

**LULAC 2003 Convention Details Inside!**

# LULACnews



## **LULAC Board Meets with Washington Leaders**

**Washington Youth Leadership Seminar**

**Christmas Traditions**

**Giving Back During Christmas**



**LULAC Profiles  
Mark Lopez**

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Santa Claus with Ramon Medina, IV.

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# LULACnews

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## A MESSAGE from the President



Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC,

With the holidays approaching, we are mindful of the meaning of Christmas. Christmas is a time to renew our commitment to helping others less fortunate than ourselves. As you read stories in the *LULAC News* of how LULAC members give back to their communities we hope that you will become inspired to continue in this rich tradition.

One important way to help others is to get involved in advocacy work. I encourage each of you to join in the fight for important legislation that affects Hispanics nationwide. For instance, we need to continue to pressure this administration and congress to pass the DREAM Act, legislation that would provide the opportunity for children of immigrants to obtain legal status if they meet certain academic criteria. In addition, we must continue to ask our leaders to reauthorize the National Farmworkers Job Program.

We look forward to working with congress next year, especially now that we have added three more Hispanics to the ranks. These victories are due in large part to the many LULAC members that worked hard to get out the Hispanic vote. While the final numbers are not in yet, we believe that more Hispanics went to the polls this year than in previous years. There are still many Hispanics, however; that need to be reminded of the importance of voting. We must continue to encourage people to participate in our democracy and exercise their right to vote.

As the year 2002 ends, we can look back on another successful year for LULAC. We have much to be thankful for this past year. We had one of the best national conventions in the League's history and we continued to grow our membership. We are excited about next year's convention which will be in held in beautiful Orlando, Florida next June. This convention promises to be one of our best yet with a variety of important speakers, insightful workshops and top notch entertainment. I hope that all of you will be able to attend and celebrate LULAC's 74<sup>th</sup> successful year.

Finally, we hope that you will enjoy the new look for the *LULAC News*. We believe this new layout provides a better quality product for our members.

God Bless and Feliz Navidad!

Hector M. Flores  
LULAC National President

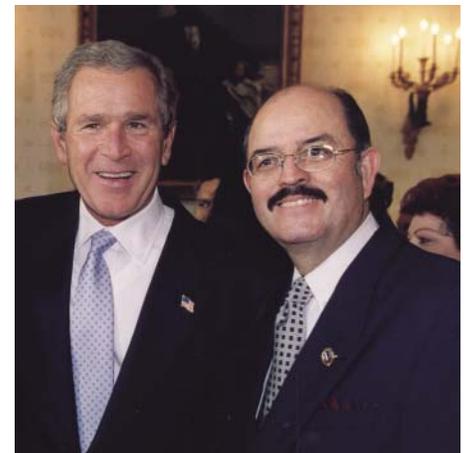
## Headline

### LULAC Board Meets with Leaders in Washington, D.C.

Recently, the LULAC National President and Board met in Washington, D.C. with national leaders in order to persuade them to take action on issues of critical importance to the Hispanic community.

First on the agenda was a press conference lead by LULAC National President, Hector Flores. Mr. Flores was joined by Congressional Representatives Rubén Hinojosa, Ciro Rodriguez, Grace Napolitano and Joseph Crowley, who each made persuasive arguments for the improvement of Hispanic education. Statements were directed toward the Bush administration, calling for improved education and the passage of the Student Adjustment Act – a bill that would permit undocumented students to obtain a college education by granting them permanent legal residency if at the time of application they are enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher and are of good moral character. The conference was well-attended, with over 50 students from around the nation in attendance who were here participating in the LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Summit.

Continued on page 11.



President George W. Bush with Hector Flores, LULAC National President at the White House.

## National Hispana Leadership Institute



Cristina Saralegui with Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director.

This year the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of the NHLI is to develop Hispanas as ethical leaders through training, professional development, relationship building and community-and-world activism. The NHLI works to “break the glass ceiling” for Hispanas and assist them in reaching their career goals.

This year's National Mujer Award went to Cristina Saralegui, a 30-year veteran journalist, who not only has received ten Emmys for “The Cristina Show” but also co-publishes a monthly magazine called *Cristina La Revista*. Cristina, along with her husband, created the Arriba la Vida/Up With Life Foundation, which is dedicated to AIDS awareness and education among Hispanics.

Sonia Gutierrez received the Regional Mujer Award this year. Ms. Gutierrez is the Executive Director of the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School, which is the first and only adult charter school in the nation. Ms. Gutierrez was relentless in raising funds and establishing the center which now provides over 1,500 students annually with programs that include: English as a second language, GED, citizenship and leadership training.

