

LULACnews

May - June 2006

Millions Marched for Justice

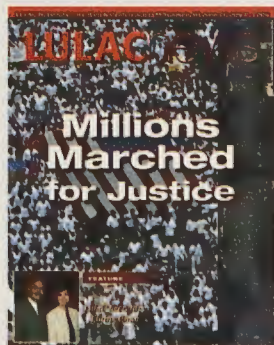
FEATURE STORY

*Labor Secretary
Elaine Chao*



Contents

May | June 2006



Cover photo courtesy of Dallas Morning News and Al Da

On the cover:

Millions Marched for Justice.
Half million people Mega March
in Dallas, Texas led by National
LULAC President Hector Flores.

Message from National President	3
Special Feature Story	4
LULAC Tribute to Honorable Justice David Cerda	7
Convention Election Rules	8
LULAC Profiles	12
Policy and Legislation.....	14
Youth Corner.....	16
Women's Corner	17
LNESC.....	20
News from Around the League.....	24
LULAC Issues Brief	22
Photos from Around the League	18, 23, 26



LULAC National
President Hector M.
Flores accepts the
Business Women's
Network Trailblazer
Award in May 2006.

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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE *from the President*

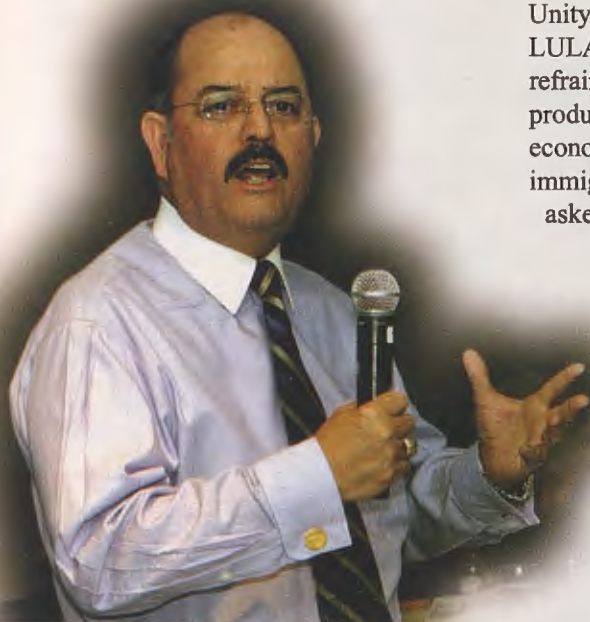


Photo by Luis Nunez Delacruz

Dear Brothers and Sisters in LULAC, This year has been historic in nature due to the unprecedented challenges we have embarked upon. These challenges will test us as an organization. My hope is that together we can rise to the challenge and come out as a leading voice for our community. LULAC has already seen a very full year of accomplishments. We have been leading the way on an issue that strikes at the fundamental core of our existence as a nation: Immigration. On April 9, we saw the largest demonstration in Dallas history when half a million people assembled at city hall during LULAC's MEGA march. Mothers, daughters, fathers and sons joined hands to give future immigrants the same opportunities our great ancestors enjoyed. I want to thank the LULAC Executive National Committee, LULAC staff, and LULAC members for helping make possible Dallas and similar events around the country. It was through their hard work that we started a movement. Never have I witnessed anything like it. The swarms of U.S. flags displayed showed our American pride and demonstrated our cultural heritage. On May 1, we

saw millions of participants taking part in the National Day of Action: Family Unity, Worker Solidarity and Prayer. LULAC called for all individuals to refrain from purchasing consumer products on May 1 to demonstrate the economic impact of withholding Latino immigrant purchasing power. LULAC asked the community to take part in

local activities ranging from voter registration and education drives, a "Day with the Family" outings to candlelight vigils. We also asked that students stay in school on that day. We did not want children skipping school or people missing work without permission from their employers. We ask people to be disciplined and responsible.

LULAC applauds the Senate leadership for its efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform to strengthen our borders while establishing an earned legalization program for immigrants to work in the U.S. Senate Bill S. 2611 contains essential elements for comprehensive immigration reform, including stronger enforcement of our nation's immigration laws, an earned adjustment for immigrants currently working in the United States, a legal channel for future flows of immigrant workers and a reduction in the vast backlogs of family-sponsored immigration applications. It includes provisions from the Ag Jobs bill for agricultural workers and the DREAM Act for students—two bills that LULAC has long supported. We will press Congress to live up to the highest ideals of our democracy by providing hard-working immigrants with the same opportunities that our nation provided to our ancestors. We are a nation founded and strengthened by immigrants and we must continue to pursue the enlightened immigration policies that have made our nation the envy of the world.

I had the pleasure in April to personally meet with high level officials of the Mexican government in Mexico

City to explain LULAC's efforts to win enactment of comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S.

Unfortunately, we saw a rise in the number of hate crimes this year. We applauded the U.S. Justice Department for responding to our request for a formal investigation relating to a hate crime incident in Spring, Texas. I met with the Atty. Gen. Alberto Gonzales who vowed to look into this matter.

LULAC this year has been on the forefront of holding immigration forums around the country. We have had town hall meetings in Milwaukee and Los Angeles that turned out hundreds of participants and extensive media coverage. For more information on the forums, please visit our Web site at www.lulac.org. We must make our voices heard on this vital issue.

Another initiative soon to bear fruit will be the completion in January of our new national headquarters office building in Washington, D.C.

At the end of June we will hold our National Convention. This is a critical time for our community and we want you to be there with us. I hope to see all of you in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We want this event to inspire and energize you to be a force for advancement in your community. I want to thank you for giving me the responsibility to carry out the goals of this great organization. I hope that I have completed my mission to your expectation and I look forward to working with the new President and new leadership that will be elected by our National Assembly in Milwaukee.

Kudos to all those who participated in the marches and we hail the great effort of all grassroots advocacy groups and organizations nationwide for joining in this massive national and international campaign on behalf of Latino immigrants in our country.

Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores

Excerpts from Remarks Delivered by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao

National Women's Conference, New York, New York

The American economy is strong and getting stronger every day. It averaged 3.5 percent GDP growth rate in 2005. Five million net new jobs have been created in the last two-and-half years. That's more than the European Union and Japan combined.

Demand for workers is especially high in the business, computer, engineering, education and health-care fields. In fact, our country will need more than 3 million new workers in the health-care sector, including 1.2 million registered nurses in the next 10 years. Other growing sectors include aerospace, biotechnology, energy, financial services, homeland security, information technology, and skilled trades.

Education is more important than ever before. Our country is transitioning to a knowledge-based economy. More than 2/3rd of the jobs created in the next 8 years are all in occupations that require some kind of post-secondary education.



Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao was awarded the LULAC's President's Citation by Hector M. Flores on April 1, 2006 in New York City.

Post-secondary education can be a 4-year college degree, a 2-year degree from a community college or specialized training in the skilled trades.

So young people need to recognize the importance of staying in school and graduating. Their lifelong earnings depend upon this. For

example, college graduates earn, on average, twice as much as high school graduates, and four times that of high school dropouts.

Let me move on and tell you a bit about the Department's Hispanic Worker Initiative.

This initiative helps Hispanic immigrants improve their language proficiency and gain the occupational skills



Future Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao with her mother and sisters on the ocean freighter that carried them from Taiwan to USA. 1961.

needed to access jobs in rapidly growing industries.

We have reached out to involve a

Continued on page 6

The Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) offers numerous services to America's veterans, whether you are returning to civilian life, seeking to upgrade your skills or looking for new career opportunities. Visit our web site at <http://www.dol.gov/vets/> to find out how you can take advantage of veterans' priority of service, veteran's preference in federal hiring, and the workplace protections established under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).



Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao signs the Five-Star Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve at a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington on Oct. 20. Looking on are (left to right): Charles Ciccolella, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; Craig Duehring, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole; Captain Shane Doucet of the D.C. National Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Michael Hague of the D.C. National Guard; and Arsenia Edwards, of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Gulf Coast Initiative

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, LULAC started its Gulf Coast initiative, providing support for to hurricane victims as they restore their lives and rebuild their communities. Recognizing the success of LULAC's Gulf Coast initiative, as well as its trusted status in the Hispanic community, the Department of Labor reached out to LULAC, seeking its assistance in the Department's outreach efforts on the Gulf Coast. Those efforts have been focused on providing workers in the region with information about their rights under the various federal labor laws enforced by the Department. Given the large numbers of Hispanic workers involved in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts, partnering with LULAC to reach out to those workers seemed to be a natural fit.



