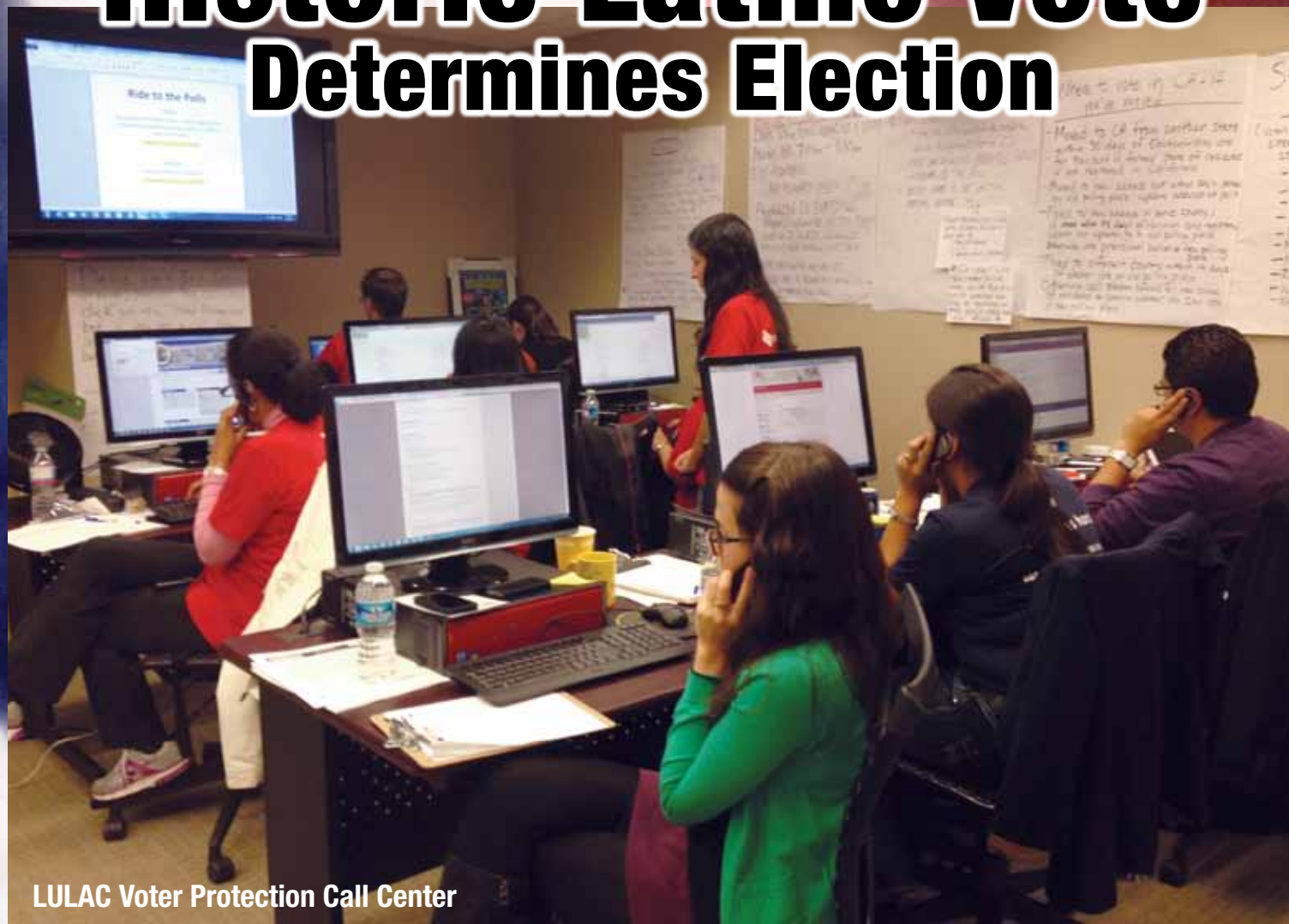




LULACnews

Fall 2012

Historic Latino Vote Determines Election



LULAC Voter Protection Call Center

INSIDE:

Latino Voters Center Stage
Meet the Challenge!
Latinos Living Healthy
Hispanic Corporate Leadership



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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE *from the President*

My Brothers and Sisters,

During the Presidential Election, we witnessed a historic Latino voter turnout demonstrating once and for all that the road to the White House goes through the heart of the Latino community. In the days and weeks after the historic election every pundit in America was expressing what LULAC has known for years—that a candidate must win a substantial share of the Latino vote in order to have a chance at winning the Presidency.

According to exit polling done by Latino Decisions, President Obama received 75% of the Hispanic vote while Governor Romney managed just 23%. This 52 point margin was enough to put the President over the top in the popular vote and the Electoral College.

Among the key battleground states, the Latino vote tipped the election in favor of the President. According to Latino Decisions, Obama won 87% of the Latino vote in Colorado, 82% in Ohio, 80% in Nevada 77% in New Mexico, 66% in Virginia and 58% in Florida. These coordinated efforts helped to overcome the significant obstacles Latino voters faced in this election, including voter identification laws, tighter restrictions on early voting, and politically motivated voter purges of naturalized citizens that affected more than 219,000 Latino voters in at least five states. The tragedy behind these laws isn't their potential to suppress the vote for the benefit of a particular party; but instead their attempt to silence an already disenfranchised sector of our population.

Voter ID legislation may appear reasonable to those who already have ID that they carry wherever they go. The reality, however, is that voter ID legislation is a solution in search of problem because in person voting fraud is so rare that no honest legislator would ever bother proposing legislation that would require voters to show ID if preventing fraud were their only motivation.

A study by the Brennan Center for Justice found only 5 cases of in person fraud in the last two decades. The same study also estimates that up to 5 million registered voters may be

disenfranchised by recently passed voter ID laws in key states. It is simply unacceptable to propose legislation that would disenfranchise roughly 100,000 voters for every case of voter fraud prevented.

Our country is comprised of a diverse Latino population where every citizen's vote has equal value and largely, in part to efforts coordinated by LULAC, we did. Before the election, LULAC and our partners predicted that a record 12 million Latino voters would cast their ballots in the 2012 Presidential race and, based upon exist polling, our prediction has been validated.

During the Election, LULAC worked hand in glove with key civil rights organizations to ensure that voter suppression laws did not keep Latinos from voting. We are thankful to our LULAC volunteers, staff and network of 123 local LULAC Councils who helped to register and turnout Latino voters in 23 states. This achievement was only possible through their hard work and dedication. Ultimately, those efforts helped determine the 2012 Presidential election. For example, our Virginia and Nevada voter registration and GOTV campaign registered thousands of Hispanic voters and contacted thousands more, which made a big difference in those close elections.

We must remember, however, that as great an achievement as this was, it is only just a beginning. We must now harness the momentum from our historic Latino turnout and push our elected leaders to respond to the critical needs of the Latino community. Our community is not a single issue electorate as 82% of Latinos that voted support a pathway to citizenship. It's an issue that affects thousands of families. In the months ahead, we will work with Congress to pass reform that reduces the backlog of individuals seeking residency; ensures a workable legal immigration framework that includes worker protections; and allows hardworking immigrants who have played by the rules a path to legalization.

Such a continued effort will help ensure that in the future, the Latino electorate will get the attention and respect it deserves. I call



Photo by Luis Nunez Briones

upon all our members and allies to join our campaign to demand progress on the key issue our community voted for in historic numbers. You can start by signing up for the "I Voted for Immigration Reform" Campaign on our website at www.LULAC.org.

Margaret Moran

Margaret Moran
National President





The 2012 LULAC National Convention

LULAC's 83rd national convention was an incredible success with exciting events, capacity crowds, captivating speakers, and seminars featuring discussions and debates on key Latino issues. The convention, which took place from June 25-30, 2012 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida; attracted 20,000 people throughout a magical week of activity.

The convention opened on Monday with LULAC's Federal Training Institute designed to help Latino federal employees get the skills they need for professional advancement. Government leaders hosted workshops on various themes from writing resumes to obtaining veteran's benefits, and from resolving conflicts in the workplace to learning the executive core qualifications for senior executive service. On Tuesday, the convention featured strategies to increase Hispanic inclusion at our Diversity Luncheon and highlighted the dedication and compassion of our armed forces in the Opportunity Reception.

LULAC opened the Expo Latino Community Showcase on Wednesday—a three-day event featuring the products and services of major corporations, organizations and government agencies; a job fair; college fair and health fair; along with Latino artists, celebrities and cultural activities. Thousands of Orlando residents attended the expo and benefitted from the free services that were open to the public, including health screenings, prizes, job offers, and tickets for

Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony. Immediately following the ceremony, LULAC staff helped register the new American citizens to vote. The Latinos Living Healthy Town Hall addressed Hispanic health issues and strategies to advocate for better health policy. Wednesday night was capped off with a fabulous Florida celebration at the Disney's Epcot Park featuring Mickey and Minnie and an incredible laser fireworks show.

Thursday opened with Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the U.S., addressing the LULAC membership about the importance of educational opportunity and the critical need for advanced degrees during the Community Service Breakfast. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder received a special recognition from President Moran at the Unity Luncheon. Holder, whose strong defense of civil rights and voting rights has angered some in Washington, spoke on the same day that the U.S. House of Representatives voted to hold him in contempt of Congress. Quipped Holder, "It's good to be here and not in Washington D.C. right now."

LULAC saluted the legacy and achievements of its Latina leaders during the Women's Hall of Fame High Tea. Thursday evening concluded with a spectacular Youth Awards Banquet at Universal Studios where our youth members presented awards to their best and brightest, and then had the opportunity to dance and ride the park's thrilling roller coasters after the park had officially closed.

LULAC celebrated education on Friday morning with the LNEC Breakfast which highlighted our educational programs and their sponsors. Hundreds of Orlando-area high school and college students learned about educational and career opportunities at the Youth Career and Recruitment Forum. The forum featured advice on academics, university applications, and workforce readiness from experts in their respective fields. Later, at the Future is in your Hands Town Hall, participants explored the importance of the Latino vote and recognized the critical nature of mobilizing voters for the November elections. The Future of Puerto Rico Town Hall used the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico as a guide to explore the advancements that have been made to improve the quality of life for residents of the island.

That evening, President Moran presented awards to LULAC members whose achievements have stood out in the community during the Presidential Reception and Awards Banquet. They included our esteemed colleague Carolina Muñoz as well as Joe Muñoz, Ralina Cardona, Manuel Rendón, Norma Hiraldi, Maggie



Photo by Luis Nahu Briones

The LULAC youth in their Hollywood glam filled red carpet seating at the Youth Awards Banquet at Universal Studios, where they could exclusively ride the roller coasters after the park had officially closed!

Saturday's Concierto Voces Unidas por America.

Wednesday also included the AARP Town Hall, Tu Voz es tu Derecho, where Orlando residents voiced their concerns and ideas about health care, retirement and Medicare benefits. The day continued with workshops on the state of the economy and on communications styles in the workplace, among other topics. USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas, LULAC National President Margaret Moran, and 35 candidates and their families participated in the

Continued on page 5.

The 2012 LULAC National Convention



Continue from page 4.

Rivera, Adrian Rodriguez, Antonella Packard, Joél Trujillo, Phyllis Durán, Mae Zapata, Marisol Deluna, Lourdes Mola, Tony and Delia Nevarez, Luciano Rodriguez, John Cervantes, Salvador López, among others.