## LULAC Calendar

### ■ Tribute to Teófilo Espinoza

**Date:** Dec. 14, 2002

**Venue:** Doctors Nursing Home, 909 White Rock Trail, Dallas, TX

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**For more information call Christine Bobadilla at (214) 219-2133.**

### ■ Women's Summit in California

**Jan 10-11, 2003**

**Monterrey, CA**

**\$65 for both nights, Saturday only \$50 at the Hilton.**

**Contact Mickie Luna, California State Director (831)637-1342 or Rosie Murillo, Deputy Director for Women for California 831-786-8689 or email [rosiehra643@yahoo.com](mailto:rosiehra643@yahoo.com) [www.californialulac.org](http://www.californialulac.org)**

### ■ California's 2nd Annual Legislative Gala

**DATE:** February 19, 2003

**TIME:** 6:30pm - 10:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn,

**Cost:** \$100 per person

**Contact Mickie Luna at 831-637-1342 or David Rodriguez at 805-639-0846**

### ■ LULAC National Gala

**March 11, 2003**

**Contact Carlos Zapata for more information at 202-833-6130 or [czapata@lulac.org](mailto:czapata@lulac.org)**

### ■ LULAC National Convention

**June 16-21, 2003**

**Orlando, Florida for more information see [www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org) or call 202-833-6130 or 1-866-577-0726.**

## Orlando Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Wins National Award

Recently, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida (HCCCF) was the recipient of the “Large Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Year” regional and national awards at this year's United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Convention and Business Expo. The event took place in Los Angeles, California in October of this year.

All U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) members in good standing were eligible to submit nominations for the Regional and National Awards. The HCCCF, an Orlando based chapter, was selected by an independent panel of experts. Entries were evaluated based on major accomplishments, quality of service, innovation of programs or services offered, measurable results and opportunities offered to the Hispanic business community. These awards are given annually to chambers, which have attained or contributed to business excellence in an extraordinary manner.

The awards received pay tribute to the illustrious achievements and innovations of Hispanics that have significantly impacted the economic development of our nation's communities. “The national award is a testament to the hard work of our past presidents, board of directors, our Vice President Ada Rodríguez, our staff and members, who are the true role models of the Hispanic business community,” said Mario A. García, HCCCF Chairman.

## Welcome New Councils!

LULAC welcomed 32 new councils since the last issue of *LULAC News*. California gained 4; Florida gained 2; and Texas took the lead with 11 new councils and 12 new Young Adult councils. Three more are expected to come in during November, one of which will be a Young Adult council. *Keep up the great work!*

## National Hispanic Leadership Summit

The National Hispanic Leadership Summit is a two-day conference that provides a forum for more than 350 Latino participants from across the country to discuss a range of policy issues with members of the United States Congress and the Bush Administration. Participants were nominated to attend the summit held in Washington, D.C. by their congressmen. Several LULAC leaders were nominated by their congressmen to attend this event. LULAC had representatives from Arkansas,



Richard Fimbres, LULAC VP for the Far West with Richard Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General.

Nevada, Indiana, Illinois and Arizona. In addition SER Jobs for Progress had about five members attend the summit.

The purpose of the summit was to allow Latino leaders to exchange ideas with the republican leadership. "At this critical time in our nation's history, it is imperative that our nation's Latino leaders and our federal officials exchange ideas about the most pressing issues affecting our families, communities and nation," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), chairperson of the Summit.

Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) welcomed the delegates to the reception, and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and U.S. Reps. Henry Bonilla (R-TX), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Ileana Ros-Lehtin-

en (R-FL) updated them about Congress fall agenda. Several members of President Bush's cabinet addressed the Summit's attendees, including Housing Secretary Mel Martinez, Education Secretary Rod Paige, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, White House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card, Jr. and Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales.

Richard Fimbres, LULAC's National Far West Vice-President, had the honor of introducing Surgeon General Richard Carmona, a LULAC member, who discussed leadership. U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marín spoke about creating financial security and Hector Barreto, director of the Small Business Administration, briefed participants on economic security.

## Hispanic War Heroes Honored

The Arizona LULAC Silvestre S. Herrera Veterans Council 1087, is very proud to announce that on September 21, 2002 in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month they hosted a banquet in honor of the ten surviving Latino Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. From World War II to Vietnam, these individuals fought proudly for the United States and nearly died. One threw himself on top of an enemy grenade, saving the lives of eight fellow soldiers. Another streaked up a hill against a barrage of bullets and another in true heroic fashion held off an advancing horde of infantry and tanks with his machine gun. For their courage they received the Medal of Honor, the country's highest military award. In all 41, Latinos have received the medal, today only ten survive.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have enriched the American way of life, and we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans who have served our country proudly. There are many who feel these Latino heroes have been overlooked by history and Hollywood, which is why the Silvestre S. Herrera Council led by Lionel Sanchez and Robert Murillo wanted to do something