September 9, 2005. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao tours the Gulf Coast with Treasury Secretary Snow and Commerce Secretary Gutierrez for Hurricane Katrina relief.

As a result of the partnership between LULAC and the Department of Labor, thousands of Hispanic workers in the Gulf Coast will be better educated about their rights under federal labor law. The workers also will be given the tools — such as timekeeper booklets and contact information for local DOL offices — to assist the Department in pursuing the workers' claims. DOL expects that this partnership, as well as the assistance it has received from the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Loyola University School of Law, will provide protection to all workers on the Gulf Coast as it seeks to rebuild.

Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao Recognized by LULAC

LULAC held its 2006 LULAC National Women's Conference "A Journey to Greatness" and the Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor was the luncheon keynote speaker addressing hundreds of attendees

Elaine Chao is the Nation's 24th Secretary of Labor and the first Asian American appointed to a President's cabinet in U.S. history. Arriving at the age of eight from Asia speaking no English, Secretary Chao's experience transitioning to a new country inspired her to dedicate most of her life to ensuring that others have access to opportunity and the chance to build better lives.

Since her confirmation by the United States Senate on January 29, 2001, she has been dedicated to carrying out the Department of Labor's mission of promoting and protecting the health, safety, retirement security, and competitiveness of the nation's workforce.

Under her leadership, the Department has set new worker protection records for America's workers, including recovering record back wages for immigrant workers. And she launched the first ever nationwide health and safety conference for Hispanic workers in 2004. Recently, she launched a new targeted effort to ensure Hispanic workers participating in Gulf Coast reconstruction understand their rights under our nation's labor laws and are compensated fully and fairly. And under her leadership, the U.S. Department of Labor initiated an annual Opportunity Conference to help traditionally underserved communities, including Hispanic Americans, advance within mainstream America.

Secretary Chao's career has spanned the public, private and non-profit sectors. As President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of America, she restored public trust and confidence in the nation's largest institution of private charitable giving after it was tarnished by mismanagement and financial abuse.



As Director of the Peace Corps, she established the first Peace Corps programs in the Baltic nations and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Her government service also includes serving as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Chairman of the Federal Maritime

Commission and White House Fellow. Her private sector experience includes having worked as Vice President of Syndications at BankAmerica Capital Markets Group and as a banker with Citicorp.

Secretary Chao received her M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and her undergraduate degree in economics from Mount Holyoke College. She also studied at M.I.T., Dartmouth College, and Columbia University. Secretary Chao is also the recipient of 26 honorary doctoral degrees from colleges and universities around the world.

The first Kentuckian named to the President's cabinet since 1945, Secretary Chao is married to the United States Senate Majority Whip, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.



September 2001. Secretary Chao visits site of World Trade Center with Department of Labor OSHA staff on site.

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao

Continued from page 4.

variety of community organizations, hired more Spanish-speaking enforcement officers, and widely distributed information about health, safety and wages in Spanish. The goal is to ensure that all workers, especially vulnerable immigrants, know their rights under our nation's labor laws. And it is this Administration's policy that all workers are protected by our nation's health, safety and wage laws—regardless of their status.

As we talk about opportunity and freedom, let me touch upon another challenge that impacts us all: the war on terror.

The events of 9/11 demonstrated the absolute necessity of discarding the old paradigm that law enforcement actions could defeat terrorism. Before 9/11, if a terrorist attacked, we would send law enforcement officers after them. Now we know that the terrorists have global ambitions. On Al Qaeda's own website, they clearly state their goal is to establish an Islamic empire from Spain to Southeast Asia, to reclaim the Caliphate of previous centuries and to establish Islamic law. This is the essence of our battle. They will not succeed. But it will take the combined power of military, political and economic resources to defeat them.

Our nation's military leaders have

discussed how important it is to continue taking the battle to the terrorists, so we don't have to fight them here at home.

We are all proud of the Hispanic Americans who have joined the Armed Forces to protect our country's freedoms and liberties. They are following the proud tradition of many Hispanic Americans who have gone before them and won so many Medals of Honor. They are taking the battle to the terrorists—"defending forward"—and depriving the terrorists who seek to harm us of resources and sanctuaries so we can be safe here at home. We are grateful to them beyond words.

Let me ask for your assistance in helping others access greater opportunities. In the next five years, the federal government is facing a wave of retirements in the civil service ranks. Hispanics are an under-represented group in the federal workforce. This wave of retirements

presents a tremendous opportunity for those looking at career options. There are more than 20,000 job openings listed on the federal employment website: (see Shadowbox). We hope you will help us spread the word of these opportunities.

Finally, let me mention the upcoming Opportunity Conference hosted by the Department. This is a Summit to help traditionally underserved communities access opportunity. It offers free workshops on networking, communications and accessing government grant and contracting opportunities. Last year, LULAC was a regional partner for the conference in Chicago. I hope you will check out this Conference on www.opportunityconference.gov, or www.dol.gov, and consider attending.



To find out about job opportunities at the Department of Labor, visit our job postings at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/jobs.htm>. You can view current openings and find information on how to apply. There are full time positions, summer employment opportunities and internships as well. The Department is eager to hire talented individuals with a desire for public service, so visit the site and consider joining our team. For all Federal employment opportunities, visit www.U.SAJOB.gov.

LULAC welcomes Lizette Jenness Olmos to our national office

Lizette Jenness Olmos was born in Puebla, Mexico. She moved to United States at a young age. Ms. Olmos earned her undergraduate degree at George Washington University in Political Communication and later completed her Master's Degree in Leadership at Georgetown University in Leadership at the McDonough School of Business.

Ms. Olmos has eight years of combined professional experience and has a wide range of professional background working with public and private organizations in public relations, government relations, mass media communications, and grassroots initiatives. Olmos has worked on campaigns focusing on outreach in the areas of Medicare and Social Security while at AARP.

Ms. Olmos is the Communications Director at the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). This organization advances the economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.



LULAC Tribute to Hon. Justice David Cerda

LULAC of Illinois honored Hon. Justice David Cerda

On Saturday, May 20th, 2006 LULAC of Illinois honored Hon. Justice David Cerda in the Town of Cicero.

In addition, to Justice Cerda's "reconocimiento", LULAC of Illinois convened its 50th anniversary convention and the Illinois delegation from Aurora, Elgin, Glendale Heights, Logan Square, Pilsen, Lincolnshire, Melrose Park, Cicero & Berwyn elected new leadership:

Eligio Marin, IL State Director, Blanca Vargas, re elected IL State Deputy Director, Estelle Martinez, State Treasurer, Yolanda Martinez, State Women Vice President, Gil Romero, Jr., State Youth Vice President Yanet Bahena, State Young Adults Vice President, Jose Valdes, State Vice president for the Elderly.

The following topics on Immigration, Human Rights, Housing, Voting Rights and other concerned issued were covered by our Special Guests Speakers: Rocco Claps, Director, Illinois Department of Human Rights, Birdella C. Braden, FBI Community Outreach Specialist, Jerry Heinauer, Chicago former acting Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Michael Rodriguez, USHLI, Frank Aguilar, Director of Community Affairs and Larry Dominick's Town of Cicero Representative. The following National LULAC officers were in attendance: Alicia Rios, National Vice President for the Midwest and Angie Garcia, LULAC National Vice President for the Elderly.

JUSTICE DAVID CERDA's Biography

2002 Retired Appellate Court Justice in Illinois 1945 to 1946 U.S. Navy
1950-51 Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico 1955 DePaul University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1955 to 1965 Engaged in general practice of law
1965 Appointed a Magistrate
1966 The first Latino Elected Circuit Judge in Cook County
1989 The first Latino Elected Appellate Court Justice in Illinois

Indiana and other states in the Midwest.

