

Save the Date! 75th National Convention in San Antonio, July 6-11, 2004

LULACnews

May / June 2004

Looking Forward to



More Years of Service

"American Family" Returns to TV

**Myths and Realities about
No Child Left Behind**

Immigration Reform

**Seventh Annual LULAC National
Legislative Awards Gala Highlights**



LULAC Profiles Rosa Rosales

March | April 2004

Contents

Letter from National President	3
Feature Article	3
Calendar	5
News from Around the League.....	6
Presidential Forum.....	8
Education Update	8
Policy and Legislation	10
LULAC Profile	12
Youth Corner.....	14
Legislative Awards Gala.....	20
Women's Corner	22
Managing Your Money	24
75th Anniversary Personalities	26
American Family Returns to TV	28
Health Corner	30



LULAC Youth at the Cesar Chavez March in San Antonio, Texas. Approximately 8,000 people participated in this year's march.

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 Mullaly

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

Dave Rodriguez

VP for Far West

Blanca Vargas

VP for Midwest

Laura Medrano

VP for Northeast

Haydée Rivera

VP for Southeast

Rosa Rosales

VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS

Samuel Esquivel

Arizona

Robert 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

Rodrigo Bonilla

Kansas

Regla Gonzalez

Massachusetts

Augustin Sanchez

Michigan

Tencha Vasquez Wilcox

Missouri

Nicolas Martinez

Nevada

Frank Córdova

New Mexico

Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente

New York

Carlos Romero Barceló

Puerto Rico

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,

This year marks LULAC's 75th anniversary commemorating our organization's long, rich history of making a difference in the Hispanic community. With this celebration comes great pride, hope, and responsibility. Since its founding day 75 years ago, LULAC has worked to bring optimism to Hispanics throughout this country. As we reflect back on our past, let us remember that LULAC has a serious part to play in our tomorrow and we all need to be actively involved in order for us to be successful. We, as LULAC members, serve as role models in the defense of Hispanic civil rights and we must see to it that change sincerely occurs in our communities. Furthermore, we must work to ensure that each new generation will

have educational opportunities that will make them more efficient and capable citizens.

On the legislative front, LULAC was pleased to see that the Bush Administration is finally reengaging in immigration reform. Although the Bush proposal is a step in the right direction, it falls short of what we find to be an acceptable solution for undocumented workers. Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) have also proposed legislation but it is clear that there is still much work to be done. Furthermore, there are other proposals on the table that would include a pathway to citizenship which would move LULAC's agenda forward. Let us keep our eyes open and our voices heard as this process plays out in Congress.

As the war in Iraq continues, our LULAC Code states, "[I]n war serve your country, in peace your convictions." Recently, however, questions have been raised considering the legitimacy of the evidence which lead us into war. Thankfully, President Bush has agreed to hold an investigation. During this time we must keep close watch to make sure that this investigation is truly independent and fair so that we may hold accountable those responsible for any errors. It is vital that we ensure our government always acts responsibly in both war and peace. Moreover, we must live up to our code.

Aside from LULAC's ongoing battles, this year we have the added responsibility of getting out the vote in our communities. LULAC is currently launching the LULAC Democracy Initiative – a voter education and registration project. Now more than ever, the Latino vote matters and we must take this opportunity to make our voices heard. This means that each and every one of us must work to see that Latinos in our communities vote.

On a different note, this year's LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala on March 9 was another huge success with special emphasis on our 75th anniversary. During the Gala we honored Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs Ruben Barrales, and Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA). This year's emcee was Univision news anchor Edna Schmidt.

Finally, don't forget to register for this year's 75th Anniversary National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. This is the LULAC event you won't want to miss as we expect it to be our best convention yet. ¡Que viva LULAC, que viva 75 años mas!

Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President

LULAC Celebrates 75 Years of Service

Commemorating the Past and
Looking Toward the Future

By Elizabeth Roldan, LULAC intern

LULAC is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and as we celebrate our past, we look forward to another 75 successful years of LULAC. The 2000 U.S. census estimated the Latino population at 38.3 million, making us the largest minority group in the country. Since Latinos are also the fastest-growing minority our role has become even more important in 2004. As the oldest leading Latino civil rights organization, LULAC continues to seek the socio-political advancement of the Latino population. While much progress has been made, there are still many issues that remain important to the Latino community. Issues such as education, labor, and health care are all serious concerns for the Latino community.

Education

The voucher program poses a threat to public education, where most of our children receive their education. LULAC believes that taking funds away from public schools will only result in serious damage to the public education system. Voucher programs have not proven themselves sufficiently able to solve the educational problems that public schools face. LULAC believes that vouchers will compromise both the strength of public schools and any hope of improving the public school system where Latinos are highly represented. LULAC hopes that vouchers will become an issue of the past in 2004.

Last year, LULAC hailed the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. The court upheld the University of Michigan law school's affirmative action policy. We are pleased that the Supreme Court recognizes the importance of a diverse student body and the need to remedy past discriminatory practices. In *Gratz v. Bollinger*, however, the justices struck down the affirmative action policy for undergraduate admissions, which awards 20 points for blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans on an admissions rating scale. This issue is crucial to the Latino population because

LULAC Celebrates, continued on page 4.

FEATURE STORY

LULAC Celebrates, continued from page 3.



Elizabeth Roldan, the author of this article, is of Puerto Rican descent and studies political science at SUNY Binghamton. Elizabeth will attend Georgetown graduate school and study communications with a focus on Latino issues starting this fall.

only 32% of Latinos enroll in college. Of that number, only 16% of Latinos graduate with a bachelor's degree. LULAC hopes to see more affirmative action programs in the future until we finally have a level playing field.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) may have negative ramifications for students. While the Act raises requirements for students and teachers, there has not been an increase in funding from federal resources to meet these challenges. In order for NCLB to be successful, either adequate funding must be included or significant changes must be made.

Immigration

Currently, a series of proposed legislation that would affect immigration awaits hearing on issues. The CLEAR Act, for example, proposes to enlist state and local police officers to assist in the enforcement of civil immigration laws. LULAC is concerned that the CLEAR Act would overextend local law enforcement personnel and resources. This 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, criminal or not. The CLEAR Act would create an environment of distrust in our communities because police departments would have a difficult time gaining the confidence of immigrants and their families, as well as those who simply look or seem like

immigrants.

While we are happy to see President Bush reengaging in immigration reform, his recent immigration proposal fails to provide an adequate avenue for undocumented workers to become permanent legal residents. Without earned legalization, the proposal is merely a guest worker program that does not fulfill the desire of many immigrants to become full citizens of the U.S. Rather, this proposal requires such immigrants to stay in a temporary worker status that only values their labor, not their loyalty to our country. As a sign of good faith, President Bush should announce his support for legislation that would make a real difference for immigrants.

On the other hand, a proposal introduced by Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) seems to be more favorable to LULAC. This proposal would allow illegal immigrants and their families to become permanent residents and eventually citizens if they meet six requirements. LULAC finds that the Daschle-Hagel proposal is better than Bush's proposal because it offers permanent residency which can lead to citizenship, whereas Bush's proposal has no automatic path to permanent residency and immigrants must return home after their visas expire.

LULAC strongly supports the DREAM Act because it would be an investment in America's future. This act would allow U.S.-raised undocumented immigrant children the opportunity to pay in-state college tuition as well as provide them with the prospect of regularizing their immigration status. The passage of the DREAM Act will increase the educational attainment among Latinos in the U.S., and in turn our nation's economy will thrive. A more educated workforce can only help our nation in the long run.

The Patriot Act continues to restrict our civil rights with the recent addition of Act II. The Patriot Act has increased restrictions on all immigrants and has added fear and distrust in neighborhoods across the country. The domestic security of our nation is critical, but so is the safeguarding of our nation's Bill of Rights and the Constitution. We hope to see these acts reformed as soon as possible.

Voting Issues

LULAC is disappointed by the decision to uphold the blatantly retrogressive and discriminatory Texas redistricting plan. As a result, the Voting Rights Act has effectively been eliminated by political ideologues in Texas. We intend to make sure that this decision is planted firmly in the memories of Latinos as they go to the polls over the coming year. Politicians must learn that they cannot reach out to Latino voters with one hand and simultaneously undermine their votes with the other.

LULAC is excited to launch the Latino Vote 2004 Coordinated Campaign. LULAC plans to coordinate an aggressive campaign to convince Latinos of the need to register, vote, and participate in the electoral process. This campaign started in response to the lack of unregistered Latino voters and elected officials. This will improve Hispanic political engagement through advocacy and complement LULAC's ongoing support of the democratic process and the American way of life. LULAC wants to educate Latinos to understand that there is a strong connection between public policy and voting and to realize that in a representative democracy, the authority and power of government is placed in the hands of those we elect. Elected officials in turn must assure that public policy is deliberated and crafted through a process that is truly democratic, accessible and inclusive. Latinos must be counted and use their political power.