During the morning on Saturday, LULAC members held their elections and voted on amendments and resolutions. The convention drew to a close on Saturday evening with the Concierto: Voces Unidas por America, where Tito Nieves, Mariachi Cobre, and Jesse & Joy played to over 4,000 people. At the concert, people also registered to vote for this pivotal election.

LULAC looks forward to June 17-22, 2013, when the 84th LULAC National Convention will be hosted at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. With 15 incredible events, over 50 seminars, a 300 booth expo, and a free concert; our 2013 convention will pack more energy and excitement than any event in the Latino community.



Elsie Valdes
Vice President for
Women

Newly Elected LULAC Leadership

Representing close to a thousand local councils across the United States and Puerto Rico, the LULAC National Board symbolizes the diversity of the Latino community. With various backgrounds, work experiences and education levels, the members of the board share the singular mission of LULAC to improve the condition of the Latino community. Elected during this past convention in Orlando, LULAC welcomes the new 2012-2013 National Board and encourages

members become e-members to receive the latest updates around critical issues in their Latino community!

Margaret Moran, National President; Rosa Rosales, Immediate Past President; Roger Rocha, Treasurer; Josefina Ruiz, Youth President; Berta Urteaga, VP for Elderly; Elsie Valdes, VP for Women; Ana Valenzuela Estrada, VP for Youth; Manuel Rendon, VP for Young Adults; Mickie Solorio Luna, VP for Farwest; Maggie Rivera, VP for Midwest; Esther Degraives-Aguinaga, VP for Northeast; Juan Carlos Lizardi, VP for Southeast; Baldomero Garza, VP for Southwest;

La Convención de LULAC del 2012

La Octogésima-Tercera Convención Nacional de LULAC fue increíblemente exitosa con eventos emocionantes, miles de visitas, y seminarios que presentaron debates de cuestiones importantes para la comunidad hispana. La convención, que ocurrió del 25 hasta el 30 de junio en Disney's Coronado Springs Resort en Orlando, Florida, atrajo a 20.000 de personas en esa semana de actividades mágicas.

La convención abrió el lunes con el Instituto de Entrenamiento Federal LULAC, diseñado para ayudar a los empleados federales hispanos que tengan las habilidades necesarias para su desarrollo profesional. Los líderes gubernamentales tuvieron talleres de varios temas, empezando con escribiendo currículos vitae.

El miércoles se abrió el área de la exposición donde se encontró la feria laboral y stands de universidades, de clínicas de salud, y más de 250 negocios. Más de 20.000 residentes de Orlando visitaron a la exposición para recibir los servicios gratuitos al público, como exámenes de salud, premios, ofertas de trabajo, y boletos para entrar al Concierto de la gente el sábado. En el ayuntamiento de AARP, Tu Voz es tu Derecho, la comunidad hispana reveló su opinión de los beneficios de salud y la jubilación a los políticos en



Photo by Luis Nario Briones

Attorney General Eric Holder addressed the LULAC National Convention and received a recognition from LULAC National President Margaret Moran. LULAC appreciates the Department of Justice's work to ensure that the Voting Rights Act and other federal voting rights laws are followed in federal elections. These efforts help ensure that Hispanics and other minorities have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process by voting.

Washington. El día siguió con cursos de la economía y de estilos comunicativos en el trabajo, entre otros temas. En la Ceremonia de naturalización de ciudadanos, el director de USCIS Alejandro Mayorkas, la presidenta nacional Margaret Moran, y 35 candidatos y sus familias participaron. Después de la ceremonia, los ciudadanos

Continued on page 28.



LGBT Community Scores Victory at National Convention

By Jesse Garcia

This past June, the National LULAC General Assembly in Orlando, Florida, quietly passed a resolution endorsing Marriage Equality at its 83rd National Convention. The action was reported as a bold move during this political season by many in the media. But for several LULAC members, the vote to approve same-sex marriage at the national convention was the culmination of years of outreach and honest conversations.

In the summer of 2006, Dallas Latino activists who belong to the LGBT community formed a new LULAC council — The Dallas Rainbow Council — to help bridge the Latino and LGBT civil rights movements.

The council started as a response to the gay marriage ban Texas voters passed in the fall of 2005. We needed to make inroads with other minorities whose civil rights were being targeted by extremists in Texas and were being decided by less than 20 percent of voters during off-year elections.

Although introducing Marriage Equality and LGBT equality in general to the LULAC membership were on the minds of LULAC Council 4871 leaders, we put our interests on hold and commenced learning about issues important to Latinos. We launched and got involved with Hispanic issues first, like the DREAM Act, comprehensive immigration reform (CIR), English-only laws, and racial profiling. We wanted LULAC to know that we were ready to adhere to the core mission of the organization.

Along the way, LULAC Council 4871 members found that both LGBT and Hispanic communities shared common problems like unfair immigration laws, high rates of HIV infection, school bullying, and a lot of voter apathy and disenfranchisement. So members geared programming to affect both communities, and in the process started talking about LGBT issues.

Council 4871 members knew same-sex marriage would be a sensitive issue which needed more education and discussion, so instead other equality issues were tackled first like repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and supporting the Employee Non-Discrimination Act. Both issues got a national resolution backing by LULAC members in 2008 and 2009.

It wasn’t until 2012 that Marriage Equality was brought up. More LGBT groups were formed within LULAC and their members felt the time was right. President Barack Obama’s support for Marriage Equality in May emboldened our members to move on this subject. LGBT LULAC members from the Dallas — and also

Houston — councils coordinated at state and national conventions to introduce a bold resolution drawn up by LULAC Houston Council President Edward Sanchez.

LGBT LULAC members and straight allies were ready to defend the resolution at the general assembly when it came up for the vote. The resolution passed with no objection.

Jesse Garcia is a co-founder and past president of LULAC 4871-The Dallas Rainbow Council. For more information, visit www.lulac4871.org.

The Gilead Foundation is a proud sponsor of LULAC-LGBT efforts.

La voz de los líderes

Armando Martinez-Renteria

As I was growing up, I knew there was something about me that was different from others. Rather than cherishing my difference, I repressed my feelings because they were publicly frowned upon. As a junior in high school I got involved with LULAC. From this newfound circle of friends I gained the courage to be part of a movement and developed the confidence to open myself up to those around me. I felt so at ease by the time college came around, I was eager to charter the new Young Adult Rainbow Chapter. Despite the challenges of establishing the council, we were driven to host successful events. Money management and my presentation skills represent only a miniscule portion of the strengths I have improved. Compassion, dedication, and acceptance are attributes that I may not have acquired if it were not for the opportunity I was given.

Armando is the Treasurer of the Rainbow Council #4215 in Dallas, Texas



Marco Delossantos

I grew up in a very religious family so I understand how our culture impacts those who are LGBT. I feel that many of the problems I face as a Latino adversely affects my LGBT identity as well. Both communities are fighting to be who they are and the freedom to practice their culture. The American population reflects a diverse melting pot. LGBT Latino Americans embrace that mixture. Latinos are working on reducing the stereotyping of people of color. LGBT people are advocating for their relationships to be recognized. By law you cannot discriminate based on ethnicity but you can on sexual orientation in the state of Texas. The two intersect in social arenas. Although a law may not be strictly enforced, it is still frowned upon to be different. A LGBT Latino person has to deal with two cultures on top of being an American. Having multiple identities has opened my eyes to the work that still needs to be done.

Marco Delossantos is the founder and president of the Young Adult Rainbow Council of Dallas, Texas, which educates younger Latinos about the issues and provides safe spaces for young LGBT Latinos.



(L-R) Dallas LGBT LULAC Council President Raul Hinojosa, LULAC Member Jesse Garcia, and Houston LGBT LULAC Council President Edward Sanchez submit the Marriage Equality resolution at the National LULAC Convention.

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Katy, Texas – LULAC Council No. 4969

Salinas, Calif. – LULAC Council No. 2055

Mott Haven, N.Y. – LULAC Council No. 23016

Silver Spring, Md. – LULAC Council No. 21006

Oxnard, Calif. – LULAC Council No. 3128

Temple, Texas – LULAC Council No. 4734

Quiz:

How Much Do You Know About Retirement?

Questions:

Los años de oro deben ser disfrutados—they are golden after all! Yet, the fear of the future and the worry of not being prepared may stress us constantly. Am I ready for retirement? Have I considered all of my options? Take this quiz and evaluate your retirement literacy!

1. **T F** Most financial advisors say you'll need about 70% of your pre-retirement earnings to comfortably maintain your pre-retirement standard of living.
2. **T F** You will get out of Social Security the amount you put in.
3. **T F** Many financial planners recommend that you save 10% to 15% of your income for retirement, starting in your 20s.
4. **T F** Workers age 50 and older can put more money into IRAs and workplace retirement plans than younger savers can.
5. **T F** Green card holders cannot collect Social Security benefits.
6. **T F** It is a good idea to pay down debt prior to retiring.
7. **T F** If you have average earnings, your Social Security retirement benefits will replace only about 40%.
8. **T F** Tax-favored retirement accounts, such as individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and 401(k)s, are the best places to save for your retirement.
9. **T F** After retirement, you are prohibited from working.
10. **T F** There is a simple-to-use tool that helps you see if your retirement is on track.

Answers on page 30

A Dangerous Turn for Those with Alzheimer's Disease

By: Berta Urteaga, National VP for the Elderly

"Eating breakfast at a waffle house in Montana."

That's where the 84-year-old man believed he was when his family and police found him in early January. The Houston man, who had been reported missing for at least five hours, was in fact at a waffle house, but it just happened to be off the Southwest Freeway—near Sugarland, Texas.

One of the first things the officer asked the man's family: What memories or places had he been mentioning lately? His son said he had been talking about going back to work. The officer instructed the son to drive to his father's old work site. Soon after, they spotted the elderly man's car in the waffle house parking lot, very close to the office he had worked years before.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, six out of every 10 people with dementia will wander. With a growing and aging population, and with no current cure for the disease, the Association estimates that by 2050, the number of those suffering from Alzheimer's will triple to about 15 million. Due to the increasing number of people suffering from dementia, law enforcement agencies are now training officers on handling missing persons' cases involving Alzheimer's and dementia.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and eventually even the ability to carry out the simplest tasks of daily living. In most people with Alzheimer's, symptoms first appear after age 60. Alzheimer's disease, named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer, is the most common cause of dementia among older people.

In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental illness. Her symptoms included memory loss, language problems, and unpredictable behavior. After she died, he examined her brain and found many abnormal clumps, now called amyloid plaques, and tangled bundles of fibers, now called neurofibrillary tangles.

Plaques and tangles in the brain are two of the main features of Alzheimer's disease. The third is the loss of connections between nerve cells (neurons) in the brain.

Although there is no cure for this devastating disease, treatment can slow the progression of Alzheimer's and can help manage symptoms in some people. Today, there is a worldwide effort under way to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset, and prevent it from developing. For resources and information, please visit <http://lulac.org/programs/seniors/>

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AARP®

Meet the Challenge!

By Sindy Benavides

We did it. It had been done before but we were underestimated. We shifted the paradigm that Latino voters are standing on the sideline and are not taking notice of what is happening in our communities. No longer will we sit at home and forget to participate.

2011 and previous years taught us that we must be involved if we want to be visible and heard. We learned that the way to have our voices heard through all the political rhetoric is not by only marching and having demonstrations, but also by performing an act that undermined the individuals who supported voter restriction tactics: voting. No longer will we be satisfied with the status quo which targets the vulnerable by enacting voter restrictive laws that impact our youth, elderly, veterans, and constituency communities.