1958-1990 Justice Cerda was the co-founder, chairman and member of the LULAC Scholarship Committee. In addition, to LULAC's scholarships Justice Cerda was the Co-founder and first president of Mexican American Lawyers Association. Justice Cerda, was Charter Member of the Mexican American Scholarship Fund, Inc., which awarded to law school students.

1968 - 1977 - Member, Mexican

American Committee on Education. Goal was to improve education in Chicago Public Schools. 1979 - 1984 SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. member, board of directors. Goal was to provide job training for Latinos.

1984 - 1987 Casa Aztlan, member of board of directors, Goal was to improve quality of life for neighborhood residents in the Pilsen area.

1998 to Present Member of Advisory Council to College of Law, De Paul University.



PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

1956 to 1990 Founder of the first LULAC council in Illinois and the Midwest.
1959 Traveled to Iowa to established the first council #10
1959 Co-Chairman of first national LULAC convention held in Chicago.
1960 Traveled to Wisconsin established the first LULAC council
Years later expanded his horizons to

ACTIVE MEMBER:

Chicago and Illinois Bar Associations. Illinois Judges Associations, Illinois Judicial Council; Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Current Participation: Law Day programs, U of I; DePaul; Kent and Marshall Law schools. Also, served as moot court judge on numerous occasions for law schools, high schools and lawyers.

Election Rules

These 2006 Convention rules were approved by the National Board of Directors during its February meeting.

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by roll call stand up vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any one election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three Official Counters.
10. Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take, as per Robert's Rules of Order (revised), a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be,
 - National President
 - Southwest Vice President
 - Southeast Vice President
 - Northwest Vice President
 - Northeast Vice President
 - Farwest Vice President
 - Midwest Vice President
 - Vice President for the Elderly
 - Vice President for Women
 - Vice President for Young Adults
 - Vice President for Youth
 - Treasurer
 - 2009 Convention Site
14. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment with three speakers for and three speakers against.
15. All resolutions must be in written form and submitted by a local council

in good standing. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to ten minutes with two speakers for and two speakers against. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.

16. Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be in written form and signed by the total delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolution Committee shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 15 shall apply to this rule.
17. Delegates, alternates and guests must maintain proper decorum at all times. Whistles, horns and other noise making devices are not allowed. Individuals intentionally disrupting election proceedings as determined by the convention chair will be expelled from the floor.
18. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws and Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.
19. These adopted 2006 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.

LULAC National Awards

LULAC within its membership will bestow seven national awards presented during the Presidential Banquet at the LULAC Convention. These awards are the highest honor bestowed by LULAC

and are given to those individuals whose achievements and community service most exemplify the ideals of the League. The recipients of these prestigious awards are selected by an awards committee which is appointed by the national president. The awards committee reviews the nominations of LULAC Councils and selects the recipients based upon established criteria.

The Awards

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

- Man of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Council of the Year
- Raymond Telles Award for Education
- Felix Tijerina Award for Service to the League
- Aztec Award for Civil Rights
- J.C. Martinez Award for Membership and Expansion
- Cesar Chavez Award for Leadership and Community Service
- Dr. Anita Del Rio Award for Latina Leadership and Women's Advocacy

Criteria for Council of the Year Award

- 1 Council must be chartered and in good standing in the League.
2. Council must have been awarded Council of the Year at the District and State levels.
3. Council must have sponsored a LULAC Youth Council in the past year.
4. Council will receive special consideration for participation in the LNEC scholarship program.
5. Council must have participated in humanitarian and civic causes that have made an impact on LULAC and the community.

6. Council must have proof of all LULAC and community-related awards and recognition it claims, i.e., newspaper clippings, scrapbook, award letters, etc.
7. Council must have letters from its District and State Directors certifying that it was selected at the respective conventions.
8. The period of consideration for Council of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

Criteria for Man of the Year Award

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

Criteria for Woman of the Year Award

1. Nominee must be a member of a

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

Criteria for LULAC Special Awards

- Membership
- Loyalty
- Service
- Achievements
- Awards
- Contributions
- Leadership
- Recognition
- Actions
- Projects
- Accomplishments
- Volunteerism

1. Any LULAC member in good standing is eligible to be nominated for a LULAC Special Award.
2. Any member of LULAC can nominate a LULAC member for a LULAC Special Award.
3. Nomination and questionnaire forms must be submitted to the LULAC National Office prior to the National Convention.



The City of Long Beach

BEVERLY O'NEILL, MAYOR

June 26, 2006

Dear LULAC Membership,

We are so pleased that the League of United Latin American Citizens has discovered Long Beach! We are thrilled that the City of Long Beach will play host to the LULAC 2007 California State Conference and we are looking forward to the possibility of welcoming the entire LULAC organization to Long Beach for the 2009 National Convention.

Long Beach is the perfect place for those that bring their families! Stroll, roller blade or pedal down our bike path that winds along more than 5 ½ miles of sandy beaches; for a taste of nostalgia, tour the beautiful Queen Mary and experience her majesty first hand; discover the nature and wonder of the Aquarium of the Pacific; visit our newly expanded museums, and finish the evening with live music and dinner downtown.

In addition, the Museum of Latin American Art is a treasury of mediums displaying a rich Latin Contemporary Culture. In fact, MOLAA is the only museum in the western United States that exclusively features contemporary Latin American art. Through the utilization of its permanent collection, traveling exhibitions, and programs, MoLAA educates a diverse Southern California audience about contemporary Latin American art.

Long Beach is receiving the highest marks in customer satisfaction and service and many conventions report increased delegate attendance for their Long Beach meetings. Increased attendance can also be attributed to 35% drop in airfares into Long Beach, LAX and Orange County airports since the arrival of JetBlue in 2004.

We truly appreciate the LULAC membership considering Long Beach for the 2009 National Convention and allowing us the opportunity to show you what we are all about.

Sincerely,

Beverly O'Neill
MAYOR

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TELEPHONE 562-570-6801 FAX 562-570-6538 E-MAIL: MAYOR@CI.LONG-BEACH.CA.US

the perfect
destination
for your 2009 LULAC
National Convention

Where colorful street scenes meet the sea, Long Beach offers everything to make your 2009 LULAC National Convention spectacular. A modern ocean front convention center and entertainment facility in the midst of a foot-friendly downtown, with hundreds of dining and entertainment choices. In the heart of Southern California, airport close, Long Beach makes business a pleasure. (800) 452-7829

LONG BEACH
CALIFORNIA

visitlongbeach.com



Dave Rodriguez

Vice President Farwest



Photo by Luis Nufio Briones

Q: When and where were you born?

A: Born in Tucson August 1951

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: 26 years

Q: If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?

A: Newly immigrated person to the U.S. to find out what their struggle was like and what to do to make their life better as Hispanic leaders.

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: Senator Kennedy

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: Immigration and healthcare are two of the biggest challenges

Q: What is your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: We used to have a person named Judge Armendariz a leader in LULAC from Texas many years ago and he said to me "If you want to make a difference stay in the organization, if you want to stay on the outside than quit. He was a Superior Court Judge from Texas.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: The only hobby is taking up golf and most time is spent serving the community.

Q: What are some of the activities that you are involved in?

A: A lot of drop out prevention acts, LULAC Youth Conference, and making sure school boards in California do the best possible job to educate our children I am involved politically in electing Latino/Latina candidates to local, state, and national elected offices.

Q: What do you believe is one of the most important leadership characteristics?

A: Most important characteristic is to listen and to absorb the wisdom of others.

Q: What advice do you give to Latinos/Latinas?

A: No matter what their profession in life becomes to give back to community and ensure that their children vote and participate in community.

Q: What do you do when not with LULAC?

A: Lobby for public policy on behalf of the American Lung Association

Q: What has had the most impact on you this year?

A: The debate over fair immigration reform and how the Latino community has mobilized by the hundreds of thousands

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: The number of councils has grown and LULAC's message is getting out to the whole country and we are very

proud of that.

Q: What do you feel still needs to be addressed this year?

A: LULAC needs to strengthen the decision-making process and utilize goal setting for board a lot more

Q: What is your message to those reading this?

A: Follow whatever process they can towards becoming citizens and participate in elections or face setbacks

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: The lost city

Q: What is your next goal?