As the 2004 Presidential election intensifies, we hope that the candidates carefully review issues that are important to the Latino community. Our political participation can improve the quality of life for Latinos. It is important to note that we are walking a thin line between being exploited for political gain and becoming agents of our own political destiny. Therefore, it is crucial that Latinos vote so that our political voice may be heard and our assimilation can progress.

LULAC has made tremendous strides for the Latino population, however, there are still many struggles facing LULAC as we try to improve the quality of life for Hispanics. Let us work together as members of the oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization to make a real difference in our communities, families, and country.

Preparing to Celebrate 75 Years of Service

LULAC Will Celebrate Diamond Jubilee in San Antonio, Texas



The First Illinois LULAC State Convention.

(Photo courtesy of Aurelio Barrios.)

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 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 reflect 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

LULAC Calendar

■ California State Convention

WHEN: May 20-23, 2004

WHERE: Concord, CA

Concord Sheraton

925-825-7700

CONTACT: Mickie Luna at

831-637-134 or Angel Lueva-

no at 925-437-6363 or visit

www.californialulac.org

■ Arizona State Convention

WHEN: May 21-23, 2004

WHERE: Phoenix, AZ

Black Canyon Conference

Center

CONTACT: Veronica De LaO at

623-217-4485 or

delaoaz@yahoo.com or Bertie

Vargas at 480-551-3291

■ Florida State Convention

WHEN: May 21-23, 2004

WHERE: Tampa, FL

Wyndham Harbour Island

813-229-5000

CONTACT: Anita de Palma at

727-446-0272

Midwest VP Spoke at Latino Leadership Conference in Nebraska



LULAC Midwest VP Blanca Vargas; Jose Luis Cuevas, Consul General of Mexico in Omaha, NE; and Eva Serenil, Liaison to Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). (Photo courtesy of Blanca Vargas.)

LULAC Midwest V.P. Blanca Vargas was invited to speak at the Heartland Latino Leadership Conference in Omaha, Nebraska about LULAC's role, especially its current activities in civil rights. In attendance were more than 500 business representatives, health care providers, academics, social service workers, police officers and other career people, almost all of them Latino. Blanca expects to form two more LULAC councils in Nebraska as a result of the contacts she made from this visit.

■ Colorado State Convention

WHERE: Denver, CO

WHEN: May 22, 2004

CONTACT: Angelina Najjar at

719-542-9074

■ Arkansas State Convention

WHEN: May 28-29, 2004

WHERE: N. Little Rock, AR

Wyndham Riverfront

501-371-9000

CONTACT: Robert Treviño

501-682-3617

■ Massachusetts State Convention

WHEN: May 29, 2004 at 2pm

WHERE: Boston, MA

Oficina Hispana de la Comunidad

CONTACT: Regla Gonzales

at 617-327-6760 or

reglag@aol.com or visit

www.lulacboston.org

■ Illinois State Convention

WHEN: May 29, 2004

WHERE: Cicero, IL

Morton East High School

CONTACT: Gilberto Romero at

630-896-1310 or Blanca Var-

gas at 708-228-4153

■ Texas State Convention

WHEN: June 3-6, 2004

WHERE: Arlington, TX

Wyndham Arlington DFW South Hotel

817-261-8200

CONTACT: Texas State Office

at 1-877-TX-LULAC or visit

www.texaslulac.org

■ 75th Annual LULAC

National Convention

WHERE: San Antonio, Texas

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center

WHEN: July 6-11, 2004

For more information see

www.lulac.org or call 202-833-

6130 or 1-866-577-0626

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE

New Jersey Council Serves Growing Latino Population



The above photo was taken during a meeting with key council members of the New Jersey Bayshore Council 11463 in Freehold, NJ. These members met with LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes (right rear) and LULAC Consultant Marcos Rincon (far right) to discuss strategies to increase membership. The Bayshore council was founded two years ago and is avidly working to increase their membership. The founding members include professionals in the health, civic,

legal, and federal government areas. In accordance with the New Jersey 2000 Census, there are over one million Latinos in New Jersey, or about 13.3 % of the state's total population of over 8.4 million. Council 11463's service territory includes a growing Latino population that is currently over 6.2% (38,178) of the

population of Monmouth County. It is the intention of the LULAC Bayshore Council 11463 to unite Latinos in Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties in New Jersey. There are other local organizations of Latinos that operate within the State of New Jersey but they are lacking national Latino organizations. For more information please see their website at www.lulacnj.org, email Luz.Spann@lulacnj.org or call Luz at 732-617-1533.

LNESC Dallas Center Holiday Celebration for Students

On December 17, fifty-two students from several Dallas high schools were honored for the academic achievements they made during the fall of 2003 semester. Students and their families attended a holiday celebration held at the LNESC Dallas center. The center was festively decorated and families received un fuerte abrazo and a hearty Ho! Ho! Ho! from Santa as they entered the center. Each honoree received a Certificate of Recognition and a complete holiday feast and gift bag. The feast included a turkey and all the trimmings along with toys, videos, and gift coupons compliments of our participating partners. The event was hosted by LULAC Council 100 and its partners. Supporting partners included: ExxonMobil, Blockbuster, 7-Eleven, Inc., Tyson's, Coca-Cola, The University of Texas at Arlington's Outreach Services, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and the LNESC Dallas center. Enterprise Rent-a-Car provided financial support,

as well as two chauffeurs to transport the honorees and their families to and from the festivities.

Families enjoyed an assortment of snacks, fruits, and holiday cookies as well as beverages provided courtesy of Coca-Cola. The evening was filled with warmth and esprit-de-corps. Univision KUVN Channel 23 in Dallas covered the event honoring these outstanding students and their families.



Top row: Janey Carpenter, Chris Bobadilla, Robin Alpha, Scott MacDonald, Rodolfo Manzon, Michelle Bobadilla. Middle row: Carmen Zambrano, Helen Cedillo, Ida Gonzalez. Seated: Rachel Flores and Francisco Vargas.

LULAC Helps Hispanics Apply for Citizenship

LULAC Council 100 of Dallas, Texas, recently assisted 300 Hispanics in applying for citizenship to the United States. Kimberly Reyes explained, "The citizen's workshop hosted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Congressman Martin Frost (D-TX) was inspiring and motivating. The immense number of Latinos who attended this event was incredible. In addition, the appreciation the applicants expressed made the event a heart warming event to partake in." Participants also received information regarding LULAC membership. Congratulations to LULAC Council 100 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. Please email to lquiroga@lulac.org or mail to LULAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Attn: LULAC News. All information is subject to editing.

LULAC Partners with Mexican Consulate to Offer Services



LULAC National President Hector Flores, Consul General of Mexico in Arizona Carlos Vizcarra and Council 1088 President Dr. John Arnold.

LULAC PPEP Farmworker Council 1088 and other LULAC councils are working with five Mexican Consulates in Arizona to bring important services to Mexican immigrants living in the region. This program is funded by El Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) and would include passports, matricula consular identification cards, legal, and marriage/divorce services.

This partnership began this past January when LULAC Council 1096 and Youth Council 5008 in Casa Grande, Arizona, invited the Mexican Consulate from Tucson to set up mobile services in Pinal County. The services will begin in March and April for eastern Pinal County and the western region. Council 1088 is planning a similar joint effort in the Santa Cruz valley during the month of February.

Recently, LULAC Council 1088 President Dr. John David Arnold, LULAC National President Hector Flores, and LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes met with the Consul General of Mexico in Arizona Carlos Flores Vizcarra to discuss this new effort in Arizona. During his visit, Mr. Vizcarra took the opportunity to address LULAC councils across the state of Arizona through video conferencing. Mr. Vizcarra spoke about the unique relationship with LULAC and the Mexican Consulate. In addition, he participated in a special tribute to Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez later that day.

LULAC Calls on Cuban Government to Release Prisoners of Conscience



The above photo is of a recent meeting with LULAC Board members and representatives from Cuban organizations in Puerto Rico. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

On March 18, 2003, the Cuban government cracked down on dissent in Cuban civil society when it arrested dozens of non-violent dissidents, independent journalists, human rights activists, librarians, and social scientists. Of those arrested, 75 received sentences ranging from six years to 28 years – with an average sentence of 19 years. The Cuban government had not imposed such harsh sentences on such a large number of people for over two decades.

Those arrested were charged with working for or with the United States government to subvert the Cuban government. The U.S. House of Representatives voted 414-0 on April 8, 2003 to condemn the crackdown and called for the immediate release of the prisoners. LULAC believes that Cuba would be better served by growing civil society participation and that the prisoners should be released immediately, as they are non-violent and do not pose a threat to Cuban society.

The European Union has toughened its common position on Cuba, and Latin American countries have supported resolutions on human rights in Cuba at the United Nations. These actions, however, could be taken a step further. LULAC encourages the democracies of Latin America and Europe to join together with the United States in forging a principled, common strategy to increase tolerance and open political space

in Cuba.

