they meet certain criteria. In addition, we should work to see that the CLEAR Act is *not* passed. This act would give a tremendous amount of power to local police officers to enforce civil immigration laws. This would certainly be detrimental to our society. Finally, let us remember to hold our leaders accountable for changes to programs such as Medicare that will threaten the well-being of our elderly.

We look forward to working with Congress next year, especially during an election year. Not only must we continue to communicate with our representatives while they are in office, we must also remember to vote during the upcoming elections. Now more than ever Latinos need to get out the vote and let their voices be heard. Our numbers mean nothing if we do not go to the polls.

As the year 2003 ends, we can look back on yet another successful year for LULAC. We have much to be thankful for this past year. We had one of the best national conventions in the League's history with over 10,000 attendees, and we continued to grow our membership. We are looking forward to next year's convention which will be held in beautiful San Antonio, Texas from July 6-11, 2004. This convention promises to be one of our best yet with a variety of important speakers, insightful workshops and top-notch entertainment. I hope that all of you will be able to attend and celebrate LULAC's 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary.

God bless each of you and feliz navidad!

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC,
As we prepare for the holiday season let us remember the meaning of Christmas. Let us take this opportunity to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves and remember the men and women serving in Iraq. There are many ways we can help others during this season. Whether we donate food or toys to a local shelter or send letters of encouragement to our troops, we can each make a difference.

LULAC Board Meets With Leaders in Washington, D.C.

Immigration Issues Top Agenda

In October, LULAC National President Hector Flores and the LULAC National Board met with various leaders in our nation's capital to discuss issues that affect the Hispanic community. The LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYS) again coincided with this meeting to give over 40 high school students from around the country the opportunity to interact with board members.

The board meeting was also scheduled to coincide with the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride to help emphasize the call for Congress and the Bush administration to focus on the needs of immigrants in our nation. LULAC believes that reform is desperately needed in several areas that would not only enhance the lives of immigrants but also help them to fully contribute to our nation and the economy. The WYS students joined board members in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride rally on Capitol Hill. There was a great deal of positive energy at this event which certainly got the message out. "LULAC strongly supports the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. I hope that our elected officials are listening to our call to action. The immigrant has always been a friend to the United States. They support

LULAC Board, continued on page 15.



Representative Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX) speaks before the crowd during the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride rally. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

LULAC Helps Family During Time of Loss



Army Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto was only 18 when he lost his life in the Iraqi war this past spring. Estrella-Soto had recently graduated from Mountain View High School in El Paso, Texas, where he played football and was a good student. He hoped that by joining the Army he would have the ability to pay for college and study architecture. He saw the Army as a way out of poverty in a colonia.

On March 23, 2003, Army Pvt. Estrella-Soto and eight fellow soldiers from Fort Bliss' 507th Maintenance Company were killed in an ambush when their trucks were trying to catch up to a bigger convoy heading for Baghdad. Six other Fort Bliss soldiers were captured and four were wounded in the attack. The young man, who was born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and became a naturalized citizen several years ago, left behind a devastated family and a fiancée. The family was unable to return to work for a while during the initial news of their loss. This lack of income made it impossible for them to make mortgage payments on their mobile home and other bills.

Members of LULAC Councils 4329 and 132 have been working to support the family during this difficult time. They have asked for donations on behalf of the Estrella family in return for yellow bows. In addition they are holding a dance fundraiser for the Estrella family. They are also working to see that everyone remembers the young man by trying to change the name of a street in his colonia to carry his name. As a result of LULAC's efforts the county agreed to name a park after Estrella-Soto in his colonia. To make a contribution to help the Estrella family contact Ms. Arguelles at 915-592-8677.

LULAC Calendar

■ Second Annual LULAC Women's Summit

WHEN: January 9-10, 2004

WHERE: Monterey, CA

CONTACT: Mickie Luna at 831-673-2009 or calulac@hollinet.com

■ Third Annual State LULAC Legislative Gala

WHEN: February 18, 2004

WHERE: Sacramento, CA

CONTACT: Mickie Luna at 831-673-2009 or calulac@hollinet.com

■ LULAC Week

WHEN: Feb. 15-21, 2004

■ LULAC Legislative Awards Gala

WHEN: March 9, 2004

WHERE: Washington, DC

■ LULAC National Women's Conference

WHEN: April 2-3, 2004

WHERE: El Paso, Texas

CONTACT: 1-866-577-0726

■ 75th Annual LULAC National Convention

WHERE: San Antonio, Texas

WHEN: July 6-11, 2004

For more information see www.lulac.org or call 202-833-6130 or 1-866-577-0626

Letter to the Editor

Dear LULAC News,

Dr. Lemus' article on vouchers in your September/October 2003 issue was right on target. I have been involved in the struggle against vouchers for nearly 40 years and appreciate what LULAC has been doing.

By the way, my son recently joined LULAC in Texas!

Buena Suerte!

Edd Doerr

President, Americans for Religious Liberty

LULAC Members Receive National Award



(L-R) LULAC National President Hector Flores with Denise M. Nuño and Luis Nuño Briones

LULAC members and founders of the *Hispanic Journal* magazine, Luis Nuño Briones and Denise M. Nuño, recently received the National Minority Media Cornerstone Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency. The Cornerstone Award, which recognizes the vital role of minority media as advocates for the communities they serve, was presented at the National MEDWeek Celebration in Washington, DC, on October 2, 2003.

For nearly 10 years, *Hispanic Journal* has provided media coverage to the Hispanic community, supported minority issues in diverse ways, and served as a link for the Hispanic community to policy makers, business leaders, and role models. Having themselves overcome extreme adversity, both Nuños are actively involved in the Hispanic community as leaders in advocacy for a level playing field in contracting and procurement; political representation; job opportunities and pay equity; and equal access to education and health care. They have been widely recognized for their advocacy, community service, and grassroots efforts toward the empowerment of the Hispanic community.

Luis Nuño Briones, Publisher of *Hispanic Journal*, is the Founder and President of LULAC Council 4720 and currently serves as the National LULAC Historian. Denise M. Nuño, President and CEO of *Hispanic Journal*, is a charter Lifetime LULAC Member and has previously served as the State Chief of Staff for Texas LULAC and as Legislative Chair for Texas LULAC District 3.

LULAC Member Recognized for Starting Health Fair



Long-time LULAC member Ascension Hernandez is making a difference in his community. A LULAC member for the past 38 years, Mr. Hernandez and other LULAC members are working to help people live healthier lives. Last year Mr. Hernandez came up with the idea of holding an annual Latino Health Fair in Kansas City, Missouri. He worked with leaders from various organizations in his community to put together this important event. This year's fair was held in September and was hosted by LULAC and the Latino Leadership Institute. Attendees received free screenings for cholesterol, blood glucose, bone density, high blood pressure, and glaucoma, among others.

Mr. Hernandez was recently recognized for his efforts in spearheading the first Latino Health Fair by the Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at the agency's 2003 National Customer Service Conference. Mr. Hernandez was given the Beneficiary Services Certificate of Merit by CMS during a conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. Hernandez credits his wife Rosemary, who has also been a LULAC member for the past 38 years, for being his biggest supporter and partner in community service for years.

Congratulations to Mr. Hernandez and to LULAC for promoting health in Missouri.