A: Be reelected to another term and continue to help Latino community prosper

Laura Medrano

Vice President Northeast



Photo by Luis Nufio Briones

Q: When and where were you born?

A: San Salvador, El Salvador

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: Since Boston Convention, 10 years

Regla Gonzalez

Massachusetts State

Director

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: Whole range of people that I admire. Honest politicians to the military and people who volunteer for humanitarian causes. Also people who leave things behind and come here for a better life.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: Right now immigration reform because it is affecting everybody because we are being portrayed in a negative way. I think we need to organize and exercise political muscle. We have to work out our differences and work together.

Q: What is your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: The highlight was meeting President Clinton and the First Lady and being at the White House for the Cinco de Mayo celebration. But the most important is being in front of assembly during the elections.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: My hobbies are spending time with my two sons.

Q: What are some of the activities that you are involved in?

A: Very involved with immigration reform, civil right cases, and right now the cable choice program, and worker rights.

Q: What do you believe is one of the most important leadership characteristics?

A: Being able to lead others as well and honesty and accountability

Q: What advice do you give to Latinos/Latinas?

A: Go to school and be educated.

Q: What has had the most impact on you this year?

A: Participating in the organizing for marches for immigration reform. I underestimated the power of the people, the ability to come together and organize.

Q: When did you first come to the United States?

A: I came to the United States with my mother when I was 21 years old pursuing freedom from the repressive



government of Cuba. My mother raised me by herself and I had the commitment to come to this country only and exclusively if my mother would be at my side. Since the moment I stepped foot on U.S. soil, I have been vigorously involved in many activities that have to do with the political, economic, and social development of our community.

Q: What are some of the activities that you have been involved in?

A: For the last 30 years, I have dedicated my life to helping my community recognizing that the needs are vast and the role that we play is of utmost importance. I have been the founder of several organizations such as La Oficina Hispana de La Comunidad, which recently celebrated its 35 years of service to the community. Throughout the years, I have also participated in massive voter registration and

naturalization drives in order to educate our community about the importance of voting and how we can make a difference.

Q: What would be your message as a community leader to the immigrant community and the youth?

A: We must focus on higher education and health care issues and their impact on Latinas. Nationwide, 30 percent of Latinas do not have health insurance. Many Latinas suffer adversely from lack of access to culturally competent

health care. Furthermore, 31 percent of Latina girls in the U.S. become pregnant at least once by age 20. In fact, the 2002 birth rate for Latinas 15-19 year olds was 83.4 per 1,000, nearly double the national rate. High pregnancy and birth rates not only pose a burden to the health care system, but it limits opportunities for young women, especially if they do not complete high school. We must all reach the goal of defining policies that will support Latina's health and education well being nationwide.

Immigration Policy: Caught Between Politics and Procedures

For the casual Congressional observer, the past six months of immigration debates have been sometimes entertaining and often perplexing. For those of us who are deeply involved, the debates often felt like we were riding a careening roller-coaster without a safety harness. Each day brought with it nuances of politics and procedural arguments, but little closure. Eventually, both the House and the Senate passed bills that reflected a similar tendency toward stricter border and interior enforcement, but were starkly different in their attitudes towards the undocumented already in the United States and future flows of workers. The final verdict on the fate of immigrants has yet to be decided.

The extreme polarization of the immigration debate is clearly apparent in the language of the bills which stand in bleak contrast to one another. Given that 2006 is an election year, the polarization is of course being used to drive voters to the polls, especially those who are terrified that Mexicans are invading the country. Whatever sensible or rational thought that is left in the rest of the population is quickly being marginalized by pundits in the media who loudly proclaim that immigrants are ruining: the country, the English language; American culture; the economy; the health care system; your neighborhoods; education, etc. — take your pick. All of which leaves little room for a lucid and reasonable discussion about this very important and complex subject. The immigration issue requires a sensible and balanced solution that takes into account national security, the economy and humanitarian needs.

A Study in Contrasts

Part of the difficulty in making sense out of the legislation that is on the table is that the bills are incredibly long and

contain a laundry-list of law enforcement provisions and in the senate bill, a very complex set of rules for earned legalization for the undocumented already in the country and the future flows of workers. In short, the Senate bill — S2611 or the Hagel-Martinez compromise — has mechanisms to allow some of the undocumented to apply for earned legalization and creates a type of guest-worker component for everybody else. One bright note is that the DREAM Act is fully integrated into the bill, as is AGJobs a program that addresses the needs of farm-workers.

Unlike the 1986 amnesty, this program does not simply allow the undocumented to apply for a green card. Instead, it divides those who are here without documentation into three tiers: those who have been in the United States for more than five years; those who have been in the United States from two to five years; and those who have been here less than two years. Each tier has a different set of regulations and status that would be accorded to each group should they be approved. And, for those who have been in the United States for more than five years, the implication in their regularization is that they would not get to participate in the democratic process for at least 18 years. For the other two tiers, the timeframe is even longer. Furthermore, for the future flow of workers, it only allows for 200,000 visas. Today, there are on average more than 350,000 applications per year from Mexico alone. SR 2611 also makes English the official language of the country and potentially makes it difficult for government agencies to provide important language-relevant information during times of crisis, such as a hurricane or an epidemic.

The House bill — HR 4437 or the Sensenbrenner bill — is pretty straightforward in that it essentially criminalizes

the undocumented and anyone who tries to assist them, knowingly or unknowingly; assures that local law enforcement enforce federal immigration laws; and places a 700 mile wall on the border. The bill also hurts Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) in that it makes it more difficult for them to be able to obtain citizenship in that if for whatever arbitrary reason they were denied citizenship, it could be kept a secret as to why and eliminate a judge's power to review the case. It also penalizes states or localities that protect the undocumented or provides asylum and places refugees in danger.

The two bills have now passed out of committee and been voted on. It is now up to both the House and the Senate to decide on the conferees who will participate in the

conference process. The procedural wrangling that has taken place thus far has been spectacular and sometimes borders on the baffling. Arcane provisions have been pulled out of the closet leading to hostile maneuvers and finger-pointing on both sides of the aisle.

The House has threatened to declare the Senate bill not germane since it has certain financing provisions that the House feels is only their territory to decide upon. The Majority and Minority leaders in the Senate spent weeks arguing over the number of amendments from each party that would be allowed to be debated in the final bill, who would sit at the table during conference, and defined what would be the point of no return in the conference proceedings when they would simply pull back altogether should the

conference run astray. Each procedure has been and continues to be debated *ad nauseum* and the conference discussions have not even begun to take place.

From a political standpoint, the mood is also not very positive. When the Senate bill passed out of conference, Congressman Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Chair of the House Judiciary Committee declared that the two bills were "oceans apart" and basically made it clear that he was not hopeful of anything coming out of conference. The Senate has been somewhat more optimistic, but also has mentioned that much depends on the attitude of the House. President George W. Bush has taken to traveling along the U.S.-Mexico border to push for immigration reform, clearly stating that the Senate bill does not represent an amnesty. But the conservative anti-immigrants in his party are so angry about the bill that they are pushing for the dismissal of Senator Martinez and Senator Hagel, the Republican authors of the Senate compromise. In the meantime, the National Guard has been deployed along the U.S.-Mexico border; Canada has discovered Al-Qaeda terrorist cells on its territory.

An Uncertain Future

The media continues to barrage the American public into pained uncertainty. Some have turned the vigilante Minutemen into heroes, while others march by the millions in the streets of cities across the nation in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Both opinions equally passionate, both equally polarized. Yet, the solution seems ephemeral and the problems continue.

The immigration system is broken. For example, the Philippines have backlogs for family reunification that go back 23 years. The U.S.-Mexico border has become a war-zone and people continue

to die trying to get into the United States, while the security needs of the northern border have only barely been discussed.

In Washington, DC, the conventional wisdom is that the ultimate decision over comprehensive immigration reform will wait until after the November 7 elections. The President has asked Congress to wait. But, grassroots communities across the nation are unhappy and want to see action. Many are asking themselves, do we move forward with a Senate bill that contains poison pills? Or, do we block it? And, the ultimate question: what will the House do? Already, they have introduced anti-immigrant amendments into appropriations bills to ensure that their negative agenda becomes law.