Silvestre Herrera was one of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients honored at the event.

about it and set the record straight. The Congressional Medal of Honor recipients honored were Lucian Adams, St. Die, France, Oct. 28, 1944, Rudy Hernández, Wontong-NI, Korea, May 31, 1951, Alfred Rascón, Long Khanh Province, Vietnam, March 16, 1996, Louis R. Rocco, Vietnam, May 1970, Joseph C. Rodríguez, Near Munye-RI, Korea, May 21, 1951, Alejandro Ruíz, Gasukuma Village, Okinawa, April 28, 1945, Silvestre S. Herrera, Mertzwiller, France, WWII, 1944 and Hana Dávila accepted the award for her recently deceased father Rudolph B. Davila, U.S. Army, WW II. To further honor these brave men Council 1087 created a video highlighting the Latino Medal of Honor recipients. Videos can be obtained by contacting Council 1087.

## Submission Criteria

We would like to include as much as possible in the LULAC News. To ensure quality and accuracy please be sure to properly label all information that you submit. If sending photos, please send high resolution photos and be sure to provide sufficient information on each photo.

## Christmas Recipe

### BUNUELOS

-Mexican Puff Pastries-

- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup vegetable oil for frying
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

- In a large bowl combine eggs with 1/4 cup sugar and beat until thick and lemon-colored. Add the oil. Combine separately 1-1/2 cups of the flour, the baking powder and the salt. Gradually add this to the egg mixture and beat well.
- Turn dough out onto a floured board (use remaining 1/2 cup flour) and knead thoroughly until dough is smooth.
- Shape dough into sixteen balls. Roll each one into a circle about 5 inches in diameter. Let stand uncovered on waxed paper for about 10 minutes.
- Heat oil in a deep fry pan to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Fry circles until golden brown, turning once. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with sugar/cinnamon mixture.



Dr. John Arnold, President of Arizona Council 1088 at the Association of Farmworker Opportunities Conference.

## Kudos to Dr. John Arnold and Arizona Council 1088

Dr. John Arnold and the members of LULAC Arizona Council 1088 led a membership drive at the Association of Farmworker Opportunities (AFOP) Conference and hosted an evening reception. In one night, they added 37 new members on site who were approved at the LULAC Arizona state meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>. AFOP is strongly committed to LULAC's work and is looking to create new LULAC councils across the country. Council 1088 is one of LULAC's newest councils and has increased by over 150 members – all farmworkers and local activists. Dr. Arnold will now be traveling to Atlanta where he will speak about charter schools to the National Education Association (NEA) and continue his efforts to increase LULAC membership.

## Tennessee LULAC Receives Proclamation



Rick Masson, CEO of Memphis gives Ruth Valverde, LULAC State Director of Tennessee the City of Memphis Proclamation.

Ruth Valverde, LULAC State Director of Tennessee received a proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Memphis on October 15, 2002. The proclamation recognizes for the first time the Hispanic presence in the

city, which predates the founding of our nation and the many contributions Hispanics have made to their community over the years. The proclamation was presented by Mr. Rick Masson, CEO of the city, on behalf of Mayor Dr. W.W. Herenton. The proclamation brought together many leaders from various Hispanic organizations, which now plan to work together. They expect this united Hispanic front and new recognition by the city of Memphis to lead to more job and business opportunities for the Hispanic community.

## Council 263 Holds Tailgate Party to Raise Scholarship Funds



Council 263 members with their Red Raider "guns up" at the council hosted Texas Tech University Homecoming "tailgate party."

Council 263 in Lubbock, Texas hosted its official Texas Tech University "Homecoming Tailgate Party" on October 19, 2002. The event was held across the football stadium starting five hours prior to the homecoming game between Texas Tech University and Missouri University. Council members cooked and provided food, refreshments, music and fun to all LULAC members and members of the "Raiders Rojos," the Hispanic Alumni group at Texas Tech University. Past and present students and faculty from Texas Tech also attended the event. Although Council 263 and its sponsors provided food and refreshments free to all, a "donation jar" was set up to receive donations from anyone wanting to donate to the LULAC Council 263 Scholarship Fund. The event was a success!

## Navidad in the Hispanic Community

By Mabel L. Rodríguez, Intern for the LULAC National Office

The marvel of Latin American culture is especially evident during the Christmas holidays. Each Latin American country possesses distinctly graceful traditions for the Christmas celebration. Thanks to the wonderful cooperation of our fellow LULAC families, we are able to share with you some of our remarkable traditions during Christmas.

Tino Camacho, LULAC Kansas State Director, shares his traditions, “we go to midnight mass and then go and eat all kinds of goodies.”