“LULAC has a long history of promoting and defending human rights. We feel that the Cuban government’s actions over the past year have only aggravated the poor conditions and quality of life of average Cuban citizens,” said LULAC National President Hector Flores. “If Latin America and Europe were to join together with the United States and agree to an effective common strategy for defending the rights of the Cuban people, the Cuban government would then be unable to use wedge tactics to divert the eyes of the world away from their human rights failures.”

LULAC Massachusetts State Director Regla Gonzalez has led the effort to bring action on these matters. Recently during a LULAC National Board meeting in Puerto Rico, Regla helped to obtain the board’s support on a petition to promote this cause. During this time, some LULAC board members, including LULAC National President Hector Flores, met with several representatives from Cuban organizations in Puerto Rico on this matter. For more information on this issue or to sign the petition please contact Regla Gonzalez at REGLA@aol.com

Arizona LULAC Hosts Democratic Presidential Forum



Senator John Kerry speaks to thousands at the first LULAC presidential candidates forum on the first ever "Hispanic Tuesday."

The Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens hosted a sold out Democratic presidential candidates forum featuring Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and retired General Wesley Clark in Phoenix on February 2, 2004. The forum drew a standing-room only crowd of more than 1,200 voters and was co-sponsored by the Native American tribe Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the *Arizona Republic* newspaper.

"This forum was not merely a publicity event for presidential candidates..."

The event made history because it brought together Native American and Hispanic communities to question the candidates on issues that are relevant to both constituencies for the first time. "This forum was not merely a publicity event for presidential candidates," said Arizona LULAC State Director Sam Esquivel. "It was a first-time opportunity for Latino and Native American voters to ask substantive questions and to get responses to our top issues."

These primaries marked the first time that two heavily Latino states, Arizona and

New Mexico, have held their primaries so early in the year. The growing strength and strategic importance of the Latino vote in these states has made this day our nation's first "Hispanic Tuesday."

"...it was a first time opportunity for Latino and Native American voters to ask substantive questions and to get responses to our top issues."

Prior to the event, LULAC provided the 2004 LULAC Challenge to the candidates. The LULAC Challenge is a series of questions that focus on issues of importance to the Hispanic community. The purpose of



(L-R) Lisa Urias, Veronica De LaO, Governor Howard Dean, and Arizona LULAC State Director Samuel Esquivel.

the challenge and the forum was to educate the Hispanic and Native American communities about the positions of the candidates on the issues that matter most to them.

"The fact that almost all of the candidates attended the event underscores the importance of the Latino vote in this election," stated Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President. "It is vital that Hispanic voters translate our growing political strength into concrete actions on our priority issues. LULAC is determined to ensure that the road to the White House goes through our barrios."

A copy of the 2004 LULAC Challenge is available on our web site at www.lulac.org



General Wesley Clark greets the crowd.

Hispanic Voting Facts

- 57.3% of eligible Hispanics were registered to vote in the 2000 presidential election*
- 45.1% of eligible Hispanics voted in the 2000 presidential election*
- Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the country and have become the most sought after voting block

Make your voice heard by registering to vote at:
<http://www.democrats.org>
<http://www.gop.com>

* Source: Current Population Survey, 2002, U.S. Census Bureau

The Myths and Realities of "No Child Left Behind"

By Reg Weaver, President, National Education Association



Reg Weaver, President of the National Education Association, gave a moving speech regarding the importance of improving education for minorities during the LULAC National Convention in Orlando last year.

(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

The truth, like oil, always rises to the top. This wise saying comes to mind when I consider the implications of the so-called "No Child Left Behind" law.

This law was passed in your children's name. In their name, Washington pledged its support to improve student achievement. In their name, Washington proclaimed to strengthen public schools. And in their name, Washington promised to close the achievement gap.

"The reality... remains the same—unless we fix this law, our children will continue to be left behind."

The reality, however, remains the same—unless we fix this law, our children will continue to be left behind. The 2.7 million teachers and education support professionals of the National Education Association (NEA) have long and fully supported the goals of the federal education law.

Holding high expectations for all students, closing the achievement gap, and sharing accountability are goals upon which we all agree. It's the culmination of our profes-

sional hopes and aspirations both for our students and us.

But the law, as currently written, is like oil and water: by focusing on what our children need least—more paperwork, more bureaucracy and more standardized tests, the goals of the law and the results of the law just won't mix.

The key selling point of the federal education law is its emphasis on accountability. The law, as it stands today, defines accountability by demanding that all students will be "proficient" in reading, math, and science by 2014.

In other words, this law demands that every child reaches the same level of achievement at the same time, and whether or not students meet this standard—if they are scoring well on tests—is known as annual yearly progress or AYP.

"This law does not consider whether or not a student is proficient in English..."

This law does not consider whether or not a student is proficient in English or even if the school has the resources to provide access to the proper books and other materials. The student is expected to take and pass the exam at grade level—period.

It's a myth to believe that testing alone will improve academic performance and close the achievement gap. If we are truly serious about improving student performance, then we must insist upon what has been proven to work.

First, we need both high standards and common-sense measures of accountability that go beyond a single test score.

Secondly, we need to be serious about giving every child what students in affluent schools already have: smaller class sizes, modern facilities, and up-to-date materials. These things, along with highly qualified teachers and parental involvement, are the ingredients that make up a great public school system.

Quality public education should be every child's civil right, and we should not trade that civil right for gimmicks or gloss. NEA

Polls show that the more voters learn about the real world impact of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the more they believe changes to it must be made.

Research groups like the Harvard Civil Rights Project, elected officials from both sides of the aisle, and growing numbers of key organizations like LULAC and the NAACP can now document how the law's one-size-fits-all provisions prevent teachers from giving every child the individualized tools he or she needs to succeed.

NEA's strategy to improve the law includes working with Congress on corrective legislation, including:

H.R. 2107 - sponsored by Rep. Van Hollen (D-MD) to guarantee full funding for NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

H.R. 3049 - sponsored by Rep. Strickland (D-OH) would improve NCLB testing and progress requirements, including use of more accurate methods to determine the achievement of English Language Learners.

H.R. 3582 - sponsored by Rep. Baldwin (D-WI) would require tutors and other new NCLB-funded education providers to serve all eligible children, including English Language Learners.

S. 1248 - sponsored by Sen. Gregg (R-NH) and Sen. Kennedy (D-MA) would change the "highly qualified" definition under NCLB for special education teachers.

For more information, visit www.nea.org or contact dfigueroa@nea.org

continues to fight for real education reform that will allow the academic performance of all of our children to rise to the top.

POLICY and Legislation

Striking a Balance on Immigration Proposals

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

To the country's surprise, in January President Bush proposed a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with U.S. employers. The president's proposal would be open to both new prospective foreign workers and to those undocumented workers who are currently working in the U.S. His proposal included a set of principles for immigration reform based on enforcement and security: ensuring that there is a steady labor supply, while ensuring that there are enough incentives that the workers will go home after their stay in the United States. Congress was perhaps among those most surprised that the President made his announcement at the beginning of an election year and in the midst of an unstable economy.

The Devil Is in the Details

Although President Bush took an enormous political risk by raising this very important issue, there is still much work to be done. As part of his proposal, the president called for a "reasonable" increase in the number of green cards. Green card holders after five years may elect to become citizens. At this point in time, there are only 140,000 green cards available for distribution annually. The administration estimates that this program will affect all of the 7-8 million undocumented workers currently living in this country, allowing them to regularize their status temporarily. Workers would be able to apply for a three-year period to work as guest workers, with the possibility of reapplying once the 3-year period is up. However, it has not yet been decided how many times workers can re-apply, only that it is not indefinite. The workers would already have to be employed if they are currently here undocumented and have proof of employment upon application.

Senior administration officials have been very clear in their statements that there is absolutely no link between temporary worker programs and a pathway to citizenship – these are two different programs. The biggest concern among LULAC members and other Hispanic and immigrants' rights groups is

that the president's proposal is lacking in details, and that there is nothing specific regarding earned legalization for those who wish to become permanent legal residents and possibly U.S. citizens. Furthermore, there are many classes of people who do not fit into this type of program: for example, those young individuals who would benefit from the DREAM Act.

LULAC members and other Hispanic and immigrant's rights groups are concerned that the president's proposal is lacking in details, and there is nothing specific regarding earned legalization for those who wish to become permanent legal residents and possibly U.S. citizens.

President Bush has made it clear that his is not an amnesty proposal, but a separate track for guest-workers. It is unrealistic to assume that most of those who are working and contributing to the U.S. economy will actually ever get an opportunity to receive a green card – unless the number of green cards is increased substantially. Although the president's plan does state that workers can apply for permanent legal residency, there is a lack of clarity as to who can apply and how. The president's plan is very clear on one point, however, that the workers have to go home at the end of their program, even if they have families/children who are U.S. citizens.