In 2012, the Latino community mobilized through efforts on the ground. LULAC, with 123 LULAC Councils across the U.S., worked in more than 23 states to ensure that we were organizing, registering voters, and turning out to vote. Through your efforts, we were successfully able to target our community organically-thinking not only out of the box but in a way that made common sense. We were registering voters at the super mercados, the soccer fields, places of worship, public transportation locations, festivals, parties, clubs, even while going to work. We knew there was a need for civic education awareness and voter registration, and we rolled up our sleeves to do it.

On Election Day, and through our collaborative work with the Ya Es Hora campaign, LULAC was able to host one of the largest hotlines across the country to assist voters on questions that they may have before going to the polls to cast their vote. We had individuals calling from California, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. The questions varied from, "where is my polling location" to "I want to vote but I am not sure if I'm registered" to "what form of identification can I take to vote". The phones never stopped ringing. And so we learned that our work must go on.

Ahora debemos tomar el tiempo para pensar en los cambios que deben ocurrir a plazo largo. We start today. We start together. We know that we were able to increase Latino voter participation by our grassroots approach and by an organized effort that expanded across the country. And this was done by you, our supportive leadership network.

We have four years until 2016. In between however, we have local races, gubernatorial elections, the midterms. Let's start looking at how we can change the dynamics at the local and state level. We must also hold our elected officials accountable. Now that we have elected them, let's follow up with a call and email and voice our support for the issues we care about. Let's keep in mind that if elected officials forgot promises made on the campaign trail, we must do our part to remind them, starting with comprehensive immigration reform.

We have a rich history and we pride ourselves in being the oldest Hispanic organization in the country. As such, and through our own experience, we must work with our community and our rising leaders to prepare them for elected office. Let's motivate and groom our elected leaders of today and tomorrow so that as elections continue to happen, we elect leaders who will represent us because they have lived our stories. To be part of the LULAC Civic Engagement Leadership Network, please contact Ulises Gonzalez at UGonzalez@LULAC.org.

Justice or Just Us?

By Baldomero Garza

Texas Criminal Justice System

Far too many of us have a television drama view of how any criminal system works. Unless you have been stopped, arrested, and incarcerated or you have been a victim of a crime, you do not really know what happens. We must begin with the belief that justice is blind. Justitia (the woman with the scales and a blindfold) is not blind. Justitia is typically holding a set of scales. This is used to measure the strength or weakness of a case. The double edge sword can be used for or against a party.

One thing is for sure, once you become entangled in the Texas Criminal Justice System, life as you know it will never be the same. This is not to say that the guilty are not guilty or the innocent are not innocent. But, unless you have enough money, life may not get back to normal anytime soon. With money you can make bail, retain a quality criminal defense lawyer and perhaps reach a more favorable result. If you do not have money, you get to sit in jail until trial. It's likely that you will just give up because of the time you spend in jail. Alternatively, you will be provided a court appointed lawyer and perhaps reach a favorable result.

Law Enforcement: Two sides to every coin

The police exist to "protect and serve" the community. All too often, however, people of color fear the police. Any involvement with the police could mean paying a fine, getting arrested, or --worse-- inadvertently inciting a beat-down. I have only two instances that come to mind with the police that were unpleasant. Once as a teenager, I refused to sign a ticket and informed the police officer that he was to refer to me as "Mr. Garza." I am surprised I did not get arrested or beat down. The second was not too long ago. I was pulled over for allegedly not wearing my seatbelt. I took my seatbelt off after I stopped to get my insurance. I informed the officer that I was wearing my seatbelt. At this point the officer became loud. I chose not to argue out in the parking lot. We have a court system; I choose to fight there.

The majority of the police are not bad people; you probably know one or two. It is just a bad job to have. How many friends do police officers make in a day? Ten tickets do not equal to ten new friends. With the exception of the above time, I have always spoken and treated the police with respect. I keep my hands where they can be seen, don't make sudden movements and only stop my car in public places that are well lit at night. The police patrol to enforce the laws. Are all laws fair? No. If you don't like a law, register to vote and vote to get it changed.

Imagine for a moment, you are a police officer whose beat is patrolling alone in a rather bad part of town. You stop a car because it failed to stop at a stop sign. The windows are tinted, it is night time and you see movement in the car. At this moment, more police cars have arrived. Now you must walk up to the driver's side, ask for a driver's license and insurance. You must keep an eye on the drivers and occupants. One wrong mistake and it will be your last. The Houston Police Department Police and Citizen Interaction Program produced a brochure to understand the dangerous nature of law enforcement that called the public to recognize that officers have to be cautious at all times. Citizens should not assume that the police officer knows that they are law abiding citizens. This simply means

Continued on page 31

Latino Vote: The Game Changer

The growth of the Latino citizenry translated into electoral power on November 6 since an overwhelming number of Hispanics voted. According to the 2010 Census, the growth of the Latino population in recent years has increased not just in states with already high concentrations of Latinos, like California, Texas, or Florida, but also in states like New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, and Colorado.

Each political party knows the power of the Latino electorate and engaged our community throughout the year. We have also seen, however, the Republican Party on the record distancing themselves from Latino voters. During the debates for the Republican primaries, most of the candidates voiced their opposition for deferred action for immigration reform and the Affordable Care Act.

The power of the Latino voting potential was stronger than ever before as unprecedented eligible Hispanic voters voted early or on Election Day. Ad hoc Latino leaders have been thrust to the political forefront by party leaders in an attempt to reach out and appeal to the Hispanic electorate. Both Florida Senator Marco Rubio and San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro have been offered up by their respective parties to be leaders with which the Latino community is supposed to identify. These trailblazers have moving stories that detail their family's struggle overcoming obstacles and overachieving first in their schools and then in their communities. Each had a memorable role at their party's national convention earlier this year and show promising career growth within the political arena. This, however, may be where their similar characteristics diverge.

An important question for each party is where does each champion fit within their party base?

The theoretical bifurcation represented by each Hispanic champion presents two very distinct pathways for the United States in immigration, economic, and healthcare reform. Each road has different implications for the future. We have the power to choose which directives to follow. As eligible voting citizens, our continued civic participation will ensure that our interests are taken into



U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
Florida

Mayor Julián Castro
San Antonio, Texas

account and help to shape the direction that the country takes.

The Potential Trajectories of the Nation The DREAM Act

Deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) was created under Executive Order on June 15 of this year. The deferral process was a watered-down version of the DREAM Act, a bipartisan legislation where qualifying undocumented youth would be eligible for a 6 year long conditional path to citizenship that requires completion of a college degree or two years of military service. Mayor Castro and Senator Rubio differ in their stances towards this proposed bill.

In his address to attendees at the Democratic National Convention, Mayor Castro expressed his support towards DACA. He additionally urged Congress to pass the DREAM Act, stating "Now it's time to enshrine in law [DREAMers'] right to pursue their dreams in the only place they've ever called home: America." His support for the bill is irrefutable, whereas the Senator from Florida stands with some distance towards passing the legislation. In fact, Senator Rubio has shown no support for this bipartisan legislation. In his interview with CBS in June of this year, he proposed that childhood arrivals would receive a student visa and thereafter a work visa. Unlike Mayor Castro, Senator Rubio does not support the idea of granting expedited citizenship as is outlined in the DREAM Act. He propagates an equal application process for all applying for citizenship, stating, "And after some period of time, probably 10 years, we would allow them to access the immigration system just like any non-immigrant visa holder in the United States would...No special path. Just the same path as everyone else." Equality in the path

Continued on page 27.

PRIDE



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Lance Corporal Taveras
Carteret, New Jersey

Training Leaders of Tomorrow:

A LULAC Intern on the LULAC Internship Program



By: Karina Castellanos, Education Programs Intern

Undergraduate and graduate students from the nation's top universities are currently working side by side with LULAC staff to advance social justice for Hispanic Americans in the LULAC National Internship Program. While expanding their knowledge about non-profit, politics, and public policy works, LULAC interns explore career interests and gain first-hand workforce experience. Community Outreach Intern Cristina Gutierrez, for example, has delved into her interest, immigration within underrepresented communities.

This summer, interns played a vital role in the success of LULAC's 83rd Annual National Convention and

Exposition in Orlando, Florida. As the convention approached, interns assisted staff with event logistics with tight turnarounds. Dahida Vega, Internship Coordinator, was impressed by the interns' flexibility under pressure. Working in a fast-paced environment is a transferable skill that will increase the intern's market appeal in future careers. Cecilia Chavez, Health Advocate Intern, stated that planning and managing a convention takes a lot of preparation and hard work from the LULAC team. Cohesion and fluidity are crucial. Dedication is a must.

Federal Affairs Intern Ana Vivas states that interning with LULAC has been a life-changing experience that stimulated both her personal and professional growth. Vivas worked closely with Sara Clemente, Director of Federal Affairs, on the Federal Training Institute (FTI), an intensive and structured career development program for government and public sector employees. Through FTI's Federal Agency Networking Event, Vivas was offered an internship with the State Department—an opportunity that she credits to her work ethic and workforce experience with LULAC.

Interns not only consider staff as supervisors but mentors as well. Health Advocate Intern Arielle Simoncelli has gained unprecedented mentorship from the national staff, especially from the policy team, Liliana Rañón and Alana Sutherland. Rañón, Director of Policy and Legislation, believes it is important to nurture younger generations, stating "They are the future leaders that will ensure that the Latino voice remains steady in policy conversation. We must continue to encourage, motivate, and inspire others to join our efforts." Rañón remembers that she met her first mentor through a college internship and credits that mentorship to the success of her career. Rañón hopes to help interns feel welcomed and comfortable at LULAC so that

they perform at their best.

In the midst of Washington's political action and legislative anticipation, Simoncelli's most prized memory of this summer was when she was at the center of Latino policy discussions in the aftermath of the historical Supreme Court decisions on S.B. 1070

and the Affordable Care Act. Visiting the White House on President Barack Obama's birthday was one of Education Programs Intern Karina Castellanos' favorite memories of Washington, D.C. Angela Choi, Education Policy Intern, stated that she will continue to share and address the national educational issues affecting the Latino community in her hometown of New York City.

Over 40% of LULAC's current

staff were former interns or fellows, with Elena Segura, Alana Sutherland, and Jossie Flor Sapunar being the most recently hired.

Think you fit the profile of a LULAC intern? Looking for a



From left to right: Cecilia Chavez, Kristian Larios, Maria Paula Segura, Brent Wilkes, Angela Choi, Karina Castellanos, Arielle Simoncelli, Ana Vivas.



Some of LULAC's summer interns from left to right: (top) Arielle Simoncelli, Karina Castellanos (bottom) Ana Vivas, Cecilia Chavez, Kristian Larios.

meaningful way to serve the Latino community? LULAC is currently searching the country for interns for tech support, technology programs, resource development, education policy, federal affairs, and communications. Interested applicants can learn more by contacting Dahida Vega, LULAC Internship Coordinator at DVega@LULAC.org



Continuing the Dream: Ford Driving Dreams Through Education

Karina Castellanos, Education Programs Intern

According to the Education Trust, almost 40% of all Latino students who start ninth grade will not graduate with their peers four years later. To turn around these troublesome graduation statistics, Ford Motor Company Fund and LULAC National responded by establishing “Ford Driving Dreams Through Education”, a program aimed at reducing the disparity among Latino youth in the high school dropout rate.