LULAC Works for a "Smoke-Free" Indiana

With lung cancer the second leading cause of death among Hispanics, LULAC Council 5016 has made it their mission to see that Hispanics don't smoke. Council 5016 members and officers of the "No Fumar" Campaign, Linda Lundewall and Leticia Mumguia, are coordinating the efforts of this important cause. The LULAC council pursued and obtained a grant from the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking, especially among the Latino population in Porter County, Indiana. The LULAC council has expended a great amount of energy to educate students in local elementary and high schools and the general population during festivals and through other community organizations. LULAC Council 5016 has already started preparing for the 2004-2005 campaign to work toward a "smoke-free" Indiana. *Keep up the great work, Council 5016!*

LULAC Donates Books to Mentor Program

LULAC Council 4721 of Taylor, Texas, recently donated 150 books to a mentor program in their local school called Mentors at Pasemann School (MAPS). This is the third year that Council 4721 has supported the mentor program designed to improve the reading abilities of students at the elementary level. LULAC members were thrilled to receive a lovely thank you card signed by all of the students in the program. The council plans to donate even more books next year, setting their goal at 175 books. Congratulations to Council 4721 for making a difference in their community!

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.

Trunk or Treat Event Draws Over 500 Ghouls and Goblins



(L-R) Karen Herndon, Michelle Bobadilla, Joe Campos, Christine Bobadilla, Kimberly Reyes and Marvin Le Masters helped to make this event such a success.

A balmy afternoon greeted the hundreds of ghosts, goblins, and super heroes who took part in LULAC Council 100's Trunk or Treat event held on Halloween evening. This hauntingly fun event was designed to provide a safe place for the children to trick or treat. Council 100 members hosted the event in the parking lot of the LNES - Dallas center. Each automobile's trunk was festively decorated and filled with all kinds of treats - candy, fruit, cookies, and sodas. The festivities began as soon as the last school bell rang and ended at 7:00 pm.

In keeping with the College for Texans statewide campaign and the Dallas Independent School District's Higher Education Initiative, students and parents received information regarding a parent academy and how to prepare for college. LNES staffs dressed for the occasion and greeted students as they made their way to the parking lot. Parents also received information regarding LULAC membership and benefits along with a LULAC t-shirt or hat.

Partners for this event included: 7-Eleven, Inc., Starcom, Bank of America Mortgage, the University of Texas at Arlington's Education Opportunity Center and Outreach Services, and LNES - Dallas. A great time was had by all. Happy Haunting!

Arizona LULAC Opens State Office: Bone Marrow Donor Drive was First Event



Recently, Arizona LULAC opened its first office in Avondale, Arizona, a rural town outside of downtown Phoenix. This location made sense since a majority of the members live outside the metro area. PPEP Inc. donated the building which includes free utilities, a computer lab, and a receptionist. PPEP Inc. is a non-profit migrant and seasonal farmworker job training, micro business charter school. PPEP Inc.'s CEO is Dr. John Arnold who is also president of Council #1088. The Arizona State LULAC Council approved the site at its last meeting; however the state LULAC Youth have been using the facility for some time.

The first major event held at the new state LULAC office was a stem cell bone marrow clinic in conjunction with the National Hispanic blood/marrow donor bank. Over 30 people came to the clinic and personally donated to the cause. Most of the donors were youth and young adults. Telemundo covered this event and it will be shown nationwide as part of a documentary on this life threatening blood disease affecting Latinos. For more information on the national marrow donor program or how your council can put on a donor drive call 1-(800) MARROW – 2 or log on to www.marrow.org.

LULAC Fiesta de las Flores in El Paso, Texas



(L-R) Tiffany Sedano, 2002-2003 Fiesta Queen; LULAC Council 132 President Marcelo Campos; Amanda Monkalvo, Fiesta Queen-Elect 2003-2004; and Lilly Montelongo, Queen Pageant Coordinator.

Every fall Council 132 of El Paso, Texas holds an incredibly successful event called “Fiesta de las Flores.” The purpose of the event is to raise money for LNESCH scholarships. In the past this event has been very successful in raising a significant amount of money. Every year attendance continues to grow. LULAC members work very hard all year to make sure this event flourishes. One of the main events is the “Fiesta Queen” contest which provides the winner with a \$1,000 scholarship. This year Amanda Monkalvo was named queen. She will spend the next year representing LULAC at various community events. Some of the other Fiesta events include live bands, a senior citizen dance, children’s activities, and a car show. El Paso citizens look forward to this spectacular event every year.



Queen Amanda Monkalvo with her court.

LULAC National Sweetheart



LULAC National Sweetheart Esther Degraeves was serenaded to by singer Pablo Montero during the LULAC National Convention in Orlando, Florida. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Esther Degraeves was named National LULAC Sweetheart during this year’s LULAC National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Degraeves is nineteen years old and of Venezuelan and Colombian decent. She is currently in her second year of college and aspires to be an anchor woman. During her spare time Ms. Degraeves is a singer.



Participants during a Freddie Mac CreditSmart Español “Train the Trainer” session in Philadelphia. (Front L-R) Isabel Laracuente, Twilight Rivera-Martinez, Katherine Olmedo, Mary Otero, Juana Alicea, (Back L-R) Teresa Nieves, Jose Garcia, and Miguel Fernandez, LULAC Coordinator of Program Development.

A Latin-American Christmas Story

By Lorraine Quiroga Mullaly, LULAC News Editor



David and Amanda Nuño dressed as Joseph and the Virgin Mary. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

As a child in New Jersey, Christmas meant being with family, pretty velvet dresses my mom made, Santa Claus and snow. I was just like any other American kid who couldn't wait for Christmas morning to see what Santa brought the night before. All that started to change as I got older.

When I was six years old we moved to Florida and suddenly Christmas meant palm trees, suntans, and Santa, but no extended family to celebrate with. The warm weather reminded my parents of Christmas in Peru. Since Peru is below the equator, Christmas is celebrated in the middle of their summer. Perhaps the warm weather and the lack of family inspired my mom to surround herself with familiar traditions from my parents' childhood in Peru. I am glad, however, that my parents continued to incorporate some American traditions such as Santa Claus and Christmas trees in our celebrations.

In Peru, like in most Latin American countries, it is much more common to see a nativity scene (el "Nacimiento") in people's homes rather than Christmas trees. In fact, if you visit a shopping mall in Lima today

you will likely see a huge nativity scene in the middle of the mall instead of Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer or Frosty the Snow-Man.

The most important decoration in our home at Christmas time is a family heirloom from my father's mother. Under the Christmas tree my mom places the treasured porcelain baby Jesus. As children, my sister and I would love setting up a nativity scene around the baby as they do in Peru. We'd wrap the baby in an alpaca skin and surround the baby with stuffed llamas and a variety of teddy bears and other toys. We'd make crowns out of paper for three dolls that would play the three kings and dress a couple of dolls appropriately so they could play Mary, Joseph and the angels.

On Christmas Eve ("Noche Buena") we would get to stay up late and help my mom bake cookies and prepare special treats. My sister and I would take turns playing Christmas carols on the piano as the rest of the family sang along. The house was always filled with excitement and joy on that special night.

After going to mass, we would do something similar to a "posada" reenactment. We would shut off the lights, except for the Christmas tree lights, and my mom would read the Christmas story from the bible with a flashlight. My sister would place a pregnant Mary on top of one of our toys who was elected to play the donkey and we would reenact the whole story with our dolls. Eventually we decided to actually play some of the roles ourselves. We would take turns playing Mary and Joseph and my dad would play the donkey. Dolls would still play the rest of the roles unless we were fortunate enough to have company who could be recruited to play the parts. In fact, one year my grandmother and great-aunt even played the angels.