As of today, the White House has not indicated whether or not they will actually send specific legislative language to Congress. Thus far, it appears that they will not move beyond their set of principles. The ball is now in the Congressional court.

Congressional Reaction

Members of Congress have reacted with a mixture of limited approval and political cynicism to the president's immigration proposal. Yet there are several points that

almost all agree on – both Republican and Democrat. Although President Bush reopened the immigration debate that has been silent since the catastrophic events of 9/11, he regrettably raised the issue at the worst possible time – an election year in which the state of the economy and loss of jobs (3 million since he took office) will be a major issue and it is likely to become a campaign issue for most members of Congress. They are very conscious of a general public opinion that too many jobs are leaving the U.S. and that an oversupply of labor ultimately depresses wages and benefits.

On the extreme right, the president's proposals badly angered the conservative wing of the Republican Party, and some House Republicans asked the President to drop the proposal altogether. Twenty-three congressional members, led by Tom Tancredo (R-CO), demanded that the President drop his proposal, threatening him with a backlash from his conservative base because of the very high percentage of Americans who oppose any form of amnesty. In their eyes, even if the President does not describe his plan as amnesty, that is the way they see it. At a recent retreat in Philadelphia, many Republican members told the President that they regret that he raised the issue and argued that the recent drop in his support is the result of an erosion of his base because he raised it. The angry reaction stems from a perception of many in this country that the most recent wave of immigrants is not assimilating into American society in the way other groups did in the past. The only part of the Republican base that appears to strongly support Bush's proposal is the corporate sector, and on this issue, they are out of sync with other Republicans.

House Democrats took the opportunity of the president's proposal to release their immigration principles, which called for family reunification and earned legalization. Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) specifically have expressed their hope that a consensus might be possible of something less comprehensive than the President's proposal. However, the members of the CHC and most Latino organizations

POLICY

and Legislation

by President Bush and Congress

As of today, the White House has not indicated whether or not they will actually send specific legislative language to Congress. Thus far, it appears that they will not move beyond their set of principles. The ball is now in the Congressional court.

placed a caveat on the President's proposal. Specifically, they are concerned that it is just a temporary worker program with no clear pathway to permanent residence or citizenship outside of the exceedingly limited green card process.

There is also a role for the Mexican government. They can do a lot to assist Congress in changing public perceptions about immigrants who come to this country to work. One area where the two governments can work together is to improve safety on the border and to secure and deal with human smuggling issues there. Mexico can also help shape U.S. public opinion by creating opportunities internally to reduce immigration flows and also by addressing the extradition controversy which is a major issue in key states like California.

LULAC Principles

In October 2003, the LULAC National Board established and passed a set of immigration and foreign worker principles in an effort to set a baseline or point of departure for negotiation.

Despite the great debate currently taking place, it is highly unlikely that any major immigration reforms will pass this year.

The three basic elements of our principles include: family reunification; reduction of backlogs; and an earned legalization mechanism for those undocumented currently living in the United States, as well as a humane standard established for the management of future flows of workers – though this latter

principle has not been clearly defined. These issue areas represent lines in the sand that LULAC, as an organization, feels should be included in any comprehensive immigration reform package.

Nevertheless, despite the great debate currently taking place, it seems unlikely that any major immigration reforms will pass this year, although some smaller pieces might stand a chance such as the DREAM Act and AGJobs. On the House side, Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) has clearly indicated that he has no interest in moving an immigration bill this year. Positive momentum will have to be built on the Senate side where there are several immigration proposals in play – including Daschle-Hagel and the McCain bill that could potentially bear fruit if sufficient energy is built.

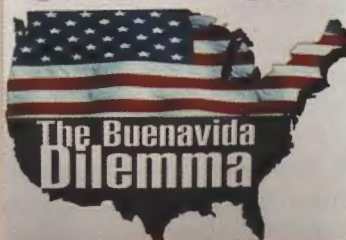
Lastly, irrespective of whether or not the

president chose to act politically, the reality is that if real immigration reform is to take place the president must build a bipartisan coalition on reforms with a balance of views and not a partisan approach. Perhaps our most difficult challenge for any type of real change is the critical need for an important education effort of U.S. public opinion. It is time that the nation understands that without immigrant workers a great many businesses in this country could not open their doors and the economy could suffer serious setbacks.

Without immigrant workers a great many businesses in this country could not open their doors and the economy could suffer serious setbacks.

BOOK REVIEW

**JOSE N.
URANGA**



**The Buena Vista Dilemma:
Whether To Become Gringos**

by Jose N. Uranga

Copyright 2003

Available at Amazon.com

Book Review by Bryce Roman, LULAC Intern

The Buena Vista Dilemma: *Whether To Become Gringos* is a fictional account of the real life Mexican-American families have already known for nearly 200 years. Mr. Uranga hits the high notes as well as the lows in this brief 156-page read guaranteed to attract all audiences. Whether you are a Hispanic or an Anglo American, you can appreciate the difficult

assimilation process the Buena Vista family endures for over five generations.

The first thirty or so pages lack the characterization needed in order for the reader to become attached. However, once the reader becomes accustomed to the author's writing style, the plot demands your interest.

The Buena Vista Dilemma is a good read, not profound, but very informative regarding Hispanic America's quest for civil rights; knowledge that should not be neglected or taken for granted by today's generation.

Author Jose N. Uranga is a respected retired environmental attorney presently residing in Florida. Mr. Uranga has studied at New Mexico State University, Georgetown University School of Law, and received his Masters at the University of Texas. He also worked in the Carter administration.

Rosa Salazar Rosales, VP for the Southwest

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 Rosa Rosales, LULAC member for the past twenty-six years.



Where and when were you born? I was born in the south side barrios in San Antonio, Texas, on April 7, 1944. My parents did such a great job of raising a family of six girls that we never realized how poor we were.

What would you characterize as your best personal traits? Being able to listen, learn, investigate, and take action.

Who do you admire most? My parents, Herminio and Ramona Salazar. They were involved with La Union Fraternal Latino Americana, a mutualista volunteer organization, all of their lives. My father was president of La Union for 25 years.

What do you believe is the best leadership trait? Being inclusive, assertive, and building coalitions with progressive organizations that address Latino issues.

What compelled you to join LULAC 26 years ago? Angie Garcia introduced me to LULAC in 1978. At that time I thought LULAC was just a social club. She said an organization is what you make of it—she was right. I had just returned from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts, and I

was full of energy to make a difference in the Latino community. San Antonio was being advertised to companies as a “pool of cheap labor.” Naturally, the “pool of cheap labor” was the Latino community. I felt that LULAC was the vehicle to use to address the issues affecting the Latino community. And indeed it has been!

What do you believe LULAC should focus on? I believe voter registration is very important so that Latinos can be better represented.

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

Emma Tenayuca and Manuelita Solis Sager. These two were activists all of their lives in fighting for worker and human rights. I had the honor of meeting them in their older years. They are my inspiration and my mentors.

What is your most memorable LULAC experience?

When I was State Director of Texas LULAC we burned the “Contract with America” at a press conference at our state convention, announcing to the world that we were against the “Contract with America” which was anti-worker and anti-civil rights.

What do you perceive to be the most pressing LULAC issue? It is a combination of issues such as education, civil rights, health, employment, immigration, and economic development.

What advice would you give to young Latinos who want to make a difference? Take care of your health, get a good education, get involved in your community, and by all means, join LULAC!

What do you do when you are not involved with LU-

LAC? I am the executive director of the National Association of Public Employees in San Antonio which ensures that workers are treated in a fair and just manner and with respect and dignity. I am also very much involved with the Cesar Chavez March for Justice Organization as well as other organizations in the community.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader? To continue being committed and dedicated to the Latino Agenda ensuring a good quality of life and that as Latinos we are treated with respect and dignity and in a fair and just manner; that the doors of equal opportunity be open to all Latinos in all fields.

What is your greatest accomplishment as a LULAC leader? Filing, under my tenure as State Director of Texas LULAC, over 100 lawsuits on single member districts to insure Latino representation in the school districts, city councils, and the counties. The lawsuits were filed under LULAC by MALDEF, Rolando Rios, and Judith Sanders Castro.

In what ways do you think LULAC could improve? LULAC can improve by having better communication with the local councils in providing more guidance. The national office is doing great things, but sometimes it appears it is not getting to the local councils. LULAC needs to do more documentation of all of our accomplishments and its beautiful history and then disseminate all of this information to our membership and the communities.

What do you enjoy in your spare time? I mostly enjoy spending time with my family. I have three sons and a beautiful granddaughter. We enjoy movies and local Chicano arts. I also enjoy reading.

This is not just what we believe, it's who we are. It's what's imprinted in our 100 years of history. Like Henry Ford once said, "The foundations of society are the people and their means to grow things." That's why it's important for corporations and individuals to join their efforts so that stronger communities are built and quality of life is enhanced. For all you do for your community, we salute you.