For the past two years, Ford Motor Company Fund and LULAC National have supported LULAC Councils and the communities they serve to design and implement localized solutions that address a critical need. This program is unique in giving LULAC Councils the flexibility to design frameworks that take into account their respective education issues, resources, and support systems.

Each year, Ford Motor Company Fund and LULAC National work closely with educational experts to review the best proposals for the two-year program. For the 2010-2012 cohort, the LULAC Councils were the following: Farmers Branch, TX; Houston, TX; Mesa, AZ;



Students from Temple, Texas, LULAC Council 4734.

Milwaukee, WI; Midwest City, OK; Phoenix, AZ; Plano, TX; Salinas, CA; Santa Ana, CA; Temple, TX. These LULAC Councils served as a foundation for the program so that other councils can also retain their students to ensure timely graduation and college or work force readiness. Due to the successes of their respective programs, Salinas, CA, and Temple, TX, were selected to continue their program during the 2012-2013 academic year. Salinas and Temple both had the opportunity to share their achievements, challenges, lessons, and practices with other winning LULAC Councils at LULAC’s National

Convention in Orlando, Florida this past summer.

Implementing their programs for a second year are the following

LULAC Councils from the 2011-2013 cohort: Anaheim, CA; Aurora, IL; Bronx, NY; Cincinnati, OH; Davenport, IA; Dayton, OH; Kansas City, MO; Michigan City, IN; Syracuse, NY; Victoria, TX.

This past year, LULAC Council #4692 from Victoria, Texas realized that the at-risk youth in their district require more time and effort from their counselors and mentors. In order to cater better to the needs of the students in their “Project U-Turn” program, LULAC Council #4692 plans to implement more student tutors, peer mentoring, social events, while increasing communication with parents and students. Many

of the students from “Project U-Turn” have become actively involved in the program by accepting leadership roles. Some are currently in the works of forming their own LULAC Young Adults Council.

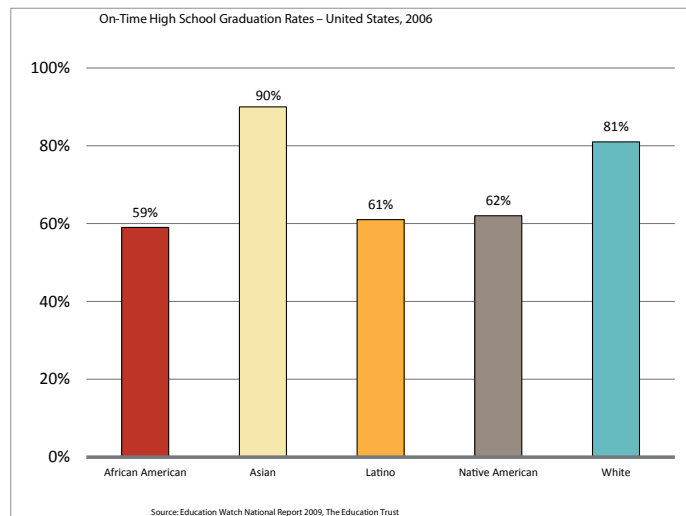
During the 83rd LULAC National Convention this past summer, Ford Motor Company and LULAC National were pleased to announce the 2012-2014 LULAC Councils selected to implement innovative programs. The winners were Dallas, TX; Elgin, IL; Houston, TX; Mott Haven, NY; Oxnard, CA; Queens, NY; Sacramento, CA; and Silver Spring, MD. With the addition of these eight new sites and the continuation of two sites

from the 2010 cohort, the Ford Driving Dreams initiative will continue to reverse the high school dropout rate.

We encourage you to find the nearest Ford Driving Dreams through Education program site near you and go out and support your local students and community! To learn more about this exciting initiative from LULAC and Ford Motor Company Fund visit our website at www.LULAC.org/Ford. Follow us on Facebook: LULAC National; Twitter: @LULAC



Students from Cincinnati, OH, LULAC Council 39004.



LNESC, an Educational Powerhouse for the Latino Community



By Jason Resendez, LNESC Director of Corporate Relations & Development

As one of the nation's largest Hispanic education organizations serving over 11,000 students a year, LNESC works throughout the U.S. to ensure high-need students succeed in high school and have an eye on a college degree. Given the poor state of Latino educational attainment in the U.S., this can sometimes be daunting. According to a recent report from Excelencia in Education, only 19% of Latinos between the ages of 25 and 64 have an associate's degree or some other form of higher education – compared to 38% of all adults.

Through LNESC's 14 education and technology centers and 90 school partners, we supplement college preparedness programming at high schools, and, in some cases, take the place of college guidance counselors for cash-strapped schools with too many students and not enough qualified college advisors.



LNESC has worked to provide these types of services for years, and has earned a reputation as an educational access powerhouse for the Latino community. Most recently, we announced that LNESC received approximately \$12.5 million dollars in grant awards for our Upward Bound and Talent Search programs - our signature college access programs.

The Upward Bound program is an early intervention program focused on students who have "college potential" but often do not recognize or understand their academic and career options beyond high school. LNESC retained funding from the Department of Education for 6 existing Upward Bound programs in Dallas, TX; San Antonio, TX; Corpus Christi, TX; Bayamon, Puerto Rico; Albuquerque, NM, and Miami, FL, and will establish new programs in Kansas City, MO. and Colorado Springs, CO. In late 2011, LNESC was also the recipient of 2 Talent Search programs by the Department of Education to provide college access programming for underprivileged students in Houston and El Paso, Texas. In total, LNESC's federal support for the next 5 years is approximately \$12.5 million, all of which will be used to provide quality college access

programming to some of the nation's poorest communities.

Federal Confidence in LNESC

According to our Executive Director Richard Roybal, "With its emphasis on individualized counseling and assistance in everything from academic tutoring to personal counseling and financial aid assistance, these Upward Bound awards are essential to ensuring Hispanic students have equal opportunities to higher education. By not only retaining funding for the existing programs but also increasing our federal awards, the Department of Education is demonstrating its confidence in LNESC's ability to provide quality educational programming to some of the highest need communities around the country."

"The funding comes at a time when critical federal programs are being slashed – over 200 current Upward Bound programs were cut this year," said LNESC board chairwoman Rosa Rosales. "Our program growth is a testament to the vital role LNESC plays in ensuring the nation's largest minority population has the access to the higher education necessary to secure the jobs of tomorrow."

The Impact

The Upward Bound and Talent Search programs are essential components of LNESC's strategy to closing the achievement gap in the Hispanic community. Given the Latino community's dismal college enrolment rate, programs like Upward Bound and Talent Search are vital in turning the tide on the educational success of our community.

For example, nationally, 91% of Upward Bound participants who graduate from high school enroll in a post-secondary degree program the year of their graduation, compared to 41% of students not in an Upward Bound program. LNESC's Miami, FL Upward Bound program is an example of this success as 89% of all participants passed both the English and Math state-based comprehensive standardized tests — far exceeding the goal of 60% improvement. The high success rate is the result of valuable programming usually reserved for high-income communities such as a 6-week college campus summer program, 10 college visits, and specialized SAT and ACT prep sessions. We are working to ensure that the students served are prepared to graduate high school and successfully complete a post-secondary education.

"Education is the civil rights issue of our time," said LULAC National President Margaret Moran. "Not until we begin to address the inequities that exist for low-income minority youth, will we see a turn-around in low graduation rates and lack of college attendance in the Latino community. It's programs like Upward Bound that will help bridge the achievement gap that is responsible for the unrealized potential in our youth."

Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez, Executive Vice-President, Multicultural Markets & Engagement at AARP

What was the motive to study public service and who in particular did you want to help?

I come from a family where service was part of our daily life, it's just what we do. My inspiration was my grandmother Ana Maria Valerio, who helped organize the hotel workers in the 1930's and 40's. And my mother, Altagracia Fontanez, is always working and looking for ways to help others. These strong women instilled in my generation the idea that we can utilize and invest the assets of this country for the benefit of our community. As a proud Latina, I want to help those in my community bridge the gaps that exist: in education, in pay, in representation at the policy making levels of government.

You have been elected to many important positions in this country; describe the challenges and victories of having such prestigious positions.

Challenges, or opportunities as I like to view it, and victories, are sometimes indistinguishable. You cannot let your self-interests overshadow the role that you play; the importance of holding office, for everyone, but especially for those from underrepresented communities, means a never-ending striving for excellence; staying in touch with the community and working to advance its interests.

For example: I was the first Hispanic Secretary of State of New York in the more than 220 years the position has existed. But let's be clear, I was not the first who was qualified and deserving, I was only the first selected. Many more before me were equally qualified and some much more talented. Nor was it lost on me with that with this role came a tremendous responsibility/challenge to open the position so Latinos can follow; because I was the first, I had to work to ensure that I wasn't also the last. Being a trailblazer means paying it forward.

What recommendations do you have for Hispanic woman interested in working in public service?

We know that when women serve in the highest ranks, they bring a dimension that is much needed and broadly represents a range of issues. Women have to understand that balance is a concept that can be elusive, one that I hope to one day reach—life is much more juggling, prioritizing, constantly shifting. Women need to be aware of this, and make the necessary commitment.



As a Hispanic woman, there is no concern with being “the minority.” It is actually an asset, not a liability! While gender differences are prevalent in all sectors, biases can be overcome.

You have helped many Hispanics in both the U.S. and Latin America, what is your motivation to help the Hispanic community?

I am a proud Latina—a product of the Hispanic community—a community that is remarkable for its richness, its assets, and its potential—particularly the 50.5 million people who reside in this country.

I work to ensure that the opportunities that I have enjoyed are extended and available to all. We have to collectively raise our voices, to bridge the gulf that currently exists in education, pay, representation—we do this by cultivating strong families, communities, social institutions, religious and civic foundations, and the entrepreneurial spirit—that our community is known for.

Why did you have an interest working for the non-profit, AARP?

AARP is built on a strong foundation—one that has a strong belief in social change, health and financial security for the 50+ so that they can live their lives in dignity. This resonates with who I am, what I have done.

Taking this position meant I could work to enhance the standing of Latino 50+; AARP is the best defender of this population; I could also enhance the Latino perspective within AARP, ensuring that we are not an afterthought, but consideration for our community is integral—it becomes part of the DNA of the organization.

What are some projects that AARP and the Hispanic Community?

AARP is the defender of the rights and benefits of the 50+ population—it is a recognized organization that works to protect Social Security, and committed to making sure that benefits that you've earned and paid into will always be there for you and your family.

AARP fights age discrimination, something that many of us over 50 often face; we provide the information and resources that help make important health and care-giving decisions every day for you and your family; we offer help navigating the complex programs that 50+ depend on, as well as offering every day savings to make your dollar stretch is important for 50+ and especially those in the Hispanic Community.

We also work to help you make the most of your personal time—so that you can enjoy more of it with your family.

How does AARP help the elderly in their retirement?

AARP is not for the elderly, we are for the 50+ who want to live their best life; who want to know what assets they will need to live their best life.

AARP has the resources that help inform you, such as soyaarp.org

Our resources provide practical benefits, like the Social Security calculator—lets you know about planning for your best life, whether you continue to work or retire.

Frank Ros, Vice-President, Hispanic Strategies at The Coca-Cola Company

Why are you so driven to help the Latino community?

First, it's my heritage. I came to this country on ship through New York harbor when I was 5 ½ as an immigrant from Barcelona, Spain and spoke no English. Secondly, I feel, as I think all people in this country should, a responsibility to make this country as strong as possible and honor the sacrifices made of past generations to make this the greatest country in the world.