At midnight we would wish each other a "Merry Christmas" with hugs and open our presents. Then we would have Peruvian style hot cocoa, tamales, and Paneton bread. After we would put on some Latin music and the party would really start. It was always fun when we had some relatives in town because my mom and aunts would often perform a Peruvian dance called the marinera for us.

I am happy to report that we still participate in these traditions now that we are adults. For example, when my sister was pregnant with her first baby she made the perfect Mary in the nativity scene and her poor husband almost broke his back carrying her. Now that my sister has children they play all the parts perfectly including my husband who is the donkey. We all enjoy this tradition tremendously. This year it is my turn to play Mary as my husband and I are expecting our first child. We plan to continue these wonderful traditions in our household and pass them on to our children as well.

I hope that all of you remember to celebrate and pass on your traditions - whatever they may be.

Feliz Navidad!

POLICY and Legislation

The CLEAR Act: A Slippery Slope

by LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus

The Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal (“CLEAR”) Act (H.R. 2671), currently under discussion in the House of Representatives, proposes to enlist state and local police officers to assist in the enforcement of civil immigration laws. Many fear that this would start a slippery slope which would lead to the further erosion of civil liberties in our country. Through a combination of carrots and sticks, state and local governments would be preempted by virtue of the federal government’s lack of adequate staff and funding to its agencies to alter the general mandates of their law enforcement departments. Should the CLEAR Act be passed, local law enforcement personnel and resources would be over-extended and it would potentially open the door for racial profiling as state and local law enforcement would be forced to target anyone who looked or seemed like an immigrant, whether they are a criminal or not.

The CLEAR Act would impose serious penalties on local law enforcement should they fail to enforce civil enforcement of immigration laws. For example, local jurisdictions could potentially lose federal State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding that allows local law enforcement precincts to be reimbursed for detaining deportable criminals. Alternatively, if the local law enforcement jurisdictions are successful in making arrests by enforcing federal civil immigration laws they would be able to split half of the money collected from any civil penalties or forfeitures with the state. However, if the experience of the splitting of assets between federal, state, and local law enforcement is similar to the way it is done in drug cases, we can expect to see disagreements among agencies as competition increases between them.

Under the current law, state and local law enforcement are able to enforce criminal laws against any person, irrespective of their immigration status. The CLEAR Act pushes this ability one step further by placing state and local law enforcement in the position of first responders in the area of civil immigration law enforcement. Additionally, the state

and local law enforcement officers would not require any training and would have immunity from any civil rights violations that arise out of pursuing undocumented immigrants who have committed no crime save lacking documentation.

A series of problems occur when local law enforcement becomes involved in the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws. In the case of the proposed CLEAR Act, there is a strong likelihood that communities would witness an increase in racial profiling which could have unexpected consequences in Latino communities. For example, battered immigrant Latinas may be too afraid to report abuse because they would fear deportation by local law enforcement. A survey by the National Organization of Women (NOW) Legal Defense Fund confirmed the prevalence of this fear of deportation was the most significant reason why battered immigrant women do not report their abusers.

In order for public safety to be assured, it is critical that local law enforcement officers gain the trust of the communities that they serve. There have been multiple examples throughout the country of situations where the fear of local law enforcement has led to either outright increases of abusive patterns in Latino communities or whereby cases cannot be resolved because witnesses will not come forward. Instances of Latinos being targeted for crime and harassment would invariably increase should the CLEAR Act be passed, and police departments would be hard-pressed to solve the crimes. Police officers would be placed in a situation that contradicts their primary job, which is to ensure the public safety of the communities they serve.

It is virtually inevitable that the way the CLEAR Act is currently worded, it would create an environment of distrust in communities of color, particularly in Latino neighborhoods. Police departments would have a difficult time gaining the confidence of immigrants and their families, as well as of those who simply look or seem like immigrants. The National League of Cities and numerous police departments, ranging from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., have

“Battered immigrant Latinas may be too afraid to report abuse because they would fear deportation by local law enforcement.”

clearly stated that they oppose the CLEAR Act for precisely those reasons.

It is indisputable that the American public must be safeguarded by the government from terrorism. It is also indisputable that towns and cities across the nation must be safeguarded against common criminals. There are clear distinctions between the role of federal, state, and local government roles in public safety. Creating and reinforcing an environment where each has a clear delineation of their duties and safeguarding civil rights will better enhance the ability of the United States to protect the residents within its borders.

Attention LULAC

Citizenship Handbook

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. offers a useful book called *Citizenship for Us: A Handbook on Naturalization and Citizenship*. The handbook includes information on new laws, forms, procedures, and technologies. The book contains legal analysis for citizenship eligibility, requirements, and benefits. It describes the naturalization process in detail and contains many useful Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) forms. The book is geared for immigrants, community leaders, social service providers, and other non-attorneys. To order, please send a check for \$25 to CLINIC, McCormick Pavilion, 415 Michigan Ave., NE, Rm. 150, Washington, DC 20017, or call 202-635-5815, or visit www.cliniclegal.org for an order form.

POLICY and Legislation

LULAC National President Meets with Mexican Groups to Discuss Labor Issues



LULAC President Hector Flores (third from right) and LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez (third from left) with delegation from San Antonio, Chicago, Washington state and Mexico.

According to a new study conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles, North America Integration and Development Center, immigrants contribute approximately \$300 billion to the gross national product annually. The immigration debate, however, remains very much alive and well in our nation. Accordingly, LULAC National President Hector Flores, LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez, and others traveled to Mexico City this fall to be a part of a bi-national delegation to address immigrant issues. The delegation was made up of labor, human rights and political organization representatives to address immigrant issues. The meetings were held at the Consejo de Trabajo, the Mexican Trade Union.

The cross-border meeting that focused on the rights of workers, immigrants and their families was historic because it brought debate to the stalled issue of the legalization of hard working immigrants. Some issues that were discussed included the exploitation of immigrants, the thousands that die due to the militarization of the U.S.– Mexico border, and the ever-increasing racist activities by “vigilante” groups.

Hector Flores took this opportunity to reinforce the LULAC national resolution on the “legalization and rights for immigrant workers and their families” which was passed during the LULAC Orlando National Convention. He made a passionate call for immigrant human and civil rights and the need for economic justice and family unity.

Action Alert

DREAM Update: Tell Senators Daschle and Frist to Pass the DREAM Act!

On October 23, the Senate Judiciary Committee debated and passed the DREAM Act out of committee with a 16-to-3 vote. Although Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Feinstein (D-CA) passed a damaging amendment that LULAC did not favor or support, the underlining principles of providing a pathway to legalization for immigrant students was not changed. There is still a fighting chance of passing and improving the bill on the Senate floor.

Since the committee markup, anti-immigrant forces have mobilized against those Senators that voted in favor of the bill. Their offices have been bombarded with phone calls chastizing the Senators for voting favorably for the bill. It is important to counter these negative calls with our own pro-DREAM calls and emails in support of moving forward and improving the DREAM Act.

Before the Senate adjourns for the year, it is important to send a clear message to the Senate leadership that this bill is important to immigrants, students, and people of faith and that they must keep working hard to make sure the bill becomes law! Students cannot wait for Congress to remove the barriers keeping them from realizing their dreams.