The future of immigrants and the nation is in the balance and it requires clear thinking and smart politics. The mobilizations of the past months must be translated into political empowerment. Marching in the streets — although powerful — is not sufficient for the creation of authoritative comprehensive immigration reform legislation. It must be matched with strong organizational techniques and concrete actions that demonstrate to the members of Congress and the White House that there are ramifications should they choose not to listen. The theme of the marches needs to be translated into reality: "Today we march. Tomorrow we vote." November 7 will be the test.

By Dr. Gabriela Lemus
LULAC Director of
Public and Legislation



"LULAC helps youth to have a voice and get them involved in the community."

Dear LULAC Young Brothers & Sisters,

Welcome to Milwaukee!

Welcome to our 77th National LULAC Youth Convention here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From June 26th through July 1st you will have a lifetime experience. We have top notch speakers, presenters and most important first in a LULAC Youth lifetime to partner up with a local University like UWM (University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee) and give you wonderful events and show our dedication and support towards the community by having two days of community service.

The LULAC Youth organization has come a very long way and it now will embark on an historic adventure while here. We have accomplished many milestones in last couple of years, one, our National Youth President, Mr. Miguel Zazueta has been instrumental in representing you! We have increased the Youth Board leadership and capabilities, established the National Youth Volleyball Slam, the National Youth News and enhanced our communications through the quarterly Youth Board meetings and through our Youth Activities meetings gathering information from advisors, youth and their parents. We also have established the 1st National Youth Raffle fundraiser, not only increases the funds in the National Youth Treasury, but also in the local youth councils. Our board is also supported by a small group of adult volunteers who have dedicated their energy & time to our vision. It has been an amazing experience leading to our 1st Annual Community Service days to be held in this wonderful city where local and LULAC youth will walk and work hand in hand.

Again, welcome to Milwaukee and let's continue the adventure together!



Miguel J. Zazueta
National LULAC Youth President



Javier Montanez
National Vice President for Youth

P.S. "Si Se Puede!" - Cesar E. Chavez
& "Si Se Pudo!" - Dr. John D. Arnold

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

2006 LULAC National Youth Community Service Days
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

When: Monday, June 26th - Thursday, June 29th, 2006

Who is eligible? LULAC Youth, Young Adults, Advisors & local community organizations When do I call? NOW, till Friday, June 16th.

Who do I contact: Contact Ms. Silvia Perez, LULAC Youth On-Site Coordinator at (414) 389-6007 or (414) 791-4510 for reservation at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee at the University's resident housing on campus. You can also e-mail her at Silvia.perez@umos.org Ensure you have your "Parental Release & Liability" form.

When do I arrive? By 3:00 pm on Monday, June 26th and plan to stay till Thursday morning, June 29th when you will arrive at your respective hotels.

Where will I stay? University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee UWM) "Sandburg Halls"

How much? FREE

What will we do? Family services activities: day care, child welfare, classroom, painting, playground, planting, neighborhood cleanup, trash pickup...etc. Ensure you wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

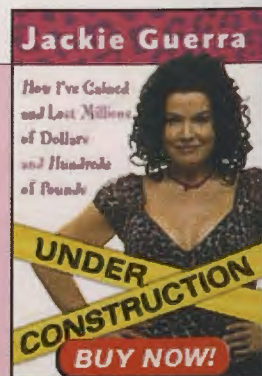
Note: All youth will be subject to the LULAC National Youth "Code of Conduct" approved by the National Youth Board on February 18, 2006.

You can also contact Javier Montanez, National VP for Youth at (210) 317-3971 or e-mail at Havier@stic.net

Miguel Zazueta, Nat'l Youth President (520) 730-5193 or e-mail at MiguelZazueta@lulac.org

Bertha Urteaga, Assistant - VP for Youth, (832) 216-7012 or e-mail at Berta_urteaga@yahoo.com

Buy Jackie Guerra's inspirational memoir, and she will donate 100% of her profit from the sales of her book by using the link on the National LULAC Website at www.LULAC.org. Just click the button on the website. For more information, please visit her website at www.JACKIEGUERRA.com



National Women's Conference: "A Journey to Greatness"

The LULAC National Women's Conference was held on March 31-April 1 in New York City. The "Journey to Greatness" Conference addressed the challenges that Latinas confront in their families, home, work, business, and in their

President for Women. "Knowledge is key and sharing the knowledge gained during the conference has brought us together as a community for a better America," she continued.

In her keynote address, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, "In a journey for greatness, everyone has the capacity for greatness by building communities, businesses, families and helping those along the way." "Economic prosperity is the best way to further prosperity among women," she added.



Laura Medrano, Ana Hart, Senator Hilary Clinton, Laura Medrano, Hector Flores, and Rosa Rosales

communities. The Women's Conference provided workshops on topics such as Public Policy Trends: Impact on Women, Healthy Women, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities, Reaching Financial Security, and the Economically Empowered Women's Roundtable.

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao encouraged women to consider career opportunities in public service. According to Secretary Chao, "In the next 5 years the federal government is facing a wave of retirement in the civil service ranks and this presents a tremendous opportunity for those seeking career options."

Maria Marin, author and expert in the Art of Negotiation, captivated the audience with a compelling message. "One of the major reasons why we don't get what we want out of life is because expectations are too low and we are afraid to ask for more. That's why rule number one in business as in life is: You expect more, You demand more and You get more!"

LULAC's National President Hector M. Flores stressed that although Latinas have had many successes on their journey to greatness, there are still more roads to pave. He visualizes a legacy beginning that will truly energize the Latina population with a sense of duty.

The Conference was sponsored by Ford Motor Company, Wal-Mart, AT&T, ExxonMobil, Staples, MGM Mirage



Lydia Welch, Margaret Moran, and Carol Robles-Roman Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs and Counsel to New York City Mayor

Resorts, Coca Cola, Brinker International, Blockbuster Video, Tyson Foods, Aztec



Senator Hilary Clinton, Tula Flores and Sara Flores. The LULAC Women's Conference was dedicated to Tula Flores for her contribution and sacrifice to LULAC.

Worldwide, Argent Associates, Clear Channel Communications, and Altria Group.



Maria Main, author and expert in the Art of Negotiation



Hector Flores, Margaret Moran, Rita Kay Green, Ana Hart, Rosa Rosales, Laura Medrano, and Cynthia Molina

"The caliber of presenters and the emphasis that was placed on issues related to women and families, workforce development, technology training, health, education, political empowerment, and financial security dominated the conference", said Margaret Moran LULAC National Vice

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



Mexican President Vicente Fox, LULAC National President Hector Flores and Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Executive Director Carlos González Gutiérrez visiting at Los Pinos.



National LULAC delegation taking a photo with Mexican President Vicente Fox at Los Pinos



National LULAC President Hector Flores, Secretaria General del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) Rosario Green, Ray Velarde and Jaime Martinez.



National LULAC President Hector Flores and Distrito Federal Senator -PAN Cecilia Romero representing Mexican presidential candidate Felipe Calderon



(Standing up) National LULAC President Hector Flores, LULAC Foreign Relations Secretary Luis De La Garza, Miguel Angel Núñez Soto, Ex Governor of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico. (Sitting in the back) Elia Mendoza with LULAC.



"Alternativa Partido Politico Nacional" Mexican Presidential Candidate Patricia Mercado Castro with National LULAC President Hector Flores at a press conference in Mexico City.



(Front) National LULAC President Hector Flores, President of Mexico's Nueva Alianza political party Miguel Ángel Jiménez Godínez, Ray Velarde. (Back) National LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes, LULAC Chief of Staff Roman Palomares, Parliamentarian Ray Mancera and Elia Mendoza

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



LULAC National President Hector Flores and Mega March organizer Domingo Garcia next to youth organizer Gustavo Jimenez.



Mega March led by organizers, Hispanic leaders, and local and Texas state elected officials.