Mickie Luna, LULAC State Director for California tells us, “Being a member of a traditional Mexican family, our custom is to make tamales for Noche Buena and for our friends and family. In our home, we have open house on Christmas Eve and many family and friends come over and enjoy the tamales.”

Another way of celebrating the Christmas holiday is shared by Michigan State Director, Augustin Sanchez who tells us that he generally spends Christmas with his family, but as a “LULACer” they invite the LULAC community to their *posada* (a reenactment of the “*Noche Buena*”). They have a party for the children and Michigan LULAC gets together for a Christmas dinner where they also exchange gifts.

Our LULAC National Parliamentarian, Adrian Rodriguez, shares with us one of his favorite pastimes “getting a chance to visit with family and friends.” He says, “Sometimes we get so caught up with our own lives during the year but Christmas is a time to focus on those special relationships.” Adrian also mentioned that “*Buñuelos* [a tortilla-like pastry] are a tasty treat his family has for Christmas.”

Here at our LULAC National Office, other enjoyable Christmas traditions and experiences were shared. Dr. Gabriela Lemus, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation, shared with us several traditions she has experienced through her international journeys. For example, she told us about some traditions from Puerto Rico: “Puerto Ricans feast by going house to house, eating

“*lechón asado*,” and listening to the musical sounds of groups like “*La Tuna del Cayey*.” Even more interesting, for *el día de los reyes magos* on January 6<sup>th</sup>, children fill shoe boxes with grass and leave out bowls of water for the camels of the “*tres reyes magos*” (or the three kings) to eat and drink in return for gifts and candy. In her native Mexico, she tells us how her family attends midnight mass and have a *posada* which includes having children dress up like the three wise men; they also have a *piñata* and *baston* for the children. In Mexico, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, they celebrate with a “*rosca de reyes*” containing a baby Jesus. The person who finds it will have luck all year. In El Salvador, Christmas involves placing a nativity scene without the baby Jesus under the Christmas tree. Once the celebration of Noche Buena is over and midnight arrives, the baby Jesus is placed in the scene. Jessica Rivera, Corporate Diversity Coordinator, originally from El Salvador explains that her family gets together to celebrate until four o’clock in the morning to Latin sounds, good food like stuffed chicken, tamales de pollo and “*panes*,” a sandwich-like entrée made with baguette bread, and chicken which are her family’s favorite.

In another part of the Latin American realm, Lorraine Quiroga, LULAC National Communications Manager whose family is from Peru explains a typical Peruvian Christmas which is similar to that of El Salvador. Their traditions involve having a nativity scene, midnight mass, enjoying banana leaf tamales and eating *panetone* with hot chocolate after midnight.

The United States, being a diverse nation with many foreign contributions from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe has greatly impacted the Christmas traditions of many Americans. For example, our National Executive Director, Brent Wilkes shared with us that his family usually leaves cookies and milk for Santa Claus. In the morning, the children find proof that Santa came because only one half eaten cookie will have been left behind. At Brent’s mother’s house, they eat Swedish dishes, such as the



Mabel Rodríguez, is an intern from University of California, Davis, where she majors in Spanish and Italian. She hopes to work for the United Nations one day.

infamous Swedish meatballs, and *ludfisk*, a pasty fish sauce.

Whether we are originally from Mexico, Sweden, or the United States, the most significant Christmas tradition is to be united with family. It is also wonderful to be able to live in a country where we can share our own traditions while learning about others’ cultural traditions, as well. We hope this wonderful time of happiness and peace spreads and touches each of you and your loved ones. *Feliz navidad y un próspero año nuevo a todos.*

### Christmas Recipe CHOCOLATE CALIENTE

Source: Mrs. Victoria Quiroga (Lorraine Quiroga’s mamá)  
Several Cinnamon sticks and cloves

¾ can Hershey’s syrup  
Sugar (as desired)

2 cups evaporated milk  
2 cups water to boil

- Boil 2 cups of water with cinnamon sticks and cloves to add flavor.
- Once boiled, add Hershey’s syrup with the 2 cups of evaporated milk.
- Stir well. If sugar is needed add as desired.

*Serve hot with panetone.*

## Scholarship Recipients Honored at Reception



Scholarship recipients in Lubbock, Texas.

Council 263 in Lubbock, Texas hosted its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual “Scholarship Recipients’ Reception” on August 17, 2002 at the Main Street Center. This annual event recognizes and honors the recipients of the annual scholarships given by the Council. Young family members were especially encouraged to attend, in the hopes that they too will be inspired to work towards higher education. All recipients were from the Lubbock area and most are now enrolled in either Texas Tech University or South Plains College, with a few attending out-of-state universities.

Council 263 is one of the original LULAC councils to participate in the LULAC National Scholarship Fund matching funds programs. This year, local Council 263 funds were matched by ten different national corporate partners. Six different local business partners were sponsors of this year’s reception which had an attendance of about one hundred and fifty persons. Other sponsors included the “Amigos de LULAC 263,” a group of ten local business and corporate sponsors that make annual donations to the Council to help with the different Council projects.