Thirdly, America will only be as strong as the strength of the Latino community and every day I see Latinos that, provided the opportunity, will make America stronger.

Was there a childhood event or cultural ties or even an experience during college that has motivated you to be of service to Hispanic-Americans?

Not just a single experience. Like most immigrants, numerous experiences molded who I am. However, one constant in my home growing up was to be proud of my heritage, culture and language.

To what extent are you involved with the Latino community?

I am fortunate to work for the greatest company in the world. A company that values giving back to the communities it serves as much as developing great brands. Because of that commitment, I'm not only allowed, but it's my job, to look for opportunities for The Coca-Cola Company to invest resources to help strengthen the Latino community. I am presently or have been a member of over 20 Boards of Directors, Advisory Boards, Task Forces and Commissions that impact or impacted the Latino community. I've been appointed by Governor Roy Barnes as Chairman of the first Georgia Commission on Hispanic Affairs that served as an advisory body to the Governor on matters relating to Georgia's Hispanics. I've been selected by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to serve on the Hispanic Task Force charged with identifying and assessing the impact of the State's growing Hispanic population on the University System. I have also been appointed to serve on the State's Governor's Education Reform Study Commission and represent the Latino community

What do you hope will arise from your years of service to this remarkable group of people?

I hope in some way, my efforts will have opened doors and provided more opportunities for Latinos and ultimately, making



The Coca-Cola Company

America stronger. I strongly believe that in the circle of life, we should always give more than we take. And I hope I have imparted to those I have helped the commitment to "pass it forward."

How has your organization linked its mission to improve the Latino community in the U.S.?

As I mentioned earlier, The Coca-Cola Company is committed to the communities we serve...it's part of the thread that makes up the fabric of our business. In 1989, we created what was, and still is, the only company with a stand-alone Latin Affairs department dedicated to community and civic affairs in the Latino community reporting directly to the President.

How do you view Coca-Cola's relationship with LULAC?

LULAC is a key strategic partner we respect and value very much for the great work it does in strengthening our community. We are very proud of the relationship with LULAC and how its leadership keeps the organization focused on improving the lives of Latinos.

Based on a combination of exemplary employment, procurement, philanthropy, and governance, Coca-Cola has received an outstanding rating of 85 on the HACR's Corporate Inclusion Index, the third highest score of Fortune 100 Companies. What, in your opinion is most important out of these and why?

I don't think you can necessarily pick one over the other, since all play an important part in our commitment to the Latino community. But if you said I had to pick one I would say, employment. It is my belief that the strongest organizations have diverse workforces. In this fast changing, competitive environment we live in today, the only constant you can count on is change. And in order to keep up with change, you have to constantly evolve. This process is enhanced when you have diversity, which in turn brings creativity to the table and ultimately drives the innovation that is needed to compete in today's world.

What advice would you give to students today?

Work hard and commit to lifelong learning. There's always going to be someone that is smarter, wittier, prettier, taller, bigger, faster, etc. than you. But all those can be neutralized and overcome with hard work, perseverance and a commitment to excellence. Be your own person and don't let people take your focus off your values and goals because obstacles are those things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

Do you have any advice for people who hope to mirror your level of success? A personal code?

Work hard and if you believe in something strongly enough, be willing stand up for it. If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.

Jacquelyn Puente, Senior Director for External Affairs at Comcast

Why are you so driven to help the Latino community?

There is such tremendous potential in this community. People in Washington are amazed to hear the numbers about the Latino community – how quickly it is growing, how young Latinos are in this country, not to mention the buying power. But what does that really mean? It means an opportunity to change the future and to make our country better and stronger. Technology and community engagement with technology – two things that I'm very passionate about – have the ability to empower and improve the quality of life for



NBCUniversal



all communities, especially the Latino community.

Was there a childhood event or cultural ties or even an experience during college that has motivated you to be of service to Hispanic-Americans?

When my father's family immigrated to the United States they faced many of the same challenges that immigrants experience today, including language barriers, educational attainment, and prejudice. Raised by his mother in Newark, New Jersey, my dad achieved great professional and personal success in the midst of difficult circumstances. Today when I meet or speak to new Americans and recent immigrants, I think about my dad. While the world has changed so much in one generation, many of the challenges that first-generation Hispanic Americans face are very much the same.

To what extent are you involved with the Latino community? With the community at large?

From a professional standpoint, at a company like Comcast there are so many opportunities to be involved with the community. Through Comcast Cares Day we volunteer millions of hours each year for community service projects, on top of the tremendous community investment that is stewarded through the Comcast Foundation. With products and services like Internet Essentials, Comcast is leading the way to help low-income families adopt broadband technology that transforms education, work life, and personal well-being.

Even before Comcast, I kept myself very busy volunteering for local causes and organizations in Washington, D.C. Almost ten years ago, I started the Many Hats Institute with a group of professionals here in town. Over the years this organization has made a positive impact in thousands of children's lives. Learn more at www.themanyhats.org

What do you hope will arise from your years of service to this remarkable group of people?

Something worthwhile! I'm an optimist.

First Spanish Language Regional Sports Coverage

By: Jason Llorenz

Southern California has the largest, and one of the most diverse Latino communities in the nation. Yet until this month, it had no regional sports network coverage of the Lakers, soccer or other regional sports in Spanish. In fact, nowhere in the country is there a regional sports network entirely in Spanish. The new Time Warner Cable Deportes channel will be the first. Time Warner Cable announced details of its comprehensive coverage over the summer and will officially launch Monday, October 1st.



With a growing Latino fan base, said to be over 15%, this will be the first time that the National Basketball Association (NBA) will have one of its teams covered exclusively with original content designed and produced for the Spanish-speaking community.

As the new exclusive local home of the Lakers, both Time Warner Cable Deportes and its sister network, Time Warner Cable SportsNet, will give fans access to the Lakers with shows that take them behind-the-scenes and keep them updated on everything that's happening with their favorite team and players.

"We will deliver an in-depth and engaging viewing experience that deepens the connection between the Hispanic community and the Lakers," said Mark Shuken, Senior Vice President and General Manager, TWC Regional Sports Networks.

"This is the nation's largest Hispanic market and we are proud to partner with Time Warner Cable Deportes to create the country's first local Spanish-language sports destination," said Tim Harris, Senior Vice President of Business Operations for the Los Angeles Lakers. "Time Warner Cable Deportes fulfills a big part of our vision for giving Lakers fans the best local sports experience in the country."

"The Lakers are a beloved and important part of Southern California's sports culture and our community has waited a long time to see them in our language," said Pablo F. Urquiza, Vice President, Time Warner Cable Deportes. "We at Time Warner Cable Deportes feel privileged to be part of the first regional sports network to make this a reality."

All Lakers games on Time Warner Cable Deportes, home and away, will be produced in Spanish by a dedicated team and called live by play-by-play announcer Adrián García Márquez and analyst Francisco Pinto. Veteran sports host Ricardo Celis will lead in-studio Lakers commentary for the network.

Additional Time Warner Cable Deportes programming will be announced in the coming weeks.

Jason Llorenz, Esq. is an advocate, author and speaker who works in the area of telecommunications policy and digital literacy. Follow on twitter: www.twitter.com/llorenzesq.



Sandry Nuñez- Pflugerville, TX

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in the words "Welcome to McDonald's®."

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Stand Up and Advocate

By Alana Sutherland

In line with LULAC's new efforts to think systemically about the causes of poor health among Hispanics in the U.S., we must expand this perspective to the policy factors of health status. It has been an eventful summer in terms of health-related legislation and, with Congress members in their districts until September 10th; it is a perfect time to stand behind the piece of legislation that has the most potential to affect your community. The issues are far-ranging, from the benefits of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act, to the new transportation bill, MAP-21 that makes substantial cuts to the Safe Routes to Schools program. As of August 1st, new benefits are available for women under the Affordable Care Act, while the Farm Bill is stalled in Congress and set to expire in September. The appointment of Congressman Paul Ryan as running mate for Mitt Romney could threaten the very existence of the Affordable Care Act and substantially weaken both Medicare, and Medicaid programs, and the debate in Congress over whether or not to extend tax cuts could lead to an increase in taxes for 114 million middle class families. LULAC has tirelessly tracked policy developments, and we strive to provide all relevant updates with our members in an effort to ensure that America's most vulnerable communities have the opportunity to stand up and advocate for their well-being.

In an effort to reform some of the biggest injustices and inefficiencies in the nation's health care system, the Affordable Care Act, signed in to law in March of 2010, has made huge accomplishments in extending health care to millions of Americans. After lengthy debate in the courts over the constitutionality of certain provisions contained within the law, the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court was considered a victory by many health care advocates and professionals. The Supreme Court ruling upheld provisions that will expand Medicaid and require all Americans to have coverage (the Individual Mandate), along with other provisions, will allow millions of uninsured Americans to have new access to important preventive services. Furthermore, on August 1, new benefits for women went into effect which will allow them to have

greater control over their health without paying higher premiums than men, without being denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, and without having to prioritize healthcare necessities due to high co-pays and fees for services.

A more recent debate in Congress surrounds income tax credits that are set to expire at the end of 2012. President Obama and Senate Democrats have proposed extending the credits, including \$700 billion to help middle class families pay for health insurance, as required by the Affordable Care Act's Individual Mandate, over the next 10 years. A majority of the House of Representatives, however, are holding out to include tax cuts for more affluent of Americans. On whichever side of the debate you may stand, if the House of Representatives does not take action before January 1, 2013, taxes will increase for 98% of American middle class families. It is a debate to be followed closely, and it is the perfect time to reach Representatives in their home districts to let them know how an average tax increase of \$1600 per family, per year, would affect you.

Meanwhile, Congressman Paul Ryan, from Wisconsin's 1st Congressional district, has been named as running mate for Presidential hopeful, Governor Mitt Romney. Congressman Ryan was responsible for creating the House Republican budget proposal for 2012, commonly known as the Ryan budget, which would significantly weaken both Medicare and Medicaid through extensive budget cuts and restructuring, and repeal the Affordable Care Act. Each of these programs is relied on heavily by many Hispanics, who currently have the highest rate of uninsured and who also disproportionately face high rates of poverty. The Affordable Care Act has given us the opportunity to eliminate health disparities that impact the Latino community and repealing the law now would do them a huge disservice.

On July 6 the new two year Federal Transportation Bill, known as Move Ahead Progress-21 (MAP-21), was signed into law. This is significant in that it makes major changes to the current Transportation Enhancements and eliminates funding for Safe Routes to School, a program that the Latinos Living Healthy initiative has stood

behind as a tool to improve the environment within our communities. Under the new



law this program is folded into a new Transportation Alternatives Program, along with Recreational Trails Programs, and overall funds are reduced by 30%. Current funding for Safe Routes to School will continue until September 30, 2012, giving advocates at the state level opportunity to take advantage of any funds that may still be available.

Finally, a major piece of legislation, the Farm Bill, has been stalled in the House of Representatives, as it faces expiration on September 30th. Under their new budget plan for 2013 there are substantial cuts to one of the major pieces of the bill, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Previously known as food stamps, the benefits provided by this program are critical to the 40 million households in this country that have limited access to adequate food, including 1 in 4 Latinos. Proposed budget cuts to this program would amount to \$134 billion over the next 10 years, taking away much needed resources meant to improve trends of food insecurity, and by extension, rates of obesity and other chronic diseases in times of economic hardship. The discussion on Capitol Hill is in progress but it is not too late to contact House Representatives this month, while they are in their home towns, to tell them that cutting this program will result in higher rates of

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Latinos Living Healthy

hunger and food insecurity, worse health outcomes, and higher health costs that our communities cannot afford.