Call toll-free Senators Daschle and Frist:
Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) at 1-800-369-0315
Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-SD) at 1-800-369-0354

Tell them:

“I’m calling in support of the DREAM Act, S. 1545. And I want to urge Senator Frist (or Daschle) to take strong leadership and bring the DREAM Act to the Senate floor for debate. The DREAM Act must pass to allow immigrant students a chance to realize our dreams. Our nation can’t afford to keep immigrant children in the shadows of society. Please tell Sen. Frist (or Daschle) to work hard to pass the DREAM Act this year!”

Laura Medrano, National VP for Northeast

Every issue of the LULAC News will profile a LULAC member who has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling Laura Medrano, LULAC member for the past seven years.



Where and when were you born?

I was born in the 1960s in San Salvador, El Salvador. My family descendents come from a variety of backgrounds including Portuguese, Spanish and Pipils (a tribe which descended from the Mayans).

What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

I requested help on this one. According to my 13-year-old son I am a "hard worker."

Who do you admire most?

I admire many people who have made a difference. For example: Madeline Albright, for her knowledge of world affairs, Hillary Rodham Clinton for pursuing political office, Isabel Allende for her gift of writing, Frida Kahlo for her paintings, and Cesar Chavez for his courage.

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

Leonardo DaVinci because there would be so much to talk about including art, music, history, religion and science.

What do you believe is the best leadership trait?

Good leaders are practical, logical, and to-the-point.

What do you think LULAC should focus on at this time?

LULAC's original mission of protecting civil rights as stated in our constitution.

What is your motto?

No hagas a otros, lo que no quieras para ti.

What is your most passionate LULAC cause?

Immigrant issues because of my experience as an immigrant myself. I grew up in a third world country in the middle of a civil war which led many people to move to other countries. This experience provided me with a deep understanding of the immigrant culture. I agree that undocumented immigration is a problem but at the same time the U.S. economy is very dependent on immigrant labor. Their rights need to be respected like others in this country.

What is your most memorable LULAC experience?

I enjoy meeting policy makers but nothing compares with being in front of the General Assembly at the LULAC convention.

What compelled you to join LULAC seven years ago?

Its history, its credibility, and reputation as an organization.

How can we increase LULAC membership?

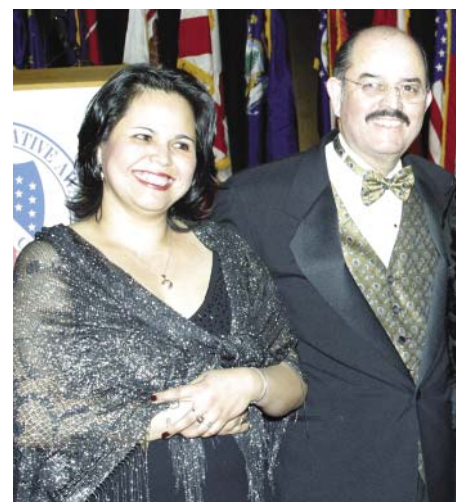
We need to develop objectives and a strategy that can be executed by all the members of our organization at all levels.

What advice would you give to young Latinos who want to make a difference?

Get an education, have high standards, and never forget your roots.

What do you do when you are not involved with LULAC?

I spend time with my two amazing sons. My son Sal is 19 and attends Berklee School of Music and Diego who is 13. Diego is a peer mediator at the local school and a future LULACer. I also do pro-bono translations for the LULAC National office.



Laura Medrano with LULAC National President Hector Flores at the National Legislative Awards Gala in Washington, DC this year. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

FORD AD

Washington Youth Leadership Seminar Youth Highlighted:

A Young Latina Leader



The Washington Youth Leadership Seminar brings together several bright Hispanic students from across the country. This year we decided to highlight an exemplary student who has exhibited strong leadership qualities in her community. The LNEsc and LULAC staff selected Rocio Beltran. "It was very difficult to select a student from such a group of accomplished individuals," said Linda Ayala, LNEsc Talent Search Program Manager and Washington Youth Leadership Seminar Coordinator. "We selected Rocio because not only is she an A student she is also very involved in her community and holds several leadership positions at her school," added Ayala.

Rocio, an eleventh grader from Dallas, Texas, is only seventeen years old and yet she has already accomplished a great deal in her life. A first generation Mexican-American, Rocio was born in Dallas with both of her parents originally from Mexico. Rocio is the president of LULAC Youth Council 1026 and in this role she has been able to become very involved in her community. For example, she and her LULAC council recently volunteered for the Dallas Latino Wellness Fest where she worked to make this event a success. In addition, she encouraged LULAC youth members to participate with her in the Viva Dallas Hispanic Expo where they spent the day volunteering as face painters for children. "I feel I have gained a great deal of leadership skills by being involved in LULAC," said Rocio.

Rocio, Continued on page 19.

Arizona LULAC Youth and Young Adults First Statewide Conference



Arizona's rapidly growing youth membership, which now exceeds 400, conducted a statewide conference entitled "I AM GOING TO COLLEGE" in Avondale, Arizona. One hundred and twenty LULAC youth and young adult members (mainly juniors and seniors from high school) from across the state attended the one day event. LULAC National Vice President for Young Adults Dr. Juan Garcia, Dr. Santos Vega, Lydia Guzman and Dr. John Arnold, President of Council 1088, were presenters. Most of the students who attended were from PPEP TEC Charter High Schools and from migrant and seasonal farmworker families. The purpose of the conference which was covered by Telemundo and the local Hispanic media got out the message to our Latino youth "Stay in School, Graduate, and go to College!"

New LULAC Young Adult Council in Arkansas

A LULAC Young Adult council was recently formed at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas this past September. The Latino population is rapidly growing in Arkansas. Accordingly, the Young Adult Council at the university and the LULAC Northwest Arkansas district are ready to work to bring cultural awareness and educational programs to the community.

Texas Boot Camp



Recently, the Texas State Young Adults and Youth from the Houston area attended a LULAC Boot Camp coordinated by Sandra Salinas, LULAC Young Adult State Deputy Director and hosted by The University of St. Thomas Young Adults and President Elizabeth Perez. The students had a full day of LULAC training to prepare them to become tomorrow's leaders.

Arizona LULAC Youth Greet President Vicente Fox in Arizona



On November 4 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, some 100 rural/farmworker LULAC Youth and Young Adult councils traveled from all over Arizona to see the President of Mexico. PPEP TEC Charter High Schools provided the school buses for transportation and meals for the youth. Our youth were interviewed by Telemundo after the event for their enthusiastic reactions to this historic event.

VHA1/2 AD

“Semana de la Hispanidad” in Puerto Rico



A teacher conference was organized by LNEsc of Puerto Rico during “Semana de la Hispanidad.” Here National VP for the Southeast Haydée Rivera (second from the right) presents a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Romero of the Venezuelan Consulate for his support.

ULAC and LNEsc of Puerto Rico organized a celebration called “Semana de la Hispanidad” in October. The week-long event commemorates Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the Americas and the various Hispanic cultures in Latin America. One of the main events during the week was a folkloric dance. Students from a local art and theater class performed dances from several Latin American countries. Some students also participated in a competition for the most authentic Latin American costume. Costumes were seen from various Latin American countries. Over 400 people from the community attended these inspiring events.

A Christmas Carol

Noche de paz, noche de amor,
todo duerme alrededor,
y entre los astros que
esparcen su luz,
van anunciando al Niñito
Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de amor.
Ya es Navidad,
fiesta de fé, de esperanza
y caridad,
y entre los astros que
espracen su luz,
van anunciando al Niñito
Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de amor.

National LULAC Women Gear Up for New Year



Mark Your CALENDAR!!