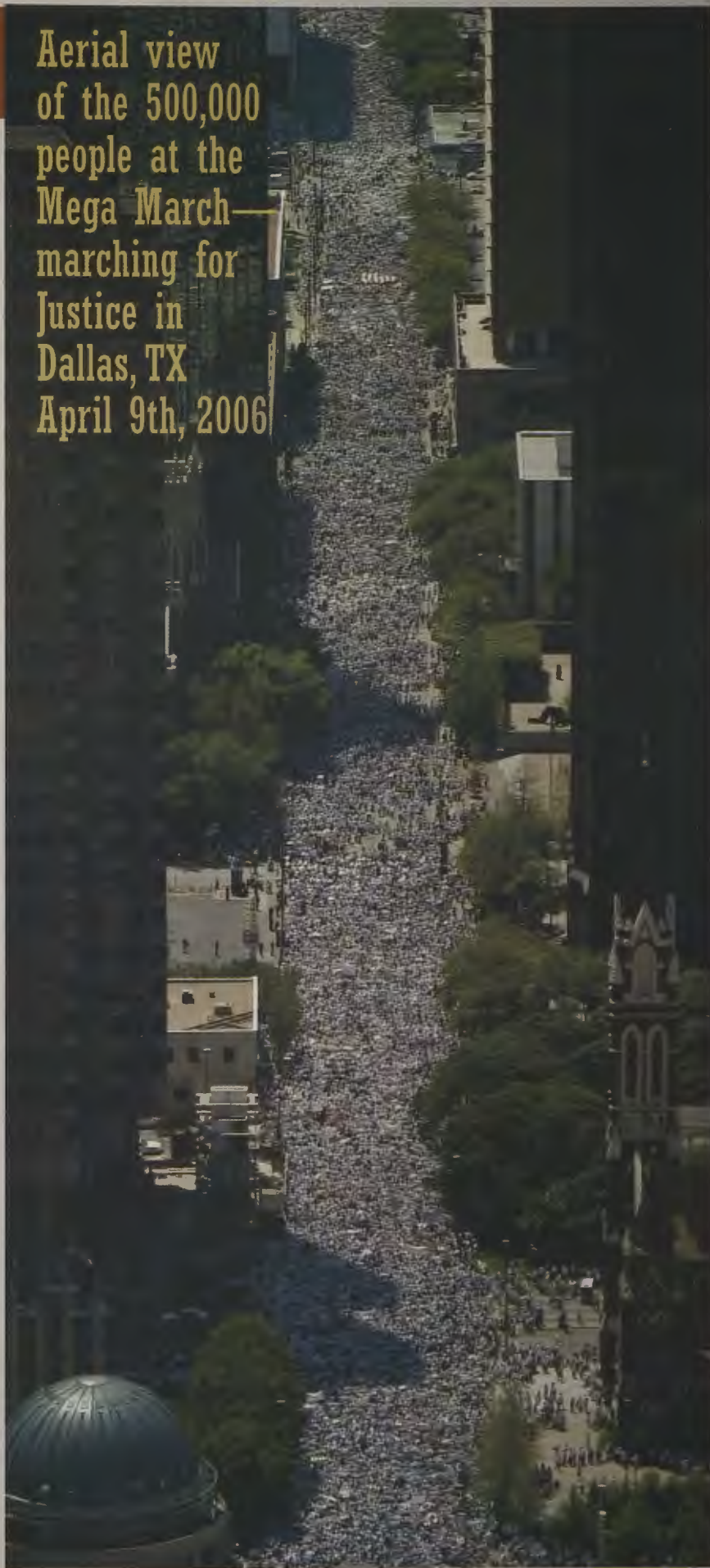


Congressman Luis Gutierrez addressing thousands of participants at an immigration forum at Truman College.



Dr. Gabriela Lemus at the April 10th march in Washington DC.

**Aerial view
of the 500,000
people at the
Mega March—
marching for
Justice in
Dallas, TX
April 9th, 2006**





Science Corps students work closely with their teacher, Doralisa Reyna, at Cunningham Middle School in Corpus Christi, TX.

The achievement gap between white students and young Hispanics is widely acknowledged and well-documented. No where is this gap more apparent, than in the areas of math and science. Many recently renewed studies have shown that even those minority students who complete high school within five years typically finish at least a full grade-level behind their white peers in math and science subjects. Further, despite the many gains our community has made in education over the last three decades, this gap has remained largely unchanged since the early nineteen seventies.

This problem carries into the professional world creating large discrepancies in minority representation in these areas. While the need for a diverse community of scientists, engineers, and other technical professionals has never been greater, Hispanics remain grossly underrepresented in these new economy fields. In an effort to tackle this problem head-on, LNEsc has teamed up with our longtime partners at Ford Motor Company, as well as the brilliantly creative team at Education Development Center (EDC) to bring new materials and an innovative science curriculum to Latino students all over the country. In the spring of 2005, with much pride and after nearly two years of preparation, LNEsc and the Ford Partnership For Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) launched the Science Corps program.

Science Corps is a significant move toward bringing greater awareness of science, math, and engineering fields to typically underrepresented communities, especially Hispanics. The program provides a highly interactive approach to learning about careers in science and engineering. Through partnerships with universities, science professionals, and corporations, students are offered both academic and in-the-field exposure to

LNEsc News

Inspiring Youth, Promoting Science: LNEsc and Partners Respond to Community Needs

high-tech industries. The units deal with water use and conservation, health care and medical technology, materials science and engineering, and much more. The curriculum, targeted at eighth graders, is entertaining as well as educational. It allows teachers and students the freedom to expand upon the covered topics both in and out of the classroom. LNEsc Executive Director Richard Roybal says of the program: "(It) is truly able to reach out to young people and get them interested in these subjects. The program even encourages them to share their lessons with family members."

Now, a full year after the launch, we have

added more supporters such as Shell and Exxon Mobile, and more campuses to the Science Corps team. This fall the program will begin its second full year at 10 high-need middle schools in San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Miami, and Pueblo. Teachers, parents, and students alike have been very active in promoting this program locally, and it has received great acclaim from school administrators. LNEsc takes great pride in being able to deliver programs like Science Corps and the resources that come with them to our community. Visit our website www.lnesc.org to learn more. Join our contacts list to receive regular updates from LNEsc.

Advancing Our Community Developing Tomorrow's Workforce



Young Readers

LNEsc

LULAC National Educational
Service Centers, Inc.



Middle School
Initiative



Talent Search, Upward Bound and
GEAR UP



LULAC National
Scholarship Fund

Learn about LNEsc at www.lnesc.org
or call us at 202.835.9646.
CFC Designation # 0425



Success

With undergraduate and MBA degrees from the University of Michigan, Janet Padilla is a model of the idea that hard work will lead to success. Having come from the "La Villita" neighborhood of Chicago, Janet was an LNEsc Talent Search student and a participant in our inveterate Hispanic Leadership Opportunity Program (HLOP). She is now the coordinator of the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies, one of the Ford Motor Company's largest philanthropic endeavors. Says Janet of the program: "(It) provided me with strong social capital which opened the doors to a number of opportunities that have made me into the person I am today...These programs provide youth with the experiences, resources, and skills that enable them to reach their full potential." LNEsc salutes Janet, along with thousands of other LNEsc alumni, now successful professionals, who are giving back to their community.

UN PASO ADELANTE PARA TODOS!

In Memoriam: Charles Tamez

December 23, 1972 – June 11, 2006



*"Always with a smile
and a wink..."*

By Matthew Looney

"Good begets good and beauty, beauty" goes the old saying. We at LNES and LULAC, along with thousands of students across the country are privileged to have been a part of so much of the good and beauty that Charles Tamez brought to this world. In a generation implacably obsessed with wealth and status, Charles measured success in other ways. For this magnanimity, and for all his gifts, his community and his colleagues are eternally grateful.

Born and raised in Corpus Christi, a LULAC town if ever there was one, Charles devoted his life to the service of others. He served LNES for over ten years: first as an educational advisor in Texas and later as a contract proposal writer. Most recently he distinguished himself as the Director of Resource Development in Washington, DC. He is most fondly remembered by our students as the prickly but capricious coordinator of the Washington Youth Seminar, a role in which he reveled.