These programs, whether related to access to health care, healthy affordable foods or safe outdoor spaces (themes that should sound familiar from LULAC's Latinos Living Healthy initiative), have great collective impact on the health of Hispanics and the disparities we face every day. These major policy actions are examples of both the cause and effect for LULAC's commitment to strengthen the voice of our community advocates and our inspiration for the development of the Latinos Living Healthy initiative into a comprehensive public health advocacy campaign. Disproportionate rates of obesity, asthma, cancer, and heart disease, represent trends in health outcomes that can be linked to community developments and related policies.

LULAC's Latinos Living Healthy initiative acts every day to tie health education and messaging efforts to the most relevant policy trends. That is why, beginning next week with a webinar entitled "Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities", we will promote and host detailed discussions with key experts as an opportunity for all LULAC members to obtain valuable information about how to improve the health of their communities. Then, during Hispanic Heritage Month, with valuable support from Wal-Mart, Bank of America, and McDonalds, Latinos Living Healthy will offer three workshops in Los Angeles, San Antonio, and New York to bring our message and resources to local communities. Also to come is a new media resource, Datos Del Día, which will provide fun, easy health facts every day to those who follow Latinos Living Healthy on Twitter @lulacvhealth or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Latinos.Living.Healthy. Latinos Living Healthy is also encouraging LULAC councils to get involved in LULAC's voter registration campaign so that all Americans have an equal voice in the process of prioritizing health. Ultimately, the goal of the Latinos Living Healthy initiative is to have all LULAC members stand up and advocate for health.

Gastronomía peruana: seviche

Este plato tradicionalmente preparado en Sudamérica tiene orígenes en Perú. Seviche, también escrito cebiche, existe en varias denominaciones en México, Ecuador, Chile, y Perú, pero es en este último país donde ha adquirido un símbolo patriótico. El gobierno peruano hasta ha declarado el 28 de junio de cada año como el Día del seviche y también ha declarado el plato típico como parte del Patrimonio cultural de la nación. Con esta receta ahora Ud. podrá preparar este plato en la casa para su familia. ¡Sabiendo que no solo es un plato bien sazonado, pero también es uno bajo en calorías y grasas hará la cena más sabrosa!



Ingredients

- 2 lbs tilapia fillets or 2 lbs other firm white fish fillets, cubed
- 8 -10 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 habanero peppers, seeded and chopped (or real Peruvian Aji Amarillo, if you can find it)
- 8 -12 limes, freshly squeezed and strained to remove pulp, enough to cover fish
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced and rinsed

Directions

1. Combine all ingredients except red onion and mix well.
2. Place red onion on top and let it marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2-3 hours before serving.
3. Before serving, mix well and serve with lettuce, corn, avocado or other cold salad vegetables on the side.
4. It is important to use a juicer that presses the juice out of the limes, not one that will tear the membrane of the lime sections since this will make the lime juice bitter.



LULAC Latino Living Healthy Campaign brought to you by Walmart, a proud sponsor of healthy living.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 (203 g)
Servings Per Recipe: 6

Amount Per Serving	% Daily Value
Calories 188.8	
Calories from Fat 25	13%

Amount Per Serving	% Daily Value
Total Fat 2.8g	4%
Saturated Fat 0.9g	4%
Cholesterol 75.6mg	25%
Sugars 2.7 g	
Sodium 470.2mg	19%
Total Carbohydrate 13.2g	4%
Dietary Fiber 3.0g	12%
Sugars 2.7 g	10%
Protein 31.6g	63%



Helping People Get, Stay and Live Well

Walgreens, LULAC work together to improve health outcomes and access to care

Walgreens is committed to helping people get, stay and live well. Founded in 1901, the drugstore chain delivers on that promise each day as it focuses on becoming the first choice for health and daily living across the nation. Each community pharmacy serves as an accessible, convenient and knowledgeable resource in improving patients' overall health, and helps improve access to affordable care through an expanded scope of community-based health and wellness solutions. One way the drugstore chain can achieve this is by creating meaningful



Walgreens' relationship with LULAC has also grown to include health fairs focused on healthy eating and exercise, and the opportunity to receive free health test services through the Walgreens Way to Well Tour with AARP – events that typically kickoff during Hispanic Heritage Month and continue throughout the year. Tests include total cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, body mass index, body composition, skeletal muscle, resting metabolism, visceral fat, real body age and body weight. Collectively, the health tests are valued at more than \$100 but the service is free. With results in about 20 minutes, participants can speak to a Walgreens pharmacist or certified wellness staff about the findings.

Currently, 86 percent of Hispanics in the United States live within five miles of a

When Walgreens first announced it would begin offering flu shots at more than 7,000 points of

care nationwide in 2009, the drugstore chain collaborated with LULAC to help thousands of uninsured patients receive free flu shots. That same year, LULAC received nearly \$30,000 worth of flu shot vouchers.

With more than 1 million "fans" on Facebook and the largest following on Foursquare among chain drugstore retailers, Walgreens utilized these social media platforms last September to let its customers help distribute more than \$6 million in free flu shot vouchers to five national charities, one of which included LULAC. The organization was chosen for the innovative campaign because of its councils' strong,

grassroots approach to effectively help the communities the organization serves.



Walgreens location.

"Walgreens and LULAC are finding ways to address health issues, improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities in communities across the country, especially in those where quality health care services are scarce," said Walgreens community affairs manager Rafael Malpica. "We are always looking for ways to develop lasting relationships with the communities we serve and this opportunity with LULAC and its local councils allows us to reach families where they live and work. Together, we are leveraging our two trusted brands to help provide access to health care locally."



relationships with organizations that play a role in helping and educating the community.

Helping People Get, Stay and Live Well

Walgreens, LULAC work together to improve health outcomes and access to care



The Walgreens Way to Well Health Bus is dedicated to providing free prevention and early detection health services to the nation's underserved communities. Now through December, the tour travels the country providing free tests and assessments, education, and consulting services to communities with the highest prevalence for diseases. These communities also tend to have high rates of unemployment and are often uninsured. The Walgreen Way to Well Health Bus most recently stopped at the LULAC Convention in Orlando in June where up to 20,000 LULAC members visited and received free health screenings.

These free health tests include: cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, body mass index, body composition, skeletal muscle, resting metabolism, visceral fat, real body age, and body weight. The bundle of free health tests and risk assessments provided by Way to Well Health Tour is designed to provide participants with personal health insights that may indicate potential risks for cancer, heart disease and



diabetes. Collectively, the health tests are valued at more than \$100 and are administered to adults age 18 years and older by certified wellness staff. This is a free service —insurance is not billed. Tests can be completed in approximately 20 minutes. Afterward, participants consult with a Walgreens pharmacist or certified wellness staff about his or her results.

The Way to Well Health Tour is a charitable component of Walgreens Way to Well Commitment®, a four-year, \$100 million initiative improving the everyday health of Americans nationwide. The initiative also provides accessible, affordable resources for prevention and early detection of major chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Key Terms

Body Age

Body Age testing is based on your resting metabolism. It is calculated by using your weight, body fat percentage and skeletal muscle percentage to produce a guide to whether your body age is above or below the average for your actual age.

Blood Pressure

High blood pressure is one of the most common chronic conditions in adults according to the American Heart Association (AHA). Uncontrolled high blood pressure is often called "the silent killer" because it has few or no symptoms, so you may not be aware that high blood pressure is damaging your arteries, heart and other organs. The only way to tell if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked. The test is done easily, quickly and painlessly using a cuff around the upper arm to measure the force of blood as it travels through the artery.

Blood Glucose

Blood glucose testing is used to screen individuals for diabetes risk. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) reports that 25.8 million individuals in the United States — 8.3% of the population — have diabetes, and seven million of those individuals are undiagnosed. The blood sample obtained from the finger prick administered for the total cholesterol levels' health test will also be used to determine glucose levels.

Since 1929, LULAC councils have held a passionate commitment to the community. We hope that other councils can learn from the outstanding events held around the League. By replicating these tactics, other councils can multiply the effect that LULAC has on the community, thereby improving the condition of Latinos and, ultimately, of the country.

Northeast Regional Update

Diversity in New York LULAC Thrives

“In Our Unity Lies our Strength, In Our Differences Lies Our Power” - Aureo Cardona

Powerful words that inspired the theme of LULAC NY's first gala. As stated by Eduardo LaGuerre Deputy State Director of New York, “Being a member of LULAC as Latinos united here in New York is a great honor.” Since its inception LULAC NY has had many events from women's to youth to civic events to voter registration drives. Our membership has grown in just a few short years and is represented by almost every Latino country: from Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans, Cubans, Ecuadorians, Peruvians, Spaniards and many other Latin American countries. New York State Director Ralina Cordona has set a personal goal for every Latino nationality to be represented by the time the Convention hits New York. The diversity is so extensive that LULAC members include black, white and Asian individuals. Our members are passionate about the rights of “ALL” and are active in the work and mission of LULAC. From upstate New York down to the Big Apple, LULAC NY is committed to the advancement and civil rights of all U.S. Citizens.

Virginia Councils Excel in Commitment to Education

Situated just across the Potomac River from the nation's capital, Virginia is the premier site for LULAC involvement in national, state, and local issues, like education. In the “Latino Education Summit,”



for example, members served as representative of the community helping to forge a partnership that improves academic achievement of Latino students by hosting a series of education panels and programming. We have additionally been involved for more than

15 years in providing scholarships for Latino and minority high school seniors so that they may continue with their higher education goals. Members of the councils interview and select the individuals to receive scholarships. We have given scholarships to deserving students, especially to undocumented ones. We learn that we similar backgrounds and all have to work together in order to accomplish our goals, and objectives. The councils have raised funds through donations and dinner functions at local restaurants. We have raised money by having barbeques, fundraisers at restaurants where an organizations can receive a percentage of food ordered for a lunch and dinner periods.

Also, our councils have provided scholarships for students of English as a Second Language programs to attend summer school and improve their English skills. We hope to expand the opportunity to have qualified 10th and 11th grade Latino students attend summer enrichment STEM programs, at major colleges.

Zumbathons Provide a Wide Range of Benefits for Attendees

The LULAC National Cinco de Mayo Health Fair and la Fiesta Familiar in PR were inspirations for LULAC Maryland: they adopted



the idea of taking Zumba fitness and developing Zumbathons to benefit the membership physically and mentally. Participants of “Zumba with LULAC Maryland,” held twice a week in different locations, contribute \$5 per session and use these venues to network, identify career, civil rights, and immigration needs. Other councils can mirror this fruitful event to meet fundraising, networking, and fitness demands.

In Maryland, there was an issue with ESL classes, which was made known to LULAC through a Zumba participant. In public schools, ESL classes catered to Asian-Pacific, Haitians and Russians, in addition to Hispanics. LULAC State Director Rose Satz made the observation that Hispanics have different needs, like five vowels in Spanish versus 27 in Russian. This prompted LULAC members to mobilize and petition for ESL teachers to specifically address the individual needs of the Latino community, in addition to the needs of the other English-learning students.