LULAC National Women's Conference "Latinas: Building a Strong Foundation for the Future" El Paso, Texas • April 2-3, 2004

In 2004, LULAC women will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the organization and commemorating Latinas in the civil rights movement at our National Women's Conference being held at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

A special invitation for keynote speaker has been extended to
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)

We invite you to participate in this historical conference
and support our efforts.

- Outstanding Speakers
- Dynamic Panelists
- Workshops

Conference Headquarters
University of Texas at El Paso
500 West University Avenue
El Paso, TX 79968

Hilton Camino Real
101 South El Paso Street
(915) 534-3000

Rates: \$80.00 Single/ \$95.00 Double
For further information: 1-866-577-0726

LULAC Women's Hall of Fame

LULAC would like to keep track of the many women who have been inducted into the LULAC Women's Hall of Fame. If you or someone you know has been inducted, please send the name of the person, the year they were inducted, and her contact information to Christine Bobadilla at cbobadilla@lulac.org or call 214-219-2133.



Council 754 Co-Secretary Vicky Stallion, Past National President Belen Robles, Arkansas Deputy Director for Women's Affairs Ana Hart, National Fiscal Officer Carolina Muñoz, and LULAC National Vice President for Women Vera Marquez during a meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas regarding the upcoming Women's Conference.

LULAC National Women's Commission

The LULAC National Women's Commission, created in 1992, is being re-activated by Vera Marquez, National Vice President for Women, who will serve as chair of the committee, and will include presidential appointees: National VP for the Southwest Rosa Rosales of Texas, Immediate Past VP for the Southeast Elsie Valdes of Puerto Rico, and Arkansas Deputy Director for Women's Affairs Ana Hart.

The Commission will join forces with their LULAC sisters nationwide to address the needs of Hispanic women and to promote awareness of issues critical to this population. In addition, the Commission will work to energize Hispanic women through several activities including the Women's Luncheon held annually during the national convention. The Commission will also continue to document women's contributions to LULAC and recognize outstanding women through the National Women's Hall of Fame. Finally, the commission will work to develop new initiatives to educate ourselves and empower others.

Honor a Woman Today

LULAC is giving its members the opportunity to honor their mothers, wives, or any woman they feel should be recognized. If you are interested in honoring a special woman please donate a minimum of \$5.00 to the National Women's Commission Fund and indicate the name of the woman you want to honor. Please make your check payable to the LULAC Institute. In the memo line, please write National Women's Commission Fund. Checks and credit cards will be accepted. Your contribution should be sent directly to: Carolina Muñoz, National Fiscal Officer, LULAC Fiscal Office, 201 East Main, Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79901. Should you have any questions, please call at 1-866-577-0726.



LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the the Office of Governmental Affairs Ruben Barrales, LULAC Vice President for the Southeast Haydée Rivera and LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez during their meeting this past October.

the economy and social development of the nation; without them we cannot move forward,” explained Hector Flores during a press conference in the Capitol building following the rally. Areas where LULAC would like to see specific reform include: earned adjustment for immigrants currently working in the United States; legal channels for the future flow of immigrant workers; and a reduction in the vast backlogs in family-sponsored immigration. “These reforms would not only be significant to the Latino community but also to the immigrant community as a whole. We all come from other places and we contribute to the well-being of the nation. Even though we have faced challenges and difficulties we have also demonstrated that we can successfully reach the American dream. With our hard labor, our intelligence and our love of democracy we also demonstrate that we are an integral part of the American community,” added Flores.

President Flores also gave a speech before the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) conference that day. AFOP advocates on behalf of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States. “I applaud AFOP’s efforts to ensure that

farm workers have access to programs for housing, job training and immigrant youth,” said Flores. “I am, however, particularly concerned that President Bush is in danger of ignoring the needs of the farmworker including the high unemployment rate and the educational needs of our children. More specifically, with the economic downturn Hispanics seem to be one of the hardest hit groups in the country. Every day that President Bush fails to address the needs of the Latino community he risks losing the Latino vote,” concluded Flores.

The board members took their visit to Washington, D.C., as another opportunity to directly address government agency leaders about issues that concern LULAC and the Hispanic population in general. The board separated into groups and visited with high ranking officials from the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Small Business Administration, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

For example, at the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, LULAC board members met with Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. The board members emphasized the need to improve the status of Puerto Rico in a variety of ways, including seeing that Puerto Rico’s issues receive more attention from the Bush administration.

At the Department of Justice

(DOJ), LULAC board members met with Attorney General John Ashcroft and the heads of the Civil Rights Division, the Voting Rights Section, and the Police and Procedures Department. The board members raised their concerns about the redistricting issue in Texas along with the vigilante problem in Arizona. General Ashcroft made a commitment to de-politicize the redistricting issue as much as possible and called on his staff to research the vigilante problem in further detail. Recently, the head of the Civil Rights Division Alejandro Acosta met with LULAC General Counsel Luis Vera, LULAC National Vice President for the Southwest Rosa Rosales, LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez, LULAC Texas State Director for the Elderly Angie Garcia, and redistricting expert Dr. Charles Cotel in San Antonio, Texas, to follow up on these issues. LULAC expects to continue direct dialogue with the heads of the DOJ in the future to address issues that continue to affect the Hispanic community.

The LULAC national board members intend to continue communicating with the cabinet leaders of these agencies in order to press issues of critical importance to the Hispanic community.



LULAC National President Hector Flores and his wife Tula Flores lead a large group of LULAC board members and WYS students in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride rally in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Luis

Nuño Briones)

Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free

Contributed by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, Office of National Drug Control Policy

Today, forty percent of U.S. teens say they expect to use a drug in the future. One out of every five kids in eighth grade has already tried marijuana. Parents can help to stop this dismal trend. Believe it or not, the best way to prevent your children from using drugs is by setting a good example yourselves.

You Can Influence Your Child's Behavior:

Kids who learn about the risks of drug abuse from their parents or caregivers are less likely to use drugs than kids who do not. How much less likely? Kids are about 36 percent less likely to smoke marijuana, 50 percent less likely to use inhalants, 56 percent less likely to use cocaine and 65 percent less likely to use LSD.

You Are Your Child's Most Important Role Model

Kids pay attention not only to what you say, but also what you do. Consider your own use of tobacco and alcohol, because kids notice your actions. "Most kids don't want to disappoint their families," according to Dr. Amelie Ramirez, Ph.D., a doctor of public health and a drug-prevention specialist. "Parents who send a clear message of 'no drug use' are setting expectations for their kids, and this will help their kids stay away from drugs."

Although the drugs have changed over time, alcohol is still the most widely used substance among teens in America, followed by tobacco and marijuana. Kids also still sniff glue to get high, but now they also sniff household products such as spray paints and aerosol sprays, shoe polish, gasoline, and lighter fluid. Take heart though, two-thirds of kids say that losing their parents' respect and pride is one of the main reasons they don't smoke marijuana or use other drugs. *Your words and actions matter!*

Drug Facts

The physical effects of inhalants can include hearing loss, limb spasms, damage to the central nervous system, brain, bone marrow, liver, and kidneys.

Club drugs such as ecstasy can lead to depression, drug cravings, paranoia (and in some cases, psychotic episodes), blurred vision and dangerous increases in heart rate and blood pressure.

Teens who learn anti-drug messages at home are 42 percent less likely to use drugs.