This year Council 263 gave out eighteen scholarships. This included eight annual “Memorial and Special Honorarium” scholarships, eight Special Merit scholarships and two Merit Scholarships to the Texas Tech University School of Nursing. Council 263 established the following Memorial and

Honorarium scholarships in recognition of LULAC members who have made great contributions: *Dr. Armando Durán Memorial; Leonel Galindo Educational Merit; Robert Lope Memorial; Roberto Lugo Special Merit; León Ochoa Senior Memorial; José Ramírez Memorial; Antonio Reyes Memorial; and Gabriel Rivera*

### *Outstanding Merit Scholarship.*

The recipients for this year include: José Aguayo, Shanee Bernal, Erika DeLeón, Evangelina Estrada, April Flores, Heather Gamez, Erika Hernandez, Natalie Lopez and Steven Luna. Also honored were Kevin Martínez, Luz Meléndez, Jessica Mendez, Lizette Ornelas, Joseph Palacios, Andres Pedroza, Fabián Sanchez, Gabrielle Treviño and Stephanie Valdez.

Lubbock LULAC Council 263 and their recipients and families want to thank all the National Corporate matching partners and all the reception sponsors for helping with a great event and promoting education for our youth.



NASA Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz presents the Young Woman of the Year award to Ximena Najjar at the National LULAC Convention this past June.

## LULAC Boot Camp



Sandra Salinas, Young Adult Member and Event Coordinator with Jose Luis Jimenez, Jr., Deputy District VIII Young Adults Director.

The University of Houston Young Adult Council held a LULAC “Boot Camp” this past October in Houston, Texas. All LULAC Young Adults in the State of Texas were invited to attend. Event agenda speakers included Benny Martinez, LULAC National Historian and Mary Ramos, Houston, District Director VIII spoke about LULAC’s history; Dr. Juan Garcia, National VP for Young Adults discussed the LULAC structure and protocol; Francisco Rodriguez from the office of District VIII in Houston, discussed Robert’s Rules of Order; Johnny Mata discussed civil rights; and Margaret Moran, LULAC State Texas Director discussed promoting events and Community Service.

The event was organized by Jose Luis Jimenez, Jr. Deputy District Director for District VIII Young Adults from Houston and Sandra Salinas LULAC Young Adult member. In attendance were Frank Ortiz, LULAC National Treasurer and Joel Lara, LULAC Executive Secretary. The Boot Camp was very well attended by Young Adult Councils from all over the state. Laredo National Bank donated the venue for the event and the food was provided by the Taco Cabana, La Mexicana and Taqueria Tepatitlan.

# POLICY and Legislation

## The Importance of the National Farmworker Jobs Program

By Hector Flores, LULAC National President Speech before the Association of Farmworker Opportunities Convention.

The plight of farm workers is one that is very close to my heart. When I was a young boy, I too worked in the fields. It was then that I realized that the only way to make a better life for myself and for my family was to get an education and the training necessary to make something of myself. It is for this reason that I support the restoration of the 2003 funding for the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). If this program is eliminated, a wide variety of services that help farm workers and the nation's agricultural industry would also end.

This program is important to farm workers around the nation, and to the country itself. It is the only job training program that serves primarily Hispanic Americans. The NFJP provides the resources necessary for job training, technical assistance and supportive services including GED classes to empower some 5 million farm workers throughout the United States.

At our last national convention, we passed a national resolution resolving LULAC's support of the restoration of funding and reauthorization of the National Farmworker Jobs Program, known as Workforce Investment 167 to the tune of \$160 million. The resolution was in reaction to the Department of Labor's (DOL) proposal to eliminate this nationally administered farm worker job program from \$81 million to zero. On the other hand, the DOL has come to the table to work with us and has begun to take significant steps to crafting a better program to serve rural people, farm workers and other rural poor.

The Association for Farmworker Opportunity Programs is in a unique position to assist the DOL to enhance their one-step programs to increase access for farm workers and to do outreach to farm worker communities across the nation. We at LULAC believe that better outreach can only be accomplished with the continuation

of the Workforce Investment 167. The services provided through the NFJP address not only the needs of the farm workers, but also of the employers who are in need of a trained labor force. The knowledge that farm workers gain includes labor market data, information pertaining to pesticides, training opportunities, health issues, and legislation among others, assists them in making informed decisions that allow them to stabilize their employment situation and prevent the duplication of services.

Migrant farm workers will be particularly hard hit should the program be eliminated. Without NFJP - which is nationally administered - governors will be forced to find funding for over two million migrant farm workers as they travel from one state to another. *Farmworkers*, continued on page 19.