Ford Motor Company

Cultivating communities is the best path to progress.



Seventh Annual National Legislative Awards Gala



Grace Napolitano receiving the President's Award from LULAC National President Hector Flores and LULAC VP for Women Vera Marquez. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

High above the foyer, the LULAC shield branded the wall marking the evening's event. Below, hundreds of men in classic black and white and women in beautiful evening gowns moved about the large checkered floor as if giant pieces in a game of chess. Kings and Queens were about to be crowned.

We are not talking about monarchs and rulers, of course. These kings and queens were deemed such by a grateful community for a year of hard work on issues important to them. The elegantly dressed people were congressmen and women, government officials, ambassadors, corporate executives, and community leaders gathered for the Seventh Annual LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala. This was a special night emphasizing the 75th anniversary of LULAC. The JW Marriott in Washington, DC was a gracious host as LULAC proudly celebrated its legacy of accomplishments marking its first 75 years.

Awards began with the Mistress of



Looking down on the pre-gala reception.

(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Ceremonies Edna Schmidt, the award-winning news anchor from Univision, building a rapport with the crowd with her light-hearted humor and captivating smile. Yolanda Harvin, Musician 1st Class of the U.S. Navy Band, paid homage to our nation filling the room as she sang the national anthem. Other participants

included Alex Acosta,

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Justice, who led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Parker Torres, who plays Cisco Gonzalez on PBS's all-Latino cast of the critically acclaimed "American Family," who highlighted the importance of the LULAC youth.

Setting the tone for the evening, LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela Lemus proclaimed, "as we celebrate our 75th year, LULAC is extremely proud to recognize three very important leaders who have helped us carry out LULAC's philosophy of assuring 'justice and equal treatment' for Hispanic America. These three honorees have helped us fight the battles and win the victories that impact our communities across the United States and Puerto Rico."

Indeed, these honorees were the reason that we gathered on this special night.

President's Award

This year's President's award was given to the influential Grace Napolitano. LULAC National President Hector Flores presented her award saying that "Grace Napolitano has been an excellent voice for the LULAC mission and also demonstrates strong leadership among Latinos." Mr. Flores later added that "we are proud to give this award to not only a dedicated friend of LULAC, but also a long-time member."

Napolitano was elected to Congress in 1998 and is currently serving her third term representing California's 38th District where she has emerged as a recognized leader on international trade, environmental protection, transportation and immigration and has earned a reputation as a hard worker and advocate for small business, women, economic expansion, and job creation. Ms. Napolitano gave a tearful reminder to the audience that "the reason we are all here today is to fight for equality and justice for all."

National Legislative Awards

Ruben Barrales received the first legislative award of the evening. He was honored for representing the Latino community and for influencing policy on behalf of Latinos. The son of Mexican immigrants, Ruben Barrales serves as Deputy Assistant to the President and as Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, Barrales serves as the President's liaison to state and local elected officials and is



Ruben Barrales receiving the Legislative Award from Raquel Egusquiza of Ford and LULAC VP for the Northeast Laura Medrano. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

responsible for maintaining a close working partnership between the White House and the nation's governors, legislators, tribal leaders, and local officials. Barrales also coordinates the White House's relationship with Puerto Rico and heads the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status.

Prior to joining the President's staff, Barrales was President and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network—a regional civic organization of business executives, government officials, and educational leaders. Barrales has twice been

SPECIAL FEATURE

Seventh Annual National Legislative Awards Gala



Nancy Pelosi receiving award from Oscar Gomez of Verizon. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

named by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the United States. In 2000, the World Economic Forum named Barrales "A Global Leader for Tomorrow."

Nancy Pelosi, House of Representatives Minority Leader, received the second legislative award of the evening. For the past 16 years, Nancy Pelosi has represented California's Eighth District in the House of Representatives. Overwhelmingly elected by her colleagues in the fall of 2002 as Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi is the first woman in American history to lead a major party in the U.S. Congress. Pelosi gave an exceptional speech stating that "Latino's are the largest and fastest growing minority group here in the United States and a big contributor to our economy." She also added that "Hispanic immigrants bring to the United States their strong values such as family which enrich this country."

Ms. Pelosi fights for Hispanic issues such as jobs and the economy, education, healthcare, civil rights, and immigration. Most notably, Pelosi has been unwavering in her commitment to addressing the national healthcare crisis in which 44 million Americans lack healthcare coverage and of which Hispanics comprise 35 percent of the nation's uninsured.

Other Highlights

Ford Motor Company presented a \$1 million check to LULAC kicking off LULAC's 75th Anniversary Leadership Initiative with a substantial portion of the funding going to support the new LULAC Ford PAS Science Corps program, an after-school program that provides middle-school students with an opportunity to experience a variety of math and science fields as well as gain critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills, through presentations, mentorship, lab experience and field trips.

Ford Motor Company Vice President for Corporate Affairs, Ziad Ojakli, presented the check stating that "Ford Motor Company is proud to partner with LULAC during its 75th Anniversary Leadership Initiative and support students in their quest for education. The LULAC Ford PAS Science Corps program is built around academic knowledge, interpersonal skills and business concepts that will provide middle school students with skills necessary to succeed in the future."

"This landmark contribution will support our efforts to increase volunteerism and improve LULAC's core services to Hispanic communities nationwide," stated Hector Flores, LULAC President. "LULAC is proud to join in an exciting partnership with Ford to create the new LULAC Ford PAS Science Corps program. This is another great example of why Ford Motor Company is setting the standard for outstanding corporate citizenship in the

Hispanic community."

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a gift to LULAC from Rudy Beserra, Vice President for Corporate Latin Affairs for the Coca-Cola Company, in celebration of LULAC's 75th anniversary. The gift was a beautiful Coca-Cola bottle printed with the LULAC 75th anniversary logo. Coca-Cola produced approximately 3,000 bottles to commemorate the 75 illustrious years LULAC has been advocating for the rights of Hispanics. "Thank you Rudy for this beautiful bottle and for producing this special 75th anniversary gift for our audience



The Coca-Cola Company presents the LULAC 75th anniversary edition Coke bottle. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

tonight," Mr. Flores remarked, "it means so much to LULAC to have friends in the corporate community like Coca-Cola and all the wonderful sponsors that are here this evening."

The evening concluded with a video documenting 75 years of LULAC history, the lighting of the 75th anniversary cake, and a toast to the accomplishments of LULAC's first 75 years looking forward to 75 more.

Gazing out from the balcony of the hotel, attendees had a spectacular view of the National Mall with the Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln monuments glowing a bright marble white.

As another successful awards gala is complete, LULAC wishes to thank all of our corporate sponsors for their generosity and civic-mindedness. Without your support, this event would not have been possible. We look forward to working together on this event next year.



The Ford Motor Company presents LULAC National President with a \$1 million check. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

WOMEN'S CORNER

Latinas: Building a Strong Foundation for the Future

As part of the League of United Latin American Citizens' 75th anniversary celebration events across the nation, the women of LULAC held their 2004 National Women's Conference on April 2 and 3 at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

The annual national women's conference is the most significant gathering of LULAC women throughout the year. The conference united delegations from different states to include California, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas, Texas, Illinois, New York, District of Columbia, and others. This has been the largest and most representative participation across the membership with three hundred plus participants.

LULAC National President Hector Flores and LULAC First Lady Tula Flores attended the conference. President Flores delivered powerful remarks during the opening reception and the luncheon. President Flores to date has appointed twelve women in LULAC to hold important roles within the organization. Those appointments range from Counsel to the National President, to chairwoman of commissions on education, health, civil rights, women's issues and others.

Linda Alvarado, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alvarado Construction, Inc., a nationally recognized speaker and advocate for business issues was the keynote speaker during the luncheon. Ms. Alvarado's high standards for success were an inspiration to all the participants, especially for Latinas. Ms. Alvarado's message was loud and clear: Taking calculated risks is an important step in getting ahead in the game, even if all the odds seem to be against you, you still hold a chance if you firmly believe in yourself.

During the luncheon, the participants were addressed by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and First Lady of Mexico Marta Sahagún de Fox via video messages. The videos will be posted in LULAC's official website so all the membership can enjoy them.

The conference offered the opportunity to discuss important current issues having an impact on Latinas. The topics of discussion were addressed by arranging breakout sessions with distinguished panelists and moderators on the topics of Leadership training for Students, Education, Financial Security, Latina Professionals, Family Violence, Immigration and Access to Health.

A very special ceremony was held during the conference to remember the hundreds of women who have recently lost their lives in Juarez, México as victims of violence against women. Theresa Filbert, LULAC National Secretary, undertook the project to create a quilt to convey the message that a violent crime against any women in the world is a crime against all women; and moreover, a crime against humanity. The quilt's title is "Women Bound Together" and it will be completed by the LULAC National Convention. An explanation of the quilt's symbolism will also be posted at the National Convention.