Remember: Conflict sometimes comes with the job of parenting especially when you're talking about touchy subjects such as drug use. Experts say that to create an environment that combines talking with action, you should:

- Know what your children are doing including their activities and how they spend their time.
- Be involved in your kids' lives.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- Set limits with clear rules and consequences for breaking them.

Of course, your kids might not like your keeping tabs on where they are and what they're doing. It won't be a democracy, and it shouldn't be, according to many parent experts. In the end, it's not pestering, it's parenting.

Questions: The Anti-Drug *Ask Who, What, When and Where*

Here are other ways to know what your child is up to:

- Know where your child is when he or she is away from home. Have your kids check in with you regularly. Give them coins, a phone card, a beeper or cell phone with rules.

- Make a list of her activities for the coming day and put it on the fridge, on a calendar or in your wallet or pocketbook.

- Walk through your neighborhood and note where kids your child's age hang out.

- Know your child's friends. Have a small party at your house and invite the parents of his friends. Have his friends stay for dinner. Ask them about their parents. Make a point of meeting your child's friends' parents – find them at a PTA meeting, soccer practice, dance rehearsal or whenever the kids hang out.

- Work with other parents to get a list of everyone's address, e-mails, and phone numbers so you can keep in touch with your child.

- Show up a little early to pick up your child so you can observe her behavior.

- Occasionally check to see that your kids are where they say they're going to be.

Lots of kids get in trouble with drugs right after school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Try to be with your kids then, but if you can't, make sure your child is doing something positive with an adult around: sports, jobs, clubs, after-school programs or religious youth groups. If your kids have to be at home, make sure they are doing homework or chores and *not* hanging out with friends.

Signs and Symptoms

Many parents find it difficult to spot signs of drug use. If you suspect your child is using drugs or want to know what the signs of drug use are contact your child's school counselor, family physician or pediatrician or call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 1-800-788-2800 or see www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov.

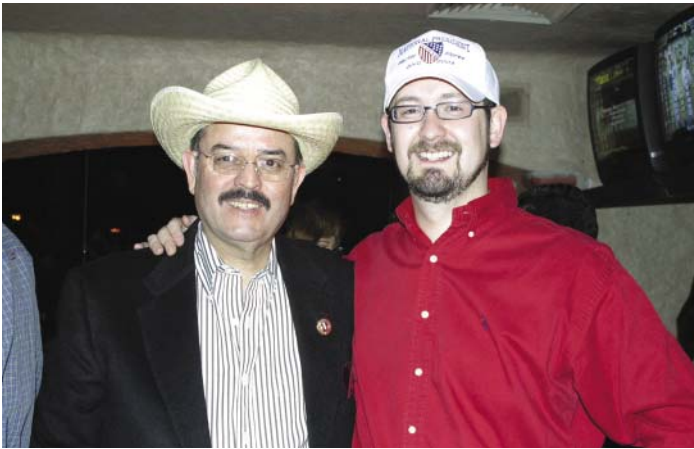
For More Information:

For more information please visit the website www.mediacampaign.org and for information in Spanish click on "Proteja a sus hijos de las drogas."

HISPANIC LEADERSHIP

Leading the Way

Mexican Diplomat Credits LULAC for His Success



LULAC National President Hector Flores with Salvador Cicero in Mexico City last February.

(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Salvador Cicero was very excited to learn that LULAC would hold a board meeting in Mexico last spring. He counted it a great honor to be in charge of coordinating the visit since he credits LULAC for much of his success. Salvador, a past recipient of a LULAC scholarship and young LULAC leader, today serves as the Worldwide Director for Political and Community Affairs at the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, a branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico. In this capacity he oversees Mexico's relations with Latino organizations in the United States.

Salvador was born in San Francisco, California, but grew up in Mexico City. He and his family came back to the United States in 1987, when his mother was transferred to New Mexico to work at the Mexican Consulate. His first experience with LULAC was in high school, when he was recruited by the LNES in Albuquerque for the Youth Leadership Development Program. Salvador always remembers LULAC members Frances Gándara and Blasa Muñoz who introduced him to LULAC and served as role models to him. During this time, he and other students, under the tutelage of Max Martínez, founded LULAC Youth Council 990 and Salvador served as its first president.

Salvador attended the University of New Mexico. He was elected LULAC Youth Vice-President in 1989 and also served as Youth

National Director of Publicity in 1990. Thereafter, he received his law degree from the Ohio State University in 1998. Upon graduation he joined the Mexican Foreign Service and served as Chief for Legal Affairs at the Consulate General of Mexico. In 2001,

he was promoted to Director and transferred to Mexico City. Recently, he was promoted again to the rank of Second Secretary in the Career Foreign Service of Mexico.

As Chief of Legal Affairs Salvador worked on the consular notification and access system in the Midwest and administered consular involvement in homicide cases of Mexican nationals in the Midwestern states. In addition he worked on cases involving Mexican children. It was in this area that he began to work very closely with LULAC sister organization MALDEF. With MALDEF's assistance he headed the Negotiation for the drafting and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago. During his tenure in Chicago, he developed a great working relationship and friendship with LULAC V.P. for the Midwest, Blanca Vargas.

All of these experiences, he says, have helped him in his career as a Mexican diplomat, particularly because he places great value on Mexican Americans and their relationship with Mexico. He believes that Mexican Americans are natural allies of Mexico and have a strategic advantage in protecting Mexican immigrants because they often serve as a bridge with other Americans. With the creation of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, he hopes to see more interaction between LULAC and other leading Latino groups and the Mexican government, and is committed to making this goal a reality.

Salvador is still very proud of his involve-

ment with LULAC and because he received so much from LULAC as a young person he has always tried to serve as a role model to young Latinos. He hopes he can make a difference in young people's lives the way LULAC has in his life. He says the self-confidence that LULAC gave him helped him succeed in school and achieve his goals.

Puerto Rico Loses Activist: Luis A. Ferre

Tuesday, October 21, 2003, was a sad day for many Puerto Ricans who lost a dear friend Luis A. Ferre. The late Ferre had many accomplishments but was probably most known as the founder of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party in 1967. Mr. Ferre was also a member of the assembly that produced Puerto Rico's 1952 constitution and was governor from 1969 through 1972.

As a leader of the pro-statehood movement he testified before U.S. congressional panels in favor of statehood and participated in politics including presidential nominating conventions. Mr. Ferre served as chairman of the island's branch of the Republican Party and served as Puerto Rico's Senate president from 1977-80.

Originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mr. Ferre was born on February 17, 1904. His grandfather was a French engineer who worked on the Panama Canal before settling in Cuba. His father moved to Puerto Rico as a young man. Ferre studied engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and trained at the New England Conservatory of Music and became an accomplished classical pianist. Ferre and his brother started the Puerto Rico Cement Co. Ferre was a very generous philanthropist who founded the city's library and opened the Ponce Museum of Art. He later bought a newspaper which later became known as El Nuevo Dia, the largest daily in Puerto Rico with a circulation of about 200,000. He is survived by two children: Antonio, and Rosario Ferre.

LULAC Washington Youth Leadership



Washington Youth Leadership Seminar participants during a visit to Capitol Hill. (Photo by Paul Velazquez.)

Immigration reform should consider the history of our country, the values of our society and our people. It should recognize the need to bring new people with new ideas and energy,” wrote Ralph Barcelo, a junior at Hales Franciscan High School in Chicago, Illinois, and participant in this year’s LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYS). Though not the topic on the minds of most junior and senior high school students around the country, immigration reform was certainly on the minds of the 43 students who attended the Nineteenth Annual LULAC WYS.