## No Child Left Behind? Will New Legislation Leave Hispanic Children Behind ?

On January 18, 2001, President Bush signed into law the reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act or the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). This new law dramatically changes the federal government's role in the school system. Many are concerned that this new legislation, contrary to its name, leaves children, including Hispanic children, behind.

### What is the NCLB?

The NCLB is legislation that reauthorizes the (ESEA) - a federal law related to education in grades pre-K through 12. It encourages states and local districts with standards-based reforms to intensify the efforts with new requirements designed to close the achievement gap that exists between low-income, minority, and ESL students and more affluent, usually white and English proficient students.

Many policy makers, educators and the National Education Association (NEA) are concerned that this law may have many negative ramifications for students. The

following provides a brief analysis of the concerns raised by the NEA:

- The new law is far more intrusive and prescriptive than any federal education measure has ever been.
- It requires that all public schools test all students every year between third and eighth grade. Some critics believe that this creates an environment where teachers will "teach to the test" instead of truly educating students.
- Some of the remedies for low-performing schools can be counterproductive.
- The law raises the expectation for students and teachers, yet funding from federal resources to meet these challenges are far out of proportion.
- It will take money to meet NCLB's new requirements. Reducing class size, ensuring a qualified teacher for every student and that all students have access to the books and materials and technology they need to be effective is going to take money.

### Challenges:

Hispanic students face tremendous challenges to high academic achievement. According to the 2002 GAO report, Hispanic children suffer from the highest drop out rates of any group. Hispanic students who attend predominately minority schools are twice as likely to receive instruction from unqualified teachers. A large number of Hispanic students under-perform, with more than one-third of Latino students of high school age enrolled below grade level. Hispanic students also fall behind non-Hispanic students in reading, math and science by age 9. Many Hispanic-serving schools are facing budget cuts, despite the growth of the Hispanic population.

### Advocates Take Action:

This new legislation moves responsibility away from the U.S. Congress to the state and local levels. In other words, it leaves it up to advocates at the state and local levels to ensure that the NCLB is implemented in such a way that it assists Hispanic students.

# LULAC Profile

## Mark Lopez, Youth VP for the Far West

Every issue of LULAC News will profile a LULAC member that has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling, Mark Lopez, Youth Vice President for the Far West and LULAC member since he was 9 years old.

### Where and when were you born?

I was born on March 20, 1985 in Stockton, California. My Family is originally from Ocotlan, Jalisco in Mexico.

### What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

I would have to say that I am a strong debater.

### When did you join LULAC?

I joined LULAC when I was about 9 years old.

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

The Latino student drop out rate.

### What is your passion as a LULAC leader?

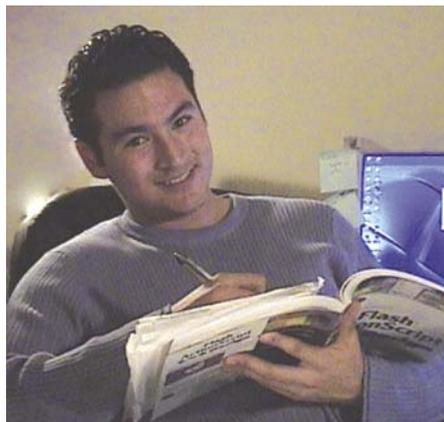
My most passionate LULAC cause is to strive for equal rights.

### What compelled you to join LULAC?

When I realized how important education is to youth, and especially to the Latino population. As a member of LULAC, I realized that I could make a difference. I believe by being a part of LULAC, I have a chance to let Latinos around the world know that we do have a choice to make something of ourselves.

### What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

At this time, my goal is to help Latino students around the world understand the importance of an education and what an education will do for them.



### What is your most memorable LULAC moment?

There have been lots of memorable moments in LULAC, yet I would have to say that my most memorable moment would be when I got elected into office. At that moment, I realized that this organization was going to give me the chance to make something great of myself, and to help others in the best way possible.

### What is your greatest accomplishment?

Receiving an academic scholarship last year from my high school for receiving the best grades in the class.

### What are your career plans?

To graduate from high school, go to college and major in corporate law, transfer to law school where I will become a lawyer, and some day become a U.S. Senator, and strive to be the first Latino president of the United States.

### What is your motto?

"Always set high goals for yourself, and never give up on those goals that are worth reaching for."

### Who do you admire most?

I admire a young woman by the name of Katie Dempsey. Whenever I felt as though I was unable to accomplish certain goals, she would be right behind me telling me to, "keep on going, and if you fall, I will be right there to catch you." Thanks to her, I am who I am today.