Midwest Regional Update

LULAC National Receives Award from Su Casa

Su Casa Hispanic Center held its 13th Annual Silent Auction & Awards Dinner on May 10th at the Cintas Center at Xavier University. The event is a major fundraising for Su Casa, an organization of Catholic Charities of SW Ohio, founded in 1997 to serve the needs of the increasing Latino population in the greater Cincinnati area.

The keynote address was given by Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of the Diocese of San Marcos, Guatemala, who talked about the plight of the underclasses of Guatemala and the struggles that they face when they migrate to the United States.

“There is a systematic violation of immigrant human rights; there is xenophobia when states build walls and establish harsh laws... We are witnesses of a great number of people who are victims of poverty and human trafficking,” he said.

The 13th Annual Su Casa Silent Auction & Awards Dinner recognized those individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the center. LULAC National received the Organization of the Year Award for its valuable support to Su Casa and its mission.

The award was received by Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director, who called upon the LULAC Cincinnati membership to join him to accept the award. Wilkes praised the work of Su Casa, site of a LULAC Technology Center, and reaffirmed the value of the LULAC/Su Casa partnership to better serve the Latino community. Wilkes acknowledged the outstanding success of the 2011 LULAC National Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio and highlighted its significant and lasting impact in the region.

Iowa Councils Assist in Achieving the Dream through Scholarship Provisions



LULAC Council 10 in Davenport, Iowa, recently held its annual scholarship banquet, where it awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to 19 students in the Iowa/Illinois area. With the LULAC National Educational Service Centers matching pledge, Council 10 has awarded about \$400,000 to more than 700 students to date.

Other councils can make education a reality for students by mirroring their scholarship acquisition and selection process. Council 10 members generate funding by organizing a series of

fundraising events held throughout the year that include weekly Friday night bingo, trivia nights, flea markets, an annual scholarship golf outing, a yearly Fiesta celebration and Fiesta Queen contest. Scholars are chosen through a rigorous process that is led by a formal committee that follows the LNEESC guidelines.

Southwest Regional Update

Enhancing Diversity at a Diverse School

LULAC #4900 at The Thurgood Marshall Law School in Houston, Texas, is striving to create an ethnically and racially diverse LULAC at one of the most diverse law schools in the country.

According to the National Jurist, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is one of the most diverse law schools in the country. Although 50% of students are African American, 25% of the law school is Hispanic. The remaining 25% is made up of other races including Caucasian and Asian.

The LULAC chapter at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law was established in 2006 by law student Victoria Neave. It continues to flourish today as one of the largest clubs on campus with over sixty student members. The recruitment goal during the school year is to make sure we recruit all ethnicities and races. Yet, TMLS LULAC #4900 faces a major hurdle in recruitment that is overcome by striving to create programming that promotes the welfare of everyone—regardless of race or creed. At our voter registration drives and various public interest symposiums, the members make sure to express to fellow students that LULAC's goal promotes the welfare of everyone—when one group succeeds, we all succeed.

LULAC Attorney and Counselor at Law Luis Roberto Vera, Jr. Honored by NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, have bestowed the honor on Luis Roberto Vera, Jr. of the Foot Soldier in the Sand Award for his work in litigating voting rights cases which have benefited both the Latino and Black communities. His most recent court victory where a Federal District Court, in Washington DC, unanimously declared that the Texas Congressional plan drawn by a Republican Texas Legislature would have a discriminatory and retrogressive impact against minorities and affirmed that all three maps, the Congressional, State House of Representatives, and the State Senate, to be in violation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Far West Regional Update

The ¡Adelante! America Youth Program thrives in its commitment to Latino youth

Since its beginning back in September 2011, the ¡Adelante! America Youth Program in California has been a motivating and exciting experience for the students involved. The program has gained so much momentum in our community with local agencies and community leaders who personally know the students and have contacted us for ¡Adelante! America Sessions in their agencies. The

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Note from Josefina Ruiz

LULAC National Youth President



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Josefina Ruiz
LULAC National Youth President

My LULAC familia,

As I begin a new phase in my involvement with LULAC as the 2012-2013 National Youth President, I'd like to introduce myself and my focus for this year.

The struggles faced by the Latino community resonate with me from my personal experiences and background. My parents are both Mexican immigrants who came here twenty years ago. Growing up, my sisters and I faced that language barrier that often affects Spanish-speaking families living in an English-language dominated country. We also grew to know discrimination; critics interpreted the accents in our speech and the pride of our heritage as being non-American. I have also learned the steep cost of a high quality of life. I sorely missed my father while he was at his two to three jobs, providing for our family. These kinds of experiences helped shape my identity and I couldn't be more thankful that they weren't endured in vain. Those struggles are instrumental as I strive to fulfill LULAC's mission of promoting the programs and services that address the most important issues for Latinos. In my personal enrichment, I have realized first-hand that the fundamental element critical to upward social mobility is education.

My parents' sacrifices drive me to make them proud and to produce results that make their sacrifices worthwhile, actions which can only be achieved through formal education. Our parents were drawn to this Promised Land to provide a better future for their children, a future that they knew could certainly be attained through the endless opportunities that schools in the USA offer.

If parents continue encouraging higher education in a supportive environment and if students put forth the effort to succeed in school, students can fulfill their parents' dreams and their personal aspirations for success. My own experiences prove this theory correct. Due to my hard work and determination to succeed, I have traveled across the nation with school and non-profit organizations, including LULAC. May I mention that these trips were cost-free because I stayed focused while I applied for scholarships and actively participated in extra-curricular activities? I firmly encourage every student to do these two things for personal development, for increased knowledge, and for a higher standard of living.

The core of the LULAC mission relies heavily on education. Statistics have shown that a higher education level correlates with a higher economic standing and consequently with a higher standard of living. Through that, everything else follows, including our political involvement and ability to speak out for our rights. As LULAC youth, as citizens of this country, and most importantly as the fastest growing population of the United States, we

Latinos have the responsibility to educate ourselves and those around us. We are the future of this country because by 2050, one third of Americans will be of Latino descent. Today we shape the future since the Latino issues - the very problems that hold back the community - will be magnified as the population grows through time. Education is the greatest equalizer; it transforms people into a dynamic professional elite that overcome the obstacles of the previous generation.

In short, the LULAC Youth need to be greatest advocates of education and most avid pursuers of such. We welcome the challenge to be the leaders and role models for the younger generations who will inevitably look up to us. I know that together, we can do it! The Board will assist by giving out scholarship information and by organizing events that will promote formal education at the 84th LULAC National Convention. Whether it is through scholarships or academic recognition of our awesome LULAC Youth, we will shine as intellectuals this year and prove that we are a college-bound cohort.

Excited for this year and anxious for what awaits,

~ Josefina Ruiz



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

National Vice President for Youth Ana Valenzuela Estrada pictured with LULAC Youth at the October Board Meeting in Washington DC.

Latino Vote: The Game Changer

Continued from page 9.

to citizenship, then, is his ultimate focus.

The Economy

Mayor Castro and Senator Rubio also diverge on their approaches to address the debt crisis on how to repair the American economy. Senator Rubio calls for spending caps, spending reduction, and a balanced budget amendment to repair and raise America's economic power in the international system. Continuously increasing the national debt, which stands at \$14.4 trillion, is fiscally irresponsible for the future of the U.S. A spending cap and cuts to national programs are the appropriate responses to improve the economy and spur job creation since "prosperity is created, not when the government spends money, but when people take the money they have access to and use it to start a new business," he said in an interview with WRAL during the Republican National Convention. "Those businesses create jobs, which allow their employees to spend money, which is the key to economic growth."

Mayor Castro, however, believes that the government should play a larger role in the economic development of a nation. According to Castro, the government should not cut national programs in order to balance the budget because these cuts could have adverse effects on American citizens: "The [conservative] budget [plan] doesn't just cut public education, cut Medicare, cut transportation and cut job training. It doesn't just pummel the middle class -- it dismantles it," he stated in his address at the Democratic National Convention, arguing that without them, struggling Americans will never have the opportunity to work out of poverty. He has used the same philosophy in transforming San Antonio during the recession into a Top 50 American city. He is revitalizing the city's urban core through government investment in education, technology, and medicine. The expenditures are intentionally made in these industries to resist fluctuations in the national economy so as to produce sustainable rates of return for long-term economic growth.



Health Care

One of the most compelling pieces of legislation upheld by the Supreme Court is the Affordable Care Act. The ACA creates insurance exchanges, provides insurance to those with pre-existing conditions, and expands the rights of the insured and uninsured.



Latinos are the most uninsured group in the nation with nearly one in three people uninsured in the U.S. being Hispanic. In his address at the Democratic National Convention, Mayor Castro noted that, "The Affordable Care Act has made it possible for nine million Latinos to get health care coverage. That's a huge deal." The impact of this law then would irrefutably impact the Latino community and its access to quality health care.

Yet, despite these many benefits,

Rubio presents arguments against the ACA. He is a proponent of repealing the law on the basis that the government should not be involved in obtaining and distributing insurance. Instead of the ACA the government should have "market-based reforms that empower individuals to get health insurance without having the IRS chasing them down if they don't. Never has a choice been more clear," Rubio wrote in an op-ed in the Orlando Sentinel.



Each Latino champion holds a vastly different vision for the future of America. The Republican and Democratic parties embody different ends of the political spectrum, and each should be well understood to civically engage with our policy makers. The choice between these two partisan visions is ultimately decided by a vocal citizenry that holds elected officials accountable to those who voted for them.

Your electoral decision will have repercussions that not only shape the individuals of this nation but also affect the citizens of other countries worldwide. Because the Hispanic voting population is growing at an incredible rate and because we harnessed our electoral power in the past election, LULAC urges you to continue to play a significant role in policy making. LULAC's "I Voted for Immigration Reform" Campaign will keep elected officials accountable to their constituency. Go to LULAC.org for more info on achieving comprehensive immigration reform!

The 2012 LULAC National Convention

Continued from page 5.

estadounidenses más nuevos se inscribieron para votar, algo que cada ciudadano debe hacer. Porque LULAC sigue ayudando a la comunidad hispana obtener acceso al cuidado de la salud, el ayuntamiento de Latinos Living Healthy planteó las cuestiones de salud que más afectan a los latinoamericanos y demostró como uno debe peticionarle a los políticos para instigar cambio positivo dentro de nuestras comunidades.

El jueves abrió con el discurso en el Desayuno del Servicio Comunitario de la Segunda Dama del EEUU, la Dra. Jill Biden, donde ella habló de la importancia de las oportunidades educacionales y de la necesidad crítica de obtener títulos avanzados. El Ministro de Justicia Eric Holder recibió un reconocimiento especial de la Presidenta Morán en el Almuerzo de Unidad. Holder, cuya defensa interminable de los derechos civiles y de la votación ha enojado a ciertos individuos en Washington DC, habló en el mismo día que la Cámara de Representantes del EEUU votó para quedarle en el desacato al congreso. Holder dijo “prefiero estar aquí y no en Washington DC en este momento”. LULAC reconoció los logros de sus líderes latinas durante el Women’s High Tea. Concluyó la noche del jueves con el Banquete para los Premios Juveniles espectacular en Universal Studios donde nuestros miembros jóvenes les presentaron premios a los mejores y más brillantes miembros, y después tuvieron la oportunidad de bailar y de subirse en las montañas rusas después de que el parque de atracciones oficialmente cerró.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Mickie y Minnie hicieron una gran fiesta en la Celebración de la Florida en el parque Epcot con música y un show de láser y juegos artificiales!