This year’s seminar, *Immigration Reform: The Road to Freedom*, brought young student leaders from twenty-eight areas and seven states around the country and Puerto Rico together in Washington, D.C., to work on a platform for immigration reform. Working

with LNESC’s Linda Ayala, Program Coordinator and Charles Tamez, Director of Development, as well as Brent Wilkes, LULAC Executive Director, the students developed a strong pro-immigration platform that advocated several key pieces of reform. Included in the platform was strong support for the DREAM Act and the Student Adjustment Act. “The DREAM Act is important because undocumented children are here by no choice of their own,” said Andrew Daehne, a participant from Corpus Christi, Texas, who spoke before the group. “It is important for these students to be given a helping hand because by assisting them we will help our nation in the long run,” added Daehne. Additionally, students advocated for long-term solutions to immigration issues including developing a program of economic nation building for the Americas, meeting the needs

of undocumented children and repealing the Patriot Act.



WYS participants during a tour of Washington, D.C. (Photo by Paul Velazquez.)

Seminar Brings Youth to Washington, D.C.



WYS participants, Andrew Daehne and Pamela Torres, spoke during a press conference held on capitol hill. (Photo by Paul Velazquez.)

Augmenting their visit to Capitol Hill, where some students met with their congressional representatives, seminar participants were also able to tour the Capitol building and the Pentagon. One of this year's highlights was the students' active involvement in the national Freedom Ride Immigration rally, which brought together over a thousand people on the steps of the Capitol where they demanded positive immigration reform. During the rally, students were addressed by key players in the immigration reform movement including Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President.



WYS participants walking to the next WYS event in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Paul Velazquez.)

During their stay, which was closely supervised by LNESC staff from around the country, students visited the National Mall, the Washington Monument, museums at the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials. Reflective of the Hispanic population as a whole, participants in the Seminar come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and are sponsored by LULAC Councils. This year 38 LULAC councils participated. After participation in the program, students return to their home communities more confident in their role as student leaders.

"The power of the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar to influence the Hispanic community's next generation of leaders is immense," said Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director. "Without the participation of our corporate sponsors Shell Oil Company, the Coca Cola Company, the Pinnacle West Capital Corporation and the United States Army this endeavor would not be able to make the impact that it does."

Rocio, continued from page 12.

Rocio's community service is not limited to LULAC, however. She makes time to serve others in her school as well. Every week Rocio tutors fellow special education students in her school. In addition, she volunteers two hours a week for a College for Texans Campaign center where she helps students and parents obtain information on colleges and scholarships.

But that's not all, this young lady continues to fill her résumé with other impressionable achievements. Rocio serves as junior class president and is a member of the National Honor Society and student council. In addition, Rocio has found time to participate in an activity that allows her the opportunity to get in touch with her traditional roots. Rocio is enrolled in a Ballet Folklórico class. "I am thankful to have the opportunity to perform Mexican dances. This activity has given me a new appreciation of my roots and a stronger sense of my Mexican-American identity," said Rocio.

Rocio plans to apply to college soon. "My goal is to become a counselor and teacher and eventually a motivational speaker."

LULAC News (LN): What did you learn from the WYS program?

Rocio: *I learned many facts about immigration issues affecting our nation.*

LN: If you could meet anyone who would it be and why?

Rocio: *I would like to meet Martha Sahagún, Mexico's first lady, because she is one of the few first ladies in Mexican history that has tried to make a difference in her country.*

LN: What do you feel is one of the most important issues Latino youth face today?

Rocio: *Most Latino youth born in the United States lack a sense of identity, not knowing what culture to follow, their parent's culture or the culture they were taught in school.*

LN: If you had only one minute to speak with your member of Congress, what would you say?

Rocio: *Please work to improve our schools and remedy the unfair treatment of minorities.*

LN: How can LULAC work to recruit more youth?

Rocio: *LULAC should work to appeal to teenagers through television and radio.*

LN: Tell us a little about your family.

Rocio: *I have two younger sisters and a little brother. My parents and siblings support me in every way. We are very close and interdependent.*

LN: What has been your favorite LULAC memory?

Rocio: *The LULAC National Convention in Orlando this past summer.*

Rocio would like to thank Roberto Rodriguez, President of LULAC Young Adult Council 4759, and the members of the council for helping her attend WYS by raising \$100 and obtaining a complimentary airline ticket from American Airlines.

Managing Your Money

Promoting Financial Literacy with 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 fourth part of the series that discussed the importance of good spending habits. In this issue we will discuss the importance of saving.

The Importance of Saving

Your potential savings is the difference between the amount of your net income and the amount that you spend. Savings and investments can help you to become financially secure and to meet your goals and priorities. Saving and budgets are oftentimes thought of as bad words. They just sound like a pain – a bad homework assignment – keeping us from being free spirited or doing what we want to do. Despite this, we can all think of times when we have had to give up something because it was out of our reach since we didn't have the money saved up.

Savings equals stability and opportunity! The key to being comfortable and maybe even making it big is savings. Savings can allow each of us the opportunity to take advantage of potential investments. Having a savings account in a bank or credit union can help prevent future financial disasters in the event of an unforeseen event or an emergency.

How to Establish a Savings Plan:

Plan to save every month, even if it is only \$30 per month, and deposit the money into a savings account. At this rate, you will have saved \$360 the first year, and after three years, \$1,080. Specify which categories you will make cuts from. For example you can save \$30 a month by cutting entertainment by \$15 and clothing by \$15.

Tips for Saving Money:

- Pay yourself first – by setting aside money for savings
- Use payroll deductions if your employer offers them for savings and retirement
- Collect loose change and deposit it in the bank
- Break a habit – such as smoking
- Save lunch money – bring your lunch

Going (u)p

While some companies are cutting back,

we're staffing up.

If you're looking to make a career in a fast growing, rewarding business, you've come to the right place. GMAC Mortgage is one of the nation's top banking companies, with offices coast to coast. We offer a comprehensive benefits package that provides associates with important protection, as well as access to special savings opportunities, discounts, and other valuable programs. As part of our team, you'll find dedication to retail lending throughout the organization to ensure you have the tools you need to push your career to a new level... up.

For more information call 1-866-908-GMAC, or log on at:
www.gmacmortgage.com/partners/wfd.asp

GMAC Mortgage | Building a Better Future

CreditSmart Español Training Update

We have just completed three *CreditSmart Español* 'Train the Trainer' sessions. In Philadelphia, we trained LNEC staff and were delighted to host Congreso de Latinos Unidos (a Philadelphia CBO). We plan to offer the curriculum to students receiving counseling from LNEC as well as their parents. Thanks to Congreso, LULAC will reach many inner-city Latinos in Philadelphia. Our second training was in Tucson, Arizona. We trained 33 attendees from southern Arizona LULAC, the Tucson based nonprofit PPEP, HACU affiliates at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, as well as a NCLR affiliate Chicanos por la Causa (a Tucson CBO). With this broad base of trainees, we will reach specialized populations such as college students, rural farm workers and other rural poor, and single mothers, in addition to the broad Hispanic constituency LULAC is already accustomed to serving. The third training session was held in Dallas and was hosted by LULAC National President Hector Flores' Council 100. We trained both Dallas and Fort Worth LULAC members as well as hosting several Dallas area Freddie Mac employees.