A graduate of Vassar College, he was a lover of art and literature. At a time when professional and technical education is seen as the best course for many of our youth – Charles always impressed upon his students the importance of the liberal arts, making time and securing resources for museum tours and gallery visits, and encouraging them to take time to smell the proverbial roses.

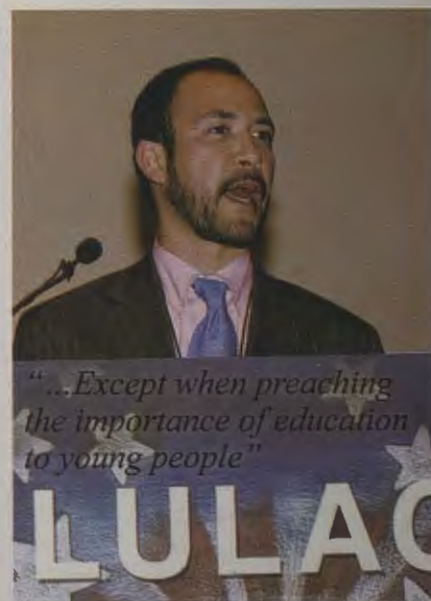
In general, he loved people most of all – and it showed. Delightfully irreverent and always quick to laugh, Charles had a way of disarming almost anyone. It is this quality, which bespoke his warmth and good nature, that shall be missed most. Reluctantly and with heavy hearts, we bid goodbye to our friend and commend him to a better, more peaceful place. After a long and hard-fought battle with illness, Charles passed away on June 11, 2006 as a result of complications from surgery.

Our organization mourns the loss of a great colleague and a professional of the first order. Our community mourns the loss of a faithful and passionate advocate. His commitment to education and to a better future for all young people was a testament

to his character and a reflection of the tremendous worth of the wonderful person so many of us came to know and love. He will be sorely missed by all. His wit and wisdom will be impossible to replace. We are thankful for his life and service. Good begets good and beauty, beauty. Truly, all those lives he touched are better and more beautiful for it.

Charles is survived by his mother Carmen, his brother Andrew, his young niece Caroline, all of Corpus Christi, TX; his life partner Tavis Steenbeke of Washington, DC; and countless other loved ones and friends. During these difficult days our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the friends and loved ones he leaves behind. We ask that God take him in his arms now, for few have ever been more deserving.

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord cause his light to shine on thee, the Lord lift his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.



Sowing Seeds of Justice in Financial Access and Education

Increasing access to formal financial services for immigrant communities is an issue that has grown in importance as financial institutions and their regulators have begun to respond to the large increases in immigrant communities that have taken place over the last decade. Recent immigrants, and particularly those from Latin America, continue to be "unbanked" at high rates -- in the 40 percent range as compared to 13 percent of the general population. With Latin American immigrants numbering nearly 18 million in 2004, a significant number of people continue to conduct financial transactions largely in cash, with few secure options for saving.

This phenomenon impacts the personal security of immigrants, because they are targeted for robbery by people who know they carry cash -- as was the situation when Washington Nationals baseball player Jose Guillen's Dominican-born girlfriend was robbed outside a check-cashing store -- although most are unlikely to report crimes to the police. It also impacts the capacity of communities to begin the asset building process and become integrated into mainstream credit systems.

Over the past three years, Appleseed has been working to increase access to appropriate product and service offerings at financial institutions for recent immigrants as well as address issues of pricing and disclosures in international remittance markets. Appleseed Centers in Chicago, Georgia, Nebraska, and Texas in partnership with the national Appleseed office

have created a number of resources for individuals and financial institutions. The centers have published surveys of product and service offerings in their regions as a way to gauge how well financial institutions are doing in meeting immigrant needs and to provide guidance for improving product and service offerings within regulatory constraints. They have also published a guide on home mortgage lending approaches for immigrants and communities with non-traditional credit profiles and a series of financial education brochures geared at the specific needs of unbanked immigrants. Other publications include a tool kit for banks and credit unions that provides a concise view of strategies and positive practices for reaching immigrants, and a paper documenting the current state of immigrant banking initiatives and highlighting policy and regulatory issues that need to be addressed to move market offerings to scale.

In December of 2005, Appleseed released a detailed study on the U.S.-Mexico international money transfer market. Appleseed Centers collected two weeks of daily pricing and exchange rate data for 21 companies in Georgia, Illinois, Nebraska, and Texas. The results of the study were promising, in that they documented a decrease in the cost of money transfers to Mexico and that competition is working and benefiting consumers in this market. However, they also highlighted some key areas where the market can be improved. Though there has been a general decrease in cost, pricing remains inconsistent and difficult to compare. The lack of upfront total pricing disclosures coupled with exchange rate variations beyond movement in the general market make it difficult for consumers to show for the best price. As an

example, within one market, there was an \$18 difference between the highest total cost and the lowest. Most of the cost difference was tied to the exchange rate mark up, which is not disclosed for the transactions. With consumers paying just under \$15 dollars on average to send \$300 once or twice per month, saving even a few dollars per transaction can make an important difference for families and communities. Building on the results of this study, Appleseed is working to pursue voluntary market standards to improve consumer disclosures and support competition in international money transfer markets.

Appleseed continues to work to improve product and service offerings and pricing to help immigrant communities integrate into the financial mainstream and build assets for the families here and in home countries. The work relies on a solid network of partner organizations and we are always open to working with new organizations to leverage our respective expertise to benefit immigrant communities, which make up an important part of the future of our country.

Author: Ann Baddour, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Appleseed
E-Mail: abaddour@texasappleseed.net

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



Senator Edward Kennedy receives the National LULAC Legislator of the year from Rosa Rosales and Luis Vera.



Senator McCain is presented the LULAC National Legislative Award from Ziad S. Ojakli group vice president of corporate affairs Ford Motor Company and former National VP of the Southeast Roberto Canino.



Puerto Rico's House Speaker visits with National LULAC President Hector Flores.



Mickey Ibarra, Mayor of Salt Lake City Ross C. Anderson and LULAC National President Hector Flores presenting the LULAC Profile in Courage Award during the LULAC Legislative awards banquet.

Protest in front of the U.S. Supreme Court by LULAC National Leadership demanding Texas Redistricting be redone with out violating the Voting Rights Act.

photo by Luis Nuño Briones



LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes addresses audience at LULAC 2006 Legislative Gala.

LULAC Homes

Ground-Breaking News-First LULAC Home Development Under Construction Homeownership Not Just for Dreamers Visions of homes uniquely designed for the Hispanic homeowner's needs have been an exciting thought since the LULAC National Housing Commission's inception. With over 8 cities implementing the Housing Commission's education initiative, the LNHC has taken another step forward in providing services to the Hispanic community by breaking ground on its first LULAC home development, Hacienda del Norte, in Fort Worth, Texas.

"We have targeted this location because we know the Fort Worth housing market is strong and that the many thriving business developments in the area will continue to drive in a growing Hispanic community," said Beatrice Alba Martinez, National Chair of the LULAC National Housing Commission. "We are very excited to add a new dimension to the LULAC name," she added.

The first "LULAC Home" branded development project has been planned for Fort Worth because of the many benefits to residents by a recent revitalization of the downtown area. The Trinity River Project, another development project in the area, will also create a vast numbers of jobs, and in turn the demand for more affordable housing opportunities will increase.

The LULAC Homes brand represents quality at an affordable price is being supported and financed by companies that believe both in its mission and purpose. This purpose is to be the first ever housing project specifically created for the Hispanic homeowner, meeting design, material, location, and financial needs that provides an opportunity to achieve the American dream of homeownership. "Emphasizing quality, our goal is not just to create a house affordable to buy, but affordable to live in", says Steve

Rosenbaum VP of Business Development of New Generation Builders. "We look forward to our partnership with the LULAC National Housing Commission."

"LULAC Homes" Development Project

Location: Fort Worth, Texas

Development: 71 Single-Family

Development Builder and Developer:

New Generation Builders Finance:

JPMorgan Chase Mortgage Lenders:

JPMorgan Chase Title Services: Stewart Title.