Artist Belinda Flores Shinshillas donated the painting that became the signature image for the conference. The painting will be raffled at LULAC's National Conference in San Antonio. All proceedings will benefit the LULAC Women's Commission.

LULAC National VP for Women, Vera Marquez, expressed her appreciation for the outstanding work performed by the El Paso conference committee led by Past President Belen Robles; the

National Fiscal and Membership Office Staff, Carolina Muñoz, LULAC National Fiscal Officer, Lupe Morales, LULAC Membership Coordinator, and Donna Viramontes, LULAC Administrative Assistant; Ms. Marquez also expressed appreciation to Ana Hart, LULAC National Women's Conference Co-Chair, and Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero, UTEP-College of Education Dean and Co-Sponsor in coordination with the University of Texas at El Paso.

"The conference has been of great value and will assist us in developing those much needed programs to benefit Latinas and their families" Ms. Marquez said. "I feel that with this conference we have taken a step forward on women's issues."

The conference was sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc., YUM! Brands, Wal-Mart, and Budweiser.



Belinda Flores-Shinshillas is a renowned international artist who lives in El Paso, Texas, but is originally from Mexico. She created the artwork entitled "Strength, Unity and Love/ Fortaleza, Unidad y Amor" (pictured left) on behalf of LULAC women. This artwork will be reproduced into prints that were available at the LULAC National Women's Conference. All proceeds will go to the Women's Commission Fund which will help address women's issues

and empower women. The artist studied at the Nacional School of Visual Arts and the Old Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City. Belinda's devotion for art began at an early age and continued and developed through studies of art history and analysis of the masters' works in America and Europe. Belinda's works transform a spiritual art through vibrant colors, as the only element of value, into a visual experience. This transformation allows the display of sensations and emotions that carry the observer to an apparent tranquility while meeting the delirious happiness represented by expressing our observations. Please see her website at www.belindafs.com

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.

MODELOS 2004



CHEVROLET SSR*



GMC CANYON



HUMMER H2



CADILLAC XLR*



SAAB 9-3 CONVERTIBLE



PONTIAC GTO

NO SUEÑES MÁS.

Así es, en GM queremos que tu vida no sea un sueño sino una realidad. Por eso tenemos los vehículos más increíbles que te hayas imaginado.

No importa lo que busques, un SUV, una camioneta o un carro de lujo, ven a nuestros concesionarios y haz realidad tu sueño.

Y para que tu sueño sea más fácil de realizar pregunta por los cómodos planes de financiamiento de GMAC Financial Services.

CHEVROLET SAAB PONTIAC OLDSMOBILE SATURN BUICK CADILLAC HUMMER GMC GMAC

©2003 GM Corp. Todos los derechos reservados.

*Disponibilidad limitada.



gm.com

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 included a series of financial tips from the program in 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 using credit cards wisely.

The Importance of Using Credit Cards Wisely

Using credit cards wisely is one of the key ways to build up and maintain good credit. Credit cards can be helpful but they must be used appropriately or they can be detrimental to your financial well-being. In sum, credit cards can be your friend or your worst enemy.

- If paid on time and in full each month, they can offer you up to 30 days of "free money" and provide you with an excellent credit history.
- If allowed to reach high unpaid balances, they will cost you hundreds and thousands of dollars in interest and can easily lead to destroying your credit.

Here are some tips for you to consider when using credit cards:

- Do not use a credit card for a purchase unless the amount is within your monthly spending limit.
- Limit yourself to 2 or 3 credit cards.
- Pay off the balance in full each month.
- Always pay more than the minimum payment.
- For large purchases, plan to pay off the

amount in 3 monthly installments.

- Do not consider a credit card an emergency fund.
- Save money for trips and use the card only for convenience and safety.
- Read and Understand the "Fine Print" of Credit Offers

Credit Cards vs. Debit Cards

Debit cards, unlike credit cards, withdraw money directly from your checking account. Debit cards are like an "instant" check, and the funds are immediately subtracted from your account. Because it is your own money, there is no interest.

If you need help with your credit:

- If you are having difficulty with your debts and/or spending habits, you may wish to contact a nonprofit, community-based credit counseling organization.
- If you are not familiar with a credit counseling service provider, check out the company's reputation by contacting the Better Business Bureau or your state's Attorney General. Be sure to avoid the "quick fix" or "credit repair" companies!

Going (u)p

While some companies
are cutting back,

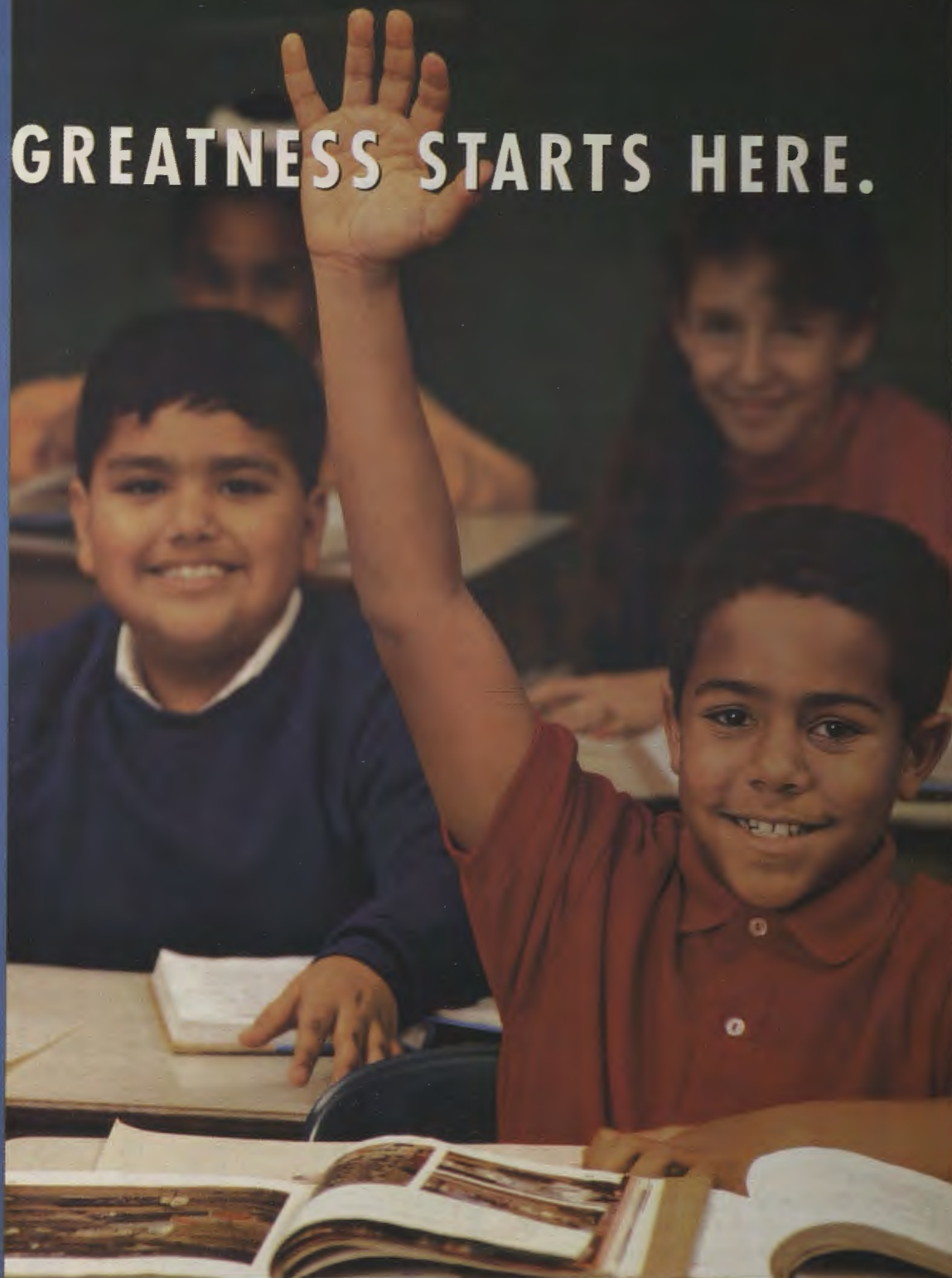
we're staffing up.

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

ALL GREATNESS STARTS HERE.



Every child can learn, but not all children learn at the same *pace* and in the same way.

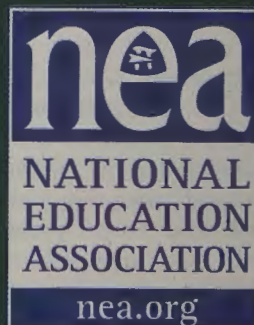
Children need individual attention based on their individual needs.

One size does not fit all.