Our next training session will be held in Los Angeles. Due to the tremendous response this program has received from LULAC, Freddie Mac is working with LULAC to add additional areas for early 2004. Lastly, LULAC has partnered with the Consumer Federation of America to bring their program *America Saves* to the communities we train with *CreditSmart Español*. This exciting program is aimed to promote healthy spending habits and help our people accumulate their own wealth. For more information contact Miguel Fernandez at 202-833-6130 or email him at MFernandez@LULAC.org

NEA AD

Social Security and Hispanics

Written by Laurel Beedon and Ke Bin Wu from the AARP Public Policy Institute

Social Security provides protections for workers and their families should the breadwinner retire, become disabled, or die. Some assert that while Hispanics and African Americans bear a large portion of the cost of the program, they will receive little in benefits. What benefits do Hispanic workers and their families receive from Social Security? Here are the facts.

Social Security's progressive benefit formula protects low- and moderate-wage earners.

- Hispanics and African Americans make up a disproportionately large segment of workers earning low and moderate wages. Social Security's benefit formula ensures that lower-wage workers and their families receive a higher return relative to their contributions than higher-wage workers.
- Social Security replaces approximately 56 percent of a worker's lifetime average earnings for low-wage workers, 42 percent for average-wage workers and 35 percent for high-wage workers.

Hispanics are growing as a portion of the nation's older population.

In 1997, Hispanics comprised only 4.9 percent of the U.S. population age 65 and older. However, this share is projected to increase significantly. By 2010, older Hispanics are expected to account for 7.2 percent of the older U.S. population, 11.2 percent by 2030 and 17.5 percent by 2050.

More than 75 percent of older Hispanics receive Social Security benefits.

- More people over age 65 receive income from Social Security than any other source. Of Hispanics age 65 and older:
- 77 percent have income from Social Security;
- 15 percent have income from private pensions or annuities; and

- 28 percent have income from assets.

Over three-quarters of older Hispanics rely on Social Security for half or more of their total income.

- Older Hispanics are less likely to have income from private pensions and assets than whites. With less income from these and other sources, the importance of Social Security is increased.
- 76 percent of all Hispanics over age 65 rely on Social Security for 50 percent or more of their total income;
- 48 percent rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their total income; and
- 38 percent rely on Social Security for their total income.
- For older non-married Hispanic men and women Social Security represents an even greater portion of their overall income.
- 83 percent of non-married Hispanic women and 81 percent of non-married Hispanic men over age 65 rely on Social Security for 50 percent or more of their total income.
- 55 percent of women and 53 percent of men rely on Social Security for at least 90 percent of their income.
- 46 percent and 45 percent of these women and men, respectively, rely on Social Security for 100 percent of their income.

Without Social Security, almost 33 percent of older Hispanics would fall into poverty.

Social Security helps keep people age 65 and older out of poverty. This is especially important for older Hispanics whose poverty rate of almost 22 percent is already more than twice that of the general population over age 65.

Social Security protects workers and their families in several important ways.

- Social Security benefits are indexed for inflation and unlike a savings account, cannot be depleted over time.
- Social Security's benefit formula ensures that those who earn lower wages receive proportionally higher benefits relative to their contributions than do higher wage earners.
- Social Security ensures protection not only for workers, but also for families of workers who retire, become disabled or die.

For more information please contact Laurel Beedon at 202-434-3878 or visit the AARP website at www.aarp.org

Member Benefits

American Airlines

American Airlines is offering a special travel discount for LULAC members and their immediate families for up to 5 percent off most fares purchased online at AA.com. To obtain your discount go to AA.com and use promotional code SC325D. This offer is valid through December 31, 2003.

LULAC is working with other companies to obtain more membership benefits in the future.

Preparing to Celebrate 75 Years of Service

LULAC Will Celebrate Diamond Jubilee in San Antonio, Texas



Almost 75 years ago, the founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens formed an organization that would become the largest, oldest and most successful Hispanic civil rights and service organization in the United States. Since our founding, LULAC has developed a tremendous track record of success advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans.

Throughout the year, we are planning a series of events and programs to commemorate this unique milestone, including LULAC Week (February 15-21, 2004), the LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala (March 9, 2004) and the LULAC 75th Anniversary Convention in San Antonio (July 6-11, 2004). We hope that you will be able to participate in all of these important events.

We are calling on all members to increase council participation or form new LULAC councils in their individual areas in the coming year to help ensure that the oldest and largest Hispanic organization of the United States will continue to lead the way for the Hispanic community.

We also are asking that councils send us historical information so that we may compile information and photos that reflects the past 75 years that LULAC has dedicated itself to the Hispanic community. If you have something you'd like to contribute to this effort please mail it to LULAC National, 2000 L Street NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036 or email it to LQuiroga@lulac.org

National Treasurer and His Wife Honored

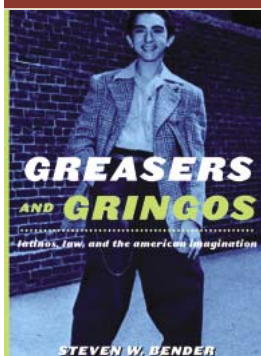


(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Recently, LULAC National Treasurer Frank Ortiz and his wife Cookie were honored by the University of Houston in Clearlake City. The university dedicated

this year's Hispanic Elder scholarship program to them because of their years of leadership with this program and their service to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz have been involved with the scholarship program since its inception eleven years ago. The program conducts an essay contest which requires Hispanic students to write about a Hispanic elder who has made a difference in their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz, who are members of LULAC Council 660, work with their council and the university to select the best essays. The winners of the essay contest receive scholarships from Council 660. This year the council awarded seven scholarship winners who were selected from among ninety applicants. Congratulations to Frank and Cookie for making a real difference in their community!

BOOK REVIEW



Greasers & Gringos: Latinos, Law, & the American Imagination

by Steve Bender

New York University Press, September 2003

Book Review by Charles Tamez, LNESD Director of Development

In his latest book, *Greasers and Gringos*, University of Oregon law professor Steven W. Bender analyzes the role that stereotypes have played in the subordination of Latinos in the United States. Drawing from a variety of popular sources including film, music, television and the press, Bender scrutinizes the array of stereotypes held about Latinos and Latinas by Anglos and other ethnic and racial groups in the United States. In an easily accessible tone, Bender studies the evolution and perpetuation of these stereotypes and the role they have played in the unfair treatment of Latinos especially under the American legal system. Through careful examination of popular sources and the historic record, Bender pays particular attention to how these dehumanizing constructions have influenced the treatment of Latinos in the legal arena by police, prosecutors and juries; the housing sector by landlords and corporations; in education by school boards; policies against bilingual education and immigrant education and by teachers; in the workplace by employers; and in everyday life by vigilantes. He also shows how through the internalization of some of the negative stereotypes Latinos have come to view themselves with limited potential. An important work for social change, *Greasers and Gringos* begins the process necessary for debunking the variety of negative social images that are held by others about Latinos in the United States. Though he seeks to create a platform where all Americans are social equals, he does not hold the Latino population and their views of Anglos up to the same microscope that he uses to analyze the reverse. Until that happens, and we confront our own stereotypes, real progress toward social equality will be difficult to realize.



LULAC President Hector Flores (front right) with the various attorneys and other leaders involved in the redistricting case in Texas. Recently, they met with U.S. Department of Justice officials to make a case for reconsidering the redistricting of Texas.



(L-R) LULAC President Hector Flores with one of the scholarship recipients during the MATI Award Scholarship Gala and LULAC State Secretary Pro Tem Matilda "Mati" Garcia in Tampa, Florida.

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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