## Orlando!

### Celebrate LULAC's 74th Anniversary in Orlando!

Excitement builds among LULAC members as we prepare for our next convention in beautiful Orlando, Florida. We anticipate a spectacular convention next June, which will be held at the exclusive Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in the Walt Disney World Resort. Included in a full registration is a pass to Walt Disney World (a \$40-50 value). See enclosed flier for more details.

**Be sure to sign up by May 1, 2003 for the "early bird" discount!** Individuals purchasing full registrations will receive a \$25 discount if payment is made in full by 5/1/03.

# POLICY *and Legislation*

## LULAC Board Meets with Leaders in Washington, DC

*LULAC Board in D.C., continued from page 3.*



**LULAC ladies at the White House during the reception.**

Immediately following the press conference, the LULAC National Board went to the White House for a private reception with President Bush. President Bush took the opportunity to speak about the issues that are on his current agenda – the war and homeland security.

After the reception, the LULAC National Board divided into separate groups to meet with top leaders of various executive agencies to press the LULAC policy platform that is established annually at the national convention. The meetings covered a wide variety of topics from health and labor to immigration and small business. For instance, LULAC board members had the opportunity to meet with Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to discuss LULAC's platform on health. One main issue discussed was the high percentage of Hispanics that go without health insurance. Allen agreed to form a partnership with LULAC in order to educate and inform the Hispanic community, especially those located in rural areas, of the agency's programs and services.

At the Small Business Administration (SBA), members met with Mary Jean Duran, Director of Interagency Affairs. Duran explained that SBA funding is frozen for FY2003 but better management of the programs is expected. Duran seemed interested in forming a partnership with LULAC to help spread the word about opportuni-

ties for Hispanic small businesses.

LULAC members met Stuart Anderson, Executive Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning and Mike Becraft, Chief of Staff at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). LULAC members asked Anderson to explain the specific plans for INS restructuring. Anderson explained that at this point they do not know

how the restructuring plans will develop because Congress has several bills with different restructuring plans. LULAC members asked Anderson about the status of 245(i) – a mechanism for the regularization of the residency process for certain individuals with undocumented status. Unfortunately, there are no bills that address this issue at this time. LULAC took this opportunity to voice concerns about local law enforcement of immigration policies, racial profiling, border safety and the guest worker program.

At the Department of Justice (DOJ) members met with Ralph Boyd, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and his section chiefs for the voting rights, criminal and law enforcement best practices protocol sections. LULAC members asked them to explain several of the following issues: (1) what DOJ is doing to lessen the impact of the recent changes to law enforcement and how they affect the Hispanic community, such as racial profiling; (2) whether DOJ plans to investigate the recent cases of excessive force incidents by police officers against

Hispanics; and (3) the issue of pre-clearance for voters. As a result of the meetings, Boyd committed to giving LULAC leaders direct access to the section chiefs when evidence of civil rights violations arise in our communities.

LULAC members met with Secretary Mel Martinez and his Chief of Staff, Frank Jimenez at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Secretary Martinez expressed a real interest in partnering with LULAC in order to conduct housing workshops in the different Hispanic communities. The Secretary also said he might be interested in partnering with LULAC for employment outreach in the Hispanic community.

At the Department of Education, members met with Leslie Sanchez, the Executive Director for the White House Initiative on Hispanic Excellence. Sanchez explained the complexity of the No Child Left Behind Act and how she believed certain elements could assist Hispanic students. LULAC members expressed the need to help the high Hispanic dropout rate through the increased funding of the TRIO and GEAR-UP programs. LULAC members took this opportunity to express a strong desire to pass the DREAM Act and/or the Student Adjustment Act. In addition, LULAC members discussed the need to increase the severe under-representation

**LULAC Board in DC, Continued on page 19.**



**LULAC Board Members outside of the White House.**

# FORD AD

# NEA AD

# LULAC Scholarship Alumnus Gives Back



Angel Reyes, Esquire with Hector Flores, LULAC National President.

Angel Reyes has not forgotten those who helped him reach his goals. *In fact, Angel is giving back to the very same organization that helped him.*

Thanks to the generosity of Angel and his law partners, the LULAC president's office will now be housed in Angel Reyes' law office. After being elected this past June, Hector Flores, LULAC National President needed to relocate the president's office to Dallas where he is based. When Angel, a long time LULAC supporter learned of this need he decided that he could make a contribution. Angel Reyes, founding partner of Angel Reyes & Associates, P.C. and Heygood, Orr & Reyes, L.L.P., wanted to give back to LULAC especially because he himself has experienced first hand the impact that LULAC can have on a person's life.

"As a young person I wasn't sure how someone from my humble background could ever afford to go to college. No one in my family had ever attended college, much less graduated, and the hurdles of applying to colleges seemed small compared to the difficulty of paying for an education once I got in!" Angel explained. "My high school was in the inner city and did not even have a

guidance counselor to help me wade through the confusing and difficult process of applying for colleges and for obtaining financial aid."