That's why the National Education Association and LULAC have always advocated for quality teaching, smaller class sizes, greater parental involvement, and increased resources for programs that improve student achievement *for every child*.

From classrooms to communities to capitals – parents, teachers, education support professionals, and community leaders *are working side by side* to make every public school as good as the best public schools.

To learn more about *Great Public Schools for Every Child*, visit www.nea.org/greatschools.



*Great Public Schools
for Every Child*

SPECIAL FEATURE

75TH ANNIVERSARY PERSONALITIES

Richard and Mary Fimbres: Arizona's Power Couple



Richard and Mary Fimbres. Both were Arizona LULAC State Directors and Richard was National VP for the Far West.

For almost twenty years, Richard and Mary Fimbres have been two of LULAC's most active members. They have been pioneers in helping the Latino community and LULAC has been nothing but blessed to have Mr. and Mrs. Fimbres as leaders in our organization.

Richard Fimbres served four years as the National Vice President for the Far West and five years as Arizona State Director. Mary Fimbres served three years as the Arizona State Director for LULAC. This incredible couple's commitment to their community is second to none. Richard and Mary Fimbres have demonstrated strong and invaluable leadership within the LULAC family and have made several outstanding contributions to the Latino community with LULAC since 1986.

Throughout Richard's tenure as vice president, he helped to build an incredibly strong network of councils in the Far West. Richard was also the longest serving elected member of the LULAC National Education Service Centers (LNESEC) board where he worked toward expanding LNESEC's programs and obtaining the renewal of the Department of Education grants.

Richard and Mary both helped to create the "Border Summit" which is an annual event in Arizona that has been successful in heightening the awareness of vigilante and other border problems. They have also been very influential in elevating these issues to the national level with their continuous support and advocacy for the

creation of a viable guest worker program.

Fifteen years ago, this generous couple created the Youth Leadership Conference, which educates and supports the next generation of Latino leaders. To date, over 62,500 sixth through twelfth grade students from throughout the state of Arizona have attended the Annual Youth Leadership Conference. They have also been instrumental in creating the Manny Alvarado Scholarship Fund and are founding members in the creation of Pima College's

"Amigos De Pima" that supports Pima College's Hispanic Student Endowment Fund.

In addition, they were very instrumental in seeing that Puerto Rico receive funding for self-determination and that funding be restored for job training and education programs for migrants. This incredible duo also worked hard to get out the vote and highlight important issues such as health and veteran concerns that affect Latinos.

Both Mary and Richard worked so diligently as state directors that they



Richard presents an award to a Young Reader.

successfully doubled the number of councils during their terms. For the first time in 40 years, the power couple was able to bring the national convention in 2001 to Phoenix. It was a huge success.

Richard Fimbres currently serves as Arizona Director of Highway Safety, an appointed position by the governor of Arizona, not only because he is an

outstanding community leader, but also because of his long-standing efforts to bring awareness to the Latino community about the importance of car seats, safety belts, bike helmets, and not driving under the influence. In fact, this issue is a pivotal issue in the Latino community where motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of death among Latinos between one and



Mary holds a baby while his mother receives lessons in installing a car seat.

forty-four years of age.

Mary Fimbres currently works for City Councilman Leal in Tucson. At the councilman's office, Mary is involved in community issues and working with the local constituency. Recently, Mary has been involved in issues facing her community ranging from monitoring the city's budget to liquor license saturation to meeting with neighborhood associations on issues of empowering themselves and even designing a new library which just broke ground.

LULAC continues to be proud of the legacy of leadership Mr. and Mrs. Fimbres have left behind for Hispanics around the country. It is clear that this team has helped LULAC grow and have lived their lives according to the LULAC mission which is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, and promote the civil rights of the Hispanic population. LULAC will always hold this couple in the highest regard and are thankful to have had such leaders in our organization. The Fimbres' leadership exemplifies the legacy LULAC has built in the first 75 years.

SPECIAL FEATURE

75TH ANNIVERSARY PERSONALITIES

Carlos Ramirez: A Public Servant Remembered



Carlos and Kenna Ramirez with President and First Lady Bush in the Oval Office.

If one were to ask Carlos Ramirez, a longtime LULAC member and former Mayor of El Paso how he is doing, he will say, "fine." The mayor developed dementia and does not have the capability to understand what is happening to him. His wife Kenna says that it is easier for her to cope with her husband's recently diagnosed dementia knowing that he does not comprehend the effects of his disease. This fatal disease has stopped Carlos' successful political career but we remember his legacy of service to the community.

In July 2001, George W. Bush appointed LULAC member Carlos Ramirez to serve as Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The IBWC is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. President Bush esteemed the former El Paso mayor so much that he asked Ramirez to introduce him at a campaign rally the night Bush won Texas in the primaries. Ramirez says that Bush chose him for the introduction as "a signal to the country that Governor Bush can bring people of all backgrounds, of all economic levels, of all races, of all religions together."

Prior to his presidential appointment, Ramirez served as Mayor of El Paso, Texas from June 1997 until June 2001. During his two terms as Mayor, Carlos Ramirez led successful initiatives to create jobs, promote homeownership, improve public safety, and construct and renovate parks. Under his leadership, the City of El Paso initiated the River Park project, which in partnership with the County of El Paso and the State of Texas, will create a unique park along the banks of the Río Grande and the New Mexico border all the way to the Hudspeth County line. He was also active in the U.S.

Conference of Mayors, serving on the Latin America Trade Task Force, among other committees. In addition to being Mayor of El Paso, he served as Chairman of the Border Relations Commission for the City of El Paso and as Executive Assistant to a previous Mayor of El Paso. Carlos loved to participate in the public sector and serve his city—El Paso.

Carlos has been happily married to his wife Kenna for 31 years and it has been said that it is rare to see them apart. Both Carlos and Kenna Ramirez have been LULAC members for many years. Kenna Ramirez even worked in the LULAC President's office as an office manager under Belen Robles' presidency. Carlos has lived his life helping others in accordance with LULAC's mission of advancing the economic, education, and political condition of the Hispanic population.

Carlos Ramirez, now 52 years old, was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) in October of 2003. It is a degenerative condition in the front part of the brain, attacking areas that control reasoning, personality, movement, speech and language, and some memory. Although not diagnosed until late in 2003, his wife and family have witnessed the deterioration of his personality as early as 2000. Kenna Ramirez says she plans to continue her husband's enthusiasm for public service and helping others. She hopes that others remember her husband for his humility and fondness for El Paso. "That's what Carlos' life was. He loved El Paso. He always wanted to be in El Paso and to serve his community," stated Kenna. LULAC wishes the best to Carlos and his family. LULAC is proud to have members such as Carlos and Kenna for serving the Latino community and the entire city of El Paso.



Carlos Ramirez



Shaking hands with the President.

"American Family" Returns to



The Gonzalez family gathers for son Esteban's wedding to Ofelia, as the second chapter of *American Family* begins. Pictured L-R: Cisco (Parker Torres), Vangie (Rachel Ticotin), Esteban (Esai Morales), Ofelia (Kate del Castillo), Jess (Edward James Olmos), Nina (Constance Marie) and Conrado (Yancey Arias). (Photo courtesy of PBS)

AERICAN FAMILY, PBS' acclaimed drama series chronicling the daily struggles and triumphs of the Gonzalez family, returns to broadcast television Sundays at 7 p.m. beginning April 4, 2004. Starring Academy Award nominee Edward James Olmos, Constance Marie, Yancey Arias, Jesse Borrego, Patricia Velasquez, Kate del Castillo and Raquel Welch, with special guest stars Esai Morales, Lynn Whitfield and Rachel Ticotin, and special appearances by Sonia Braga, the second season takes a look at major historical events of the last century as seen through the eyes of the Gonzalez family. From their ancestors' participation in the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s, to son Conrado's participation in the 2003 Iraq War, to the daily struggles of modern-day life, the Gonzalez family eagerly seeks to live the American dream.

"I wanted to do something different with *'American Family'* this year," said series creator, Academy Award nominee, writer/director Gregory Nava (El Norte, Selena). "Instead of doing an episodic series, I wanted to tell one epic story that unfolds like a mini-series over 13 parts. The topical story lines will be based around events of the Iraq war, and will show how the Gonzalez family came to America during the Mexican Revolution. *'American Family'* will depict all the sacrifices they have made through

the years to achieve the American dream. In every household in America, there is an epic story — this year *'American Family'* will tell that story."

As residents of East Los Angeles, the family is led by Jess Gonzalez (Olmos), a Korean War veteran and conservative patriarch who struggles with the ever-changing modern world. His family includes his eldest son Conrado (Arias), an orthopedic doctor who is serving with the Army in Iraq; his second son, Esteban (Morales), the black sheep of the family who is starting a new life after scrapes with the law; his daughter Nina (Marie), a progressive attorney with whom Jess is constantly at odds; and his youngest son Cisco (Torres), a cyber punk who is constantly filming his family and posting it on the Gonzalez family web site.