In the Spotlight

Las Mujeres Council Advances Homeownership Opportunities

LULAC Women's Council # 8005, Las Mujeres of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been working hard to rebuild the community in which they live by working side by side with the LULAC National Housing Commission to expand homeownership opportunities. Since July 2005, Las Mujeres Council, headed by President Melissa Armijo has coordinated monthly Home Buyer Seminars with at least 15 attendees. Las Mujeres LULAC Council has worked with GMAC to be the highest producing council in mortgages for LULAC National Housing Commission clients.

"We have assisted many Hispanics to either purchase or refinance homes," says Deborah Morris VP of local LULAC Las Mujeres Council. "There are so many Latinas that qualify for their own homes and don't even know they do."

There is a housing demand among the Hispanic population, but not enough awareness to generate knowledge of homeownership accessibility.

Media support generates a large amount of exposure for seminars in Albuquerque. Press coverage is strong and the local Univision television station is actively involved in providing promotions and

coverage on housing issues in regards to LULAC's intervention.

Las Mujeres Council # 8005, a nonprofit organization, has been nothing short of successful starting up the Housing Program in Albuquerque. Among other roles, they address issues of equity, education, employment, health and cultural awareness for all Hispanics, and have given added value to the Las Mujeres of LULAC. They are role

models for Latinos and stress that Hispanic homeowners working together can mold a better educated community and safe environment for future generations.

Teaming up with local LULAC Councils

In the Community with Seminars and Outreach Events

The LULAC National Housing Commission has a stronghold on targeting much needed attention to the need for higher homeownership in Hispanic communities. Going strong teaming with LULAC Councils across the U.S., the LNHC monthly Home Buyer Seminars are developing and awareness about programs and services is increasing as these councils participate in community events from health fairs, to housing conventions, and legislative and other educational events.

"The Hispanic community is ready to respond, they are just waiting for a resource to provide them services and information, and that is our organization's niche," states Oscar Gutierrez, Seminar Outreach Coordinator for the National Housing Commission Dallas office. "It is important that we, as LULAC members, get out in front of this community and show them we are willing to work hard to bring them quality services and trustworthy information." In doing so, Home Buyer Seminars have been an effective means with a successful outcome of getting the knowledge to carry the homebuyer into homeownership. LULAC's focus is not only getting people to the point of homeownership, but keeping them there.

LULAC Councils in San Antonio, Chicago, Dallas, and Boston know the importance of communicating to other members that the more involved LULAC is in the community, the more credibility it builds for the LULAC name. Blanca Vargas, of local LULAC Council in Chicago, Ill. says,

"Hardwork participating in the events and conducting Home Buyer Seminars furthers LULAC's mission to be a credible resource for Hispanics." Blanca believes that "LULAC members must use their experience and good business relationships as leverage to better help those in the community by growing a resource base for Hispanics who need assistance and by establishing recognition of LULAC values." In recognition of fair housing month, Blanca participated as LULAC National Housing Commission volunteer in the Department of Human Rights Housing Fair where financial institutions and other community organizations teamed up to make housing opportunities available.

Fair Housing

HUD 2006 National Fair Housing Policy Conference

The 2006 National Fair Housing Policy Conference, provided by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and held in Anaheim, California on June 26-29, is focusing on the importance of Fair Housing and its implications are to stress equal opportunity to housing regardless of race, sex, or religion. The theme for the conference "Fair Housing-It's Not an Option- It's the Law" provides participants through General Sessions and Focus Groups, discussions on policy issues affecting HUD and Fair Housing and will highlight civil rights initiatives; facilitate information sharing between program participants and HUD staff; and encourage strategic planning on a range of fair housing and civil rights matters.

LULAC National Housing Commission will be involved in the event and supporting the Fair Housing initiatives. LNHC's National Chair, Beatrice Alba Martinez, will be participating on a panel discussion to represent the Hispanic voice as it applies to cultural discrimination in access to fair housing opportunities.

Housing Commission Mission

About Us

The LULAC National Housing Commission is a subsidiary of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic organization. Formed in 2004, the LNHC's mission is to expand housing opportunities to the Latino community by promoting access to affordable housing, economic development and job creation opportunities for disadvantaged and low to moderate income families.

To achieve this, the LNHC are developing programs and services in the following areas:

- Providing information and training to potential homebuyers
- Providing technical assistance to encourage building and/or rehabilitation of housing projects
- Establishing partnerships and other ventures to enhance housing and economic growth
- Acquiring new and existing properties
- Promoting the development and reinvestment in planned residential communities for single-family homeownership
- Developing low cost loans and working capital to developers and builders who meet the needs of the low-income communities
- Generating public awareness on housing and economic opportunities through LULAC publications, newsletters, web-based communications and housing education events

Support from our Corporate Partners:

JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Countrywide Home Loans, GMAC, Wachovia, Citigroup, Stewart Title, State Farm, Fannie Mae, Tri-Steel, AGI Architects, Law Firm of Delgado Acosta Braden and Jones, Capitol Consultants, and Schaumburg Architects.



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Photo by Lulu Yello DeLeon

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



Texas LULAC Convention & Conference ribbon cutting in Corpus Christi, Texas.



LULAC National President Hector Flores, Luis De La Garza, Mario Ramirez and Nancy Guerrero at a press conference in Mexico City at the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores office.



Tony Silvain, Board Member, Sunnyside School District Richard Fimbres, Governing Board Member Pima Community College, Director Governor's Office of Highway Safety Immediate Past LULAC National Farwest Vice-President Tom Prezelski, Representative, Arizona State Legislature, District 29



National Youth LULAC President Miguel Zazueta delivering a speech at the NM State Convention.



Young LULAC members that attended and participated at the Los Angeles Immigration Forum.



LULAC Council President #1114 and former past Pima County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom speaks with Dr. Gabriela Lemus LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation in Tucson, Arizona for America Votes/LULAC campaign training.



Dr. Gabriela Lemus with Cofounder of United Farm Workers Dolores Huerta at a seminar in the Los Angeles Immigration Forum.

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



Photo by Luis Photo Services

National President Hector M. Flores at the MEGA March in Dallas, Texas delivering a speech in front of half a million people and what is known as the largest civil rights march in Texas history



Photo by Luis Photo Services

National President Hector M. Flores at the March in Los Angeles, California delivering a speech in front of more than a million people and what is known as the largest civil rights march in California's history.



Youth emailed campaign to Senator John Cornyn



Darryl D. Morin speaking at an immigration forum in Milwaukee, WI.



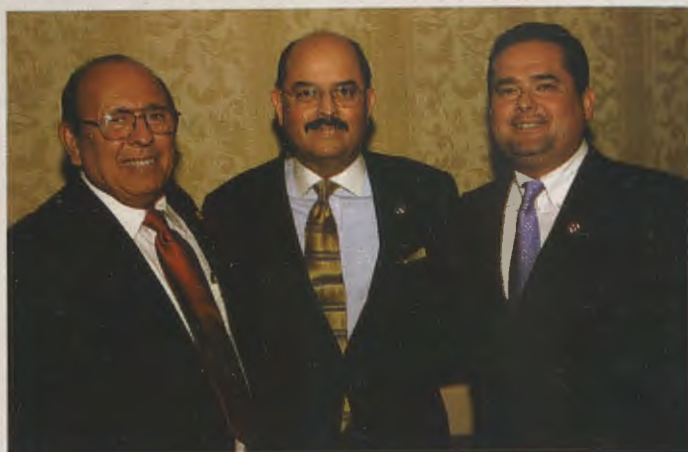
Rally in Washington, DC on April 10th, 2006



Richard M. Fimbres, President 1105, Marcos Rodriguez, LULAC Member Annabelle Nunez, President 1081 Enrique Gomez, AZ State Director Javier Herrera, AZ VP for Young Adults and Immediate Past AZ State Director Ana Estrada, LNESCB Board Member Mary L. Fimbres, LNESCB Board Secretary, AZ Past State Director Monica Marquez, Council President 1113



LULAC National President Hector Flores gives an award to Gilbert Flores at the California State LULAC Convention.



Former Texas Senator Carlos Truan, National LULAC President Hector Flores, Texas LULAC State Director visiting during the Texas LULAC Banquet in Corpus Christi.

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.

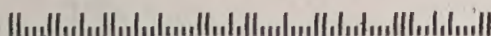
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