LULAC celebró la educación el viernes por la mañana con el Desayuno de LNEC que iluminó nuestros programas y patrocinadores. Cientos de estudiantes universitarios del área de Orlando aprendieron de oportunidades educativas y profesionales en el Foro para el Avance y Reclutamiento Juvenil. LULAC organizó varias sesiones por la mañana para que estudiantes de la Florida reciban consejos académicos, universitarios, y laborales. El ayuntamiento del voto latino, llamado, “El futuro está en tus manos,” exploró el peso del voto latino mientras que le explicaba al público

la importancia de aumentar la movilización de votantes latinos para la elección presidencial. El ayuntamiento del futuro de Puerto Rico usó el President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico Status como guía para determinar los avances para mejorar la vitalidad de la isla. Con más de 2.500 miembros de LULAC que son de la isla del encanto, se sabe que esta organización se cambiará con el futuro de Puerto Rico. El viernes terminó con la recepción y banquete presidencial donde la Presidenta Morán presentó premios a ciertas personas cuyos logros se destacaban dentro de la comunidad.

La convención se cerró el sábado con el Concierto Voces Unidas por América donde tocaron Tito Nieves, Mariachi Cobre, y Jesse y Joy. En el concierto, las personas podían inscribirse para votar en esta importante elección. El evento más esperado de la comunidad latinoamericana será en Las Vegas en junio del próximo año. La Convención de LULAC tendrá catorce eventos increíbles, incluyendo banquetes, talleres, y un concierto gratis. ¡No se lo pierdan!



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

La salsa vivió toda la noche en el concierto Voces Unidas por América con Tito Nieves. ¡Tito complació sus fans con gusto y gran sonrisa cuando dos veces gritaron, “¡Otra!”



connect

At Cox Enterprises, we believe our differences – whether ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation – actually make us stronger. By linking each person's unique characteristics and thoughts to our common goals, Cox is building a stronger company and connecting our community. We're proud to support LULAC's mission to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. We're all connected.

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Se esperan grandes cosas para la Comisión de Mujeres para este año

La Comisión de Mujeres LULAC inició el Nuevo ciclo del 2012-2013 con Elsie Valdes Ramos, recién electa Vice Presidenta Nacional de Mujeres, en la Convención Nacional LULAC de Orlando, Florida. El año se inicia con grandes expectativas de avances en los

postulados de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos. Logrando propuestas conducentes a mejorar las condiciones económicas en la vida del latino, y cumplir nuestra misión educativa, influencia política, reforma de salud y derechos civiles de la población hispana en los Estados Unidos de América.

La Comisión de Mujeres es constituida por las recomendaciones designadas por los Vice Presidentes Regionales, las pasadas Vice Presidentas de Mujeres, la Presidenta Nacional, Pasadas Presidentas Nacionales y varias corporaciones. El equipo de trabajo se divide en comités de mujeres voluntarias en los estados y sus territorios.

Actividades y eventos promocionando los programas de Salud, Educación, Familia y Membresía se iniciaran en las Regiones de Farwest y Midwest. Puerto Rico, a través del Southeast solicitó la Conferencia Nacional de Mujeres para abril del 2013. Uniremos esfuerzos y estaremos solidarios con las regiones de Southwest y Northeast para las conferencias de la salud. El crecimiento de membresía para la organización será parte de los objetivos de las comisionadas en sus respectivas regiones.

“La Mujer es el eje del poder y nuestra Comisión Nacional de Mujeres será el organismo regente en las luchas para lograr los derechos de igualdad en la familia latina a través de los Estados Unidos” indico Vice Presidenta Valdes.



Photo by Luis Nolasco Briones

La Comisión de Mujeres se reunió en Washington para planificar los eventos para el año que viene. La Comisión lucha para lograr igualdad en la familia latina a través de los Estados Unidos.

ANSWERS from page 10

1. True: Start saving today—no matter your age—for your retirement so that you are able to live comfortably in the future.
2. False: Social Security is not an individual investment program. The total amount of your benefit depends on how much you earned, when you retire, and how long you live.
3. True: Save as much as you can! You should not wait to save for retirement until you are comfortably settled in your job and life.
4. True: If you're arriving late to retirement planning, you can and should contribute an additional \$4,400 to a 401(k) and \$1,000 to traditional and Roth IRAs.
5. False: Those working legally in this country pay into the system just as US citizens do, and their contributions help support current beneficiaries. They can collect Social Security benefits.
6. True: You don't want to be dealing with a lot of debt when you're retired. Lowering debts—or eliminating them altogether—can make retirement a breeze, since you will most likely have a constant or less than normal amount of monthly income.
7. True: Since this is true, you will need to supplement your benefits with a pension, savings, or investments.
8. True: The different types of plans have different features, but most of them allow you to defer taxes on the money you save and the returns you earn within the account.
9. False: Even if you retire, you can still choose to work if you have the interest and energy to work at that advanced age. Even though the social and mental benefits are positive, consider that you may have health problems that prevent it.
10. True: The AARP Retirement Calculator, found at http://www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/retirement_calculator/, helps you evaluate your current rate of savings and investing for retirement and lets you play with the numbers to see exactly how much more or less you'll need to save based on when you stop working.

Justice or Just Us?

Continued from page 8

that the police are on red alert as they approach all cars. They are not thinking you are a good guy/gal. One wrong move on their part and their life could be over – or yours. Tough job, my hat goes off to those who chose to wear the uniform.

The Assistant District Attorney

The job of the assistant district attorney is to seek justice and each office exercises a great amount of discretion in dismissing your case or sending you to prison for a lifetime. In Harris County, the district attorney's office is known for seeking the death penalty and sending more defendants to the chamber than any other district attorney's office in the state of Texas. According to The Guardian, Texas is a state with the highest numbers of death penalty cases a year. Perhaps, the frontier mentality of "we will give you a fair trial and then hang you" still dominates the Texas justice system. It is always best to have an attorney to represent your interests when communicating with the district attorney on your case. If you do not have retained counsel, you should consider it. Remember you may not only be facing a fine, but you could also be facing time in prison - your freedom is at stake.

The Courts

The judge is a neutral party in this action. The judge rules renders decisions on issues or questions put before him in a motion. Your counsel will communicate with the assistant district attorney (ADA) and if no favorable action follows, then they may approach the judge to make a determination. The judge has a large caseload, just as the ADA. The shortest amount of time taken to render a decision on a plea the quicker a case is completed. Some argue that the present system is about getting the most pleas rather than seeking true justice. Most of defendants are unclear about their rights and simply enter a guilty plea at the request of their lawyers.

The Jury

The jury in your case needs to remain open-minded about your case since they are responsible for considering your innocence until the state proves you guilty. Depending on what type of criminal case you may have, a 12-person or 6-person jury will decide if you are guilty or innocent. From the moment some are called to serve jury duty, they do not want to be bothered. The presumption of your innocence is now very close to gone. Your right not to testify will be used against you. "If he was innocent why did he not say so?"

This is but a brief introduction to the major players in the criminal justice system. Most defendants who cannot afford any attorney are out-gunned, out-manned and out of luck. The first rule in any case is not to catch a case. Below are some helpful hints to avoid future involvement with the criminal system:

1. Do not abuse or be in possession of illegal drugs or be around people who use drugs;
2. Limit your alcohol consumption and do not drive after drinking. DWI's cost over \$10,000.00 if convicted;
3. Be home before midnight;
4. Pay attention to what you are doing; ignorance of the law is not a defense.

Your rights as a criminal defendant must be understood. You must protect yourself at all times.

Baldomero Garza III, Esq. is the LULAC National Vice President for the Southwest, LULAC National Civil Rights Committee Chair and a practicing attorney in Houston, Texas. baldogarza@yahoo.com

AROUND THE LEAGUE *briefs*

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¡Adelante! America Program has truly been an example on how students participating outside the classroom will make a difference in their way of thinking about their futures.



New events which have included our students in the community have been the Community Volunteer Fair, the Walk and Roll bicycle repair fair, San Juan Historical Park fence painting, the Law Enforcement Golf tournament, Cash for College Fair. The students have been in high demand and are compensated with participation certificates, free lunches, free bikes, and food store certificates for their parents. It is very rewarding to see these young people participate within the community and transform into role models for other students. It is an accomplishment just knowing that motivating these students with community service will assure they become active in their schools and studies.

On April 24, 2012, the program held a session in the San Benito County Superior Court chambers exclusively for ¡Adelante! America youth. Students learned about the process of the judicial system. Students were then asked to move to the jury box where they learned about jury duty from Judge Steve Sanders. On May 1, 2012, ¡Adelante! America students were able to mock a city council meeting with the Vice Mayor, Pauline Valdivia. Councilmember Victor Gomez explained the function and operation of the city government and provided a briefing on current elected officials. Next, City Planner Abraham Prado presented information on the workings of the planning department which oversees how the city is planned. Then students were able to take seats in the City Council desks and addressed attendees on issues that they considered important!

Rita Chavez Medina Recognized

On behalf of all LULAC members, Far West Vice President Mickie Luna presented the Presidential Medallion to Rita Chavez Medina, founder of the Chavez Family Vision Organization. A continuing champion for farmworkers and the under-represented, Rita Chavez Medina has carried on the vision of her late brother Cesar Chavez for many years. She profoundly thanks President Margaret Moran and all members of LULAC for this recognition, humbly accepting it in memory of her brother and all the farmworkers who continue to struggle for justice and exclaimed it as the perfect birthday present.





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2012 Cambia tu Futuro Awareness Campaign Workshops Continue to Narrow the Digital Divide

By: Dahida Vega, Technology Program Manager

The Broadband Opportunity Coalition focuses on raising awareness on the importance of broadband Internet access among the Latino community. This summer LULAC and NCLR launched the new phase of the Cambia Tu Futuro Campaign that includes making a series of workshops that offer hands-on training available to Latinos across the country. It is the coalition's top priority to inform the communities about the benefits and options of increasing their access to broadband.

In partnership with the PUENTE Learning Center in Los Angeles, California and the Poder Learning Center in Chicago, Illinois, the first of these workshops were held on May 30 and July 12 respectively. Later in the summer, LULAC partnered with the LNEC Center in Dallas, Texas, and held a workshop for the Latino community on July 26. The workshops will conclude in the DC area sometime in August.

The workshop sessions also featured public service announcements that highlighted the benefits to broadband access; included a presentation from local Internet service providers on the local options for high-speed Internet, and provided tutorials regarding Internet safety, social media, and navigation tools. The campaign is fighting to increase the number of Latinos who currently use the Internet as recent statistics indicate that only

45% of Latino households have adopted broadband. By promoting digital opportunities and by arming the communities with the tools necessary to succeed in a technology-driven workforce, the campaign aims to increase public awareness of the many benefits to being on-line.

"LULAC is committed to ensuring that the Latino community fully appreciates the importance of having access to broadband Internet in their daily lives," said LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes. "At present, the disconnect is primarily due to a lack of engagement and appreciation as to the vital role broadband Internet plays in a person's professional and personal life. Initiatives like the 2012 Cambia Tu Futuro Awareness Campaign are critical because they highlight the many benefits of broadband access, such as enabling students to do their school work, complete college applications and apply for financial aid. It also enhances an adult's ability to manage money, conduct job searches, undergo job trainings, and even take English language courses. Initiatives like these help make the Internet relevant to the Latino community."

For more information about the Cambia Tu Futuro Campaign please visit www.cambiatufuturo.org





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