"American Family"

"American Family" airs on PBS Sunday nights at 7 p.m. starting April 4, 2004.

Esteban's son, Pablito (Marques) and the flamboyant Dora (Welch), Jess' sister, a former aspiring entertainer, round out the Gonzalez household.

The 13-part arc begins with the marriage of Esteban and Ofelia (del Castillo). Esteban is struggling to rebuild his life after having served time in prison. At the wedding, Conrado, a doctor in the Army, tells his father Jess that he is being sent to the Middle East. This disturbs Jess because of the impending war with Iraq. Soon, war does break out, and the events of the war cause members of the Gonzalez family to deal with the past and their future. Conrado is in the thick of fighting, trying to tend to the wounded. He finds himself haunted by memories of a past love relationship, combating his Army superior (Whitfield), and struggling between feelings of gratitude for the sacrifices his family endured in order to send him to college, and guilt over the fact that he is living out his family's dream and not his own. Jess and Nina fight about the war, causing a deep



Jess (played by actor Edward James Olmos) gives a toast during the wedding of his son. (Photo courtesy of PBS)

Television



Conrado (actor Yancey Arias) plays a doctor in the Army in the drama. (Photo courtesy of PBS.)

divide in the Gonzalez family, which mirrors the divide that exists in the country. Jess throws Nina out of the house because of her beliefs, while Esteban's attempts to carve out a new life for his wife and young son Pablito are threatened by the appearance of Shady (Borrego), a former gang buddy.

As the war in Iraq races to its conclusion, Jess is overwhelmed by dreams of his family's past and is visited by the ghost of Adela (Velasquez), his late grandmother. The story of how the family came to America during the Mexican Revolution is somehow involved with the current events in Iraq. The Gonzalez family is cursed and Conrado's life is at stake because of it.

"American Family" was created by Nava and is produced by his company, El Norte Productions and KCET/Hollywood, in association with The Greenblatt Janollari Studio and Fox Television Studios. Underwriters are Johnson & Johnson, The American Legacy Foundation, Public Television Viewers, PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

An extensive Web site at PBS.org/americanfamily allows visitors to get actively involved in the story through a variety of interactive features. This site currently offers engaging content about the Gonzalez family, their East L.A. neighborhood and Chicano

culture. The site will relaunch in March 2004 with cast updates, features tied to the new season's stories, and a virtual health fair offering resources to help families stay healthy and active. Local public television stations will add information on local family-oriented events and resources to the national web site.

The "American Family" national outreach campaign will focus on building PBS stations' capacities to reach and serve Latino families and neighborhoods, and on helping stations create sustainable relationships with local Latino organizations. Many member stations will initiate extensive educational outreach efforts to emphasize health, wellness and the importance of family in their local Hispanic communities, and establish new relationships with national and local organizations dedicated to these issues. LULAC is proud to partner with this important campaign.



Ofelia (played by actor Kate de Castillo) with Pablito (played by actor Austin Marquez) share a heartfelt moment on the program.

(Photo courtesy of PBS.)

San Antonio!



Celebrating 75 Years of Service in San Antonio

Excitement builds among LULAC members as we prepare for our next convention in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. We anticipate a spectacular convention July 6-11, 2004.

Be sure to sign up by June 1, 2004 to receive your \$25 discount on registration.

For more information please contact LULAC at 1-866-577-0726 or see our website at www.lulac.org











See you there!



Membership Services Program

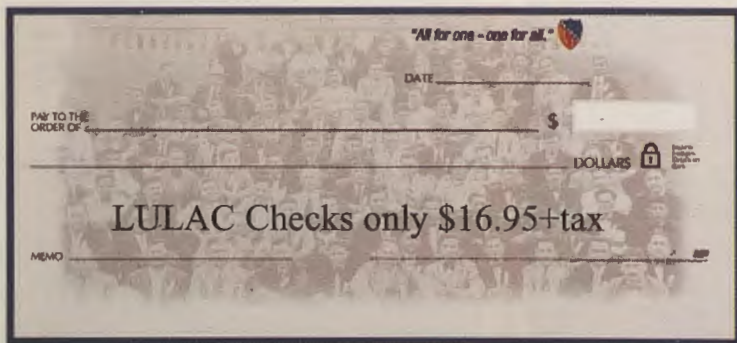
This exciting program is the most recent tool we have added to help members achieve the LULAC mission. This program not only helps our members maintain their health at an affordable price, this also serves as an excellent tool which we can use to increase and retain our current membership.

Enroll in the LULAC Membership Services Program for only \$34.95 a month! This coverage is for the entire family and includes:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  \$10,000 Life Benefit for Enrollee |  Discount Vision Care |
|  \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit |  Discount Medical Service |
|  \$5,000 Accident Medical Benefit with a \$100 Deductible |  Emergency Roadside Assistance |
|  Discount Pharmaceuticals |  Hotel/Motel Savings |
|  Discount Dental Care |  Car Rental Discounts |

Enrollment in the LULAC Membership Services Program entitles you to a no-cost enrollment for a LULAC Financial Card.

The Financial Services Card* can be used for receiving direct deposits, used at ATM locations, and all Point-of-Sale terminals that accept Maestro® and Cirrus®. *Issued by Peoples Bank, Paris, Texas. Aztec OneSource is an authorized agent/representative of Peoples Bank.



Please visit the LULAC Membership Services booth or the information booth during the 75th LULAC National Convention.

To order or receive information on any of these services,
Call 866.89.LULAC

Additional terms and conditions may apply. Please call for details.

Social Security Administration: Recruiting a Diverse Workforce

"Haz una diferencia en la vida de los demás y en tu vida"

"Make a difference in people's lives and your own"



Millions of Americans depend on Social Security for their well-being.

Administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), over 90 percent of the American work force takes part in the protection plan that Social Security offers against the risk of reduced income due to retirement, disability or death. SSA also administers the Supplemental Security Income program, which assists aged, blind, and disabled people in financial need.

With SSA looking to hire a new highly-talented and diverse workforce in the wake of its many retirements, the agency is searching for individuals who are eager to help others and to reach their own potential at the same time.

There are a variety of career opportunities available for qualified people who want to be challenged and experience career growth while working in an agency committed to serving the public's needs. Of the many positions SSA has to offer, a substantial number of these fall into a category of jobs often referred to as "public contact" positions.

SSA employees in public contact jobs serve

people from all walks of life – young and elderly, rich and poor, English and non-English speaking. Everyday, in over 1,300 locations nation-wide, there are claims representatives helping people file their claims for benefits. The position offers a variety of duties and tremendous growth potential. More importantly, by serving others they experience the gratification that comes from helping people. Other public contact positions include Service Representatives and Telephone Service Representatives.

Career opportunities are also available at SSA headquarters in suburban Baltimore, Maryland. They include challenging and fulfilling work in the areas of information technology, law, finance, law enforcement, human resources, acquisition and grants, and other occupations.

In building its workforce, SSA is investing its energies into building a workforce which reflects the American public: young and old, male and female, African-American, Asian Pacific Islander, Caucasian, Hispanic, Native American, those with disabilities and those without.

Individuals interested in exploring career opportunities at SSA are welcomed to visit the agency's Internet site – www.ssa.gov/careers/. The website offers a wealth of information about SSA's mission, history, benefit compensation, and career opportunities. Job announcements and information on how to apply are also available there.

The Social Security Administration is an equal opportunity employer.

Archbishop Flores to Officiate Special Mass for LULAC Members



This year during the 75th Anniversary LULAC Convention LULAC members will have the honor of attending a very special mass on July 11, 2004 at the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio. This will be the last mass that Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, will give before his retirement.

Archbishop Flores served as the first Mexican-American bishop in the United States and he has been a real role model to residents in the San Antonio area. His parents were migrant workers, mainly in the cotton fields and part-time farmers. The whole family participated in the work, accordingly he sometimes refers to himself as the "cotton picking bishop." During his youth educational opportunities were not easy to come by and therefore, he dropped out of school during his sophomore year and continued to help his family by working in the fields. Archbishop Flores was able to complete his education thanks to a nun who helped him to re-enroll in high school and graduate. Unfortunately, being at the wrong place at the wrong time led him to be falsely accused and held for a week on arson charges that were later dropped. This experience gave him a special compassion for those who have been incarcerated.

Archbishop Flores has made it one of his lifetime goals to serve the Hispanic community. His efforts have led to even more lay participation in programs for the incarcerated, pregnant adolescents, homeless, abused children and battered women.



LULAC President Hector Flores places a flower LULAC shield at the grave of LULAC's first president Ben Garza to commemorate the 75th anniversary. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)



Members of the LULAC National Board receive the LULAC 75th anniversary proclamation from San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

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*. Please mail the below card to LULAC National Membership Office, 201 East Main, Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79901.

- ☐ 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 St., NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 244