That's when LULAC came into the picture. Angel learned about LNES, the educational arm of LULAC that was reaching out to young Hispanics in the Kansas City community, helping them reach their goals. Angel applied to LNES and received a LULAC scholarship which enabled him to attend the University of Kansas. "At that time, perhaps only five students from my high school graduating class of 470 went to a university. Thanks to the generous scholarships from LULAC and LNES I was able to pursue and obtain my college degree."

"The people at LNES understand the importance of education. In fact, I will never forget a particular incident when a LNES staff person went out of their way to make sure I obtained my check on time so that I could get the particular course load I wanted. It was a Christmas gift that I certainly remember to this day."

LULAC was also there for Angel when he pursued admission to law school. When he was successfully accepted to the prestigious University of Michigan Law School, LULAC supported his continuing education with scholarship support.

Angel's sister, Carla Reyes, also benefited from LULAC's generosity. She was awarded scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate school. With LULAC and LNES's help, she was able to complete a doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of California. She is now a professor up for tenure at the University of Utah.

"My family will never forget how LULAC and LNES helped us," Angel says. "I want to give something back to an organization that truly supported us, and helped us achieve our goals. I am very happy to be able to return a small portion of the sup-

**"I want to give something back to an organization that truly supported me, and helped me achieve my goals."**

port that LULAC has given me by providing office space for LULAC so that they may continue their programs of outreach and education in the Hispanic community."

## **LNESC Young Readers a Success Story**

**Recently, Mrs. Linda Gutierrez shared with us what the Young Readers program has done for her children.**

Mr. and Mrs. Gutierrez were concerned about their children's low reading scores "When I learned of the Young Reader's program, I thought it might help my kids, but I had no idea how much," said Mrs. Gutierrez. Analisa, eight, and James Gutierrez, nine, of Sacramento, California, have been enrolled in the Young Readers program as of last summer and since then both have jumped a whole reading level. James, who loves reading *Ranger Rick Magazine*, is now not only top of the Young Readers Program, but he is also top of his third grade class in reading. "They now love to read," added Mrs. Gutierrez, "and I must thank the Young Readers program for that."

# HISPANIC LEADERSHIP

## Leading the Way

### Celebrating the First Hispanic Commissioner of the SEC



On September 18, 2002, LULAC and several other Hispanic organizations hosted a celebration to honor the appointment of Roel Campos as the first Hispanic Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Senate Majority Leader Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), who recommended Mr. Campos for the position, spoke at the well-attended event on the hill. Senator Daschle explained that he found Mr. Campos because he “cast a wide net” when looking for a qualified individual to take on this position, instead of sticking to the traditional methods of recruitment.

Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, pushed for Mr. Campos’ confirmation and gave a moving speech about Mr. Campos’ humble background. Mr. Campos grew up in Harlingen, Texas, born to Mexican-American parents.

Mr. Campos thanked Senator Daschle for recommending him to the position and the various Hispanic organizations that pressed for his confirmation. He explained that because Senator Daschle thought “outside of the box” he will now hold this extremely important position.

Prior to being nominated to the Commission, Mr. Campos was one of two principal owners of El Dorado Communications

and served as an executive with the radio broadcasting company at its headquarters in Houston, Texas. Mr. Campos began his career, however, with the Government, serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. For the next fifteen years, he worked in Los Angeles, California for major law firms as a corporate transactions/securities lawyer and litigator. Campos served in the government for a second time beginning in 1985 as a federal prosecutor for several years in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles. He successfully prosecuted complex and violent narcotics cartels. He also investigated and prosecuted major government contractors for fraudulent conduct. After being in private law practice for several years, he co-founded El Dorado Communications, Inc. Now, he has returned to the public sector.

Mr. Campos earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School (1979), his MBA from UCLA (1972) and his BS from the U.S. Air Force Academy (1971). Mr. Campos married his high school sweetheart, Mini Villarreal, who now practices medicine in Houston, Texas. They have two boys, David - 16 and Daniel - 12.

### LULAC Facts

#### The Numbers Tell the Story

- **Latinas are 3 times more likely to live in poverty than non-Hispanic white women upon retirement**
- **25% of Latinas over 65 live in poverty**
- **Only 26% of Latinas have pension coverage**
- **Social Security is the only source of income for 40% of unmarried Latinas over 65**

Sources: OWL - National Older Women’s League and National Committee on Pay Equity.

### LULAC Recognizes Teófilo Espinoza for his Lifetime of Service

Teófilo Espinoza has been recognized as a great leader in the Hispanic community. Despite Mr. Espinoza’s humble background, he has always managed to give back to his community. Mr. Espinoza embodies the spirit of voluntarism, giving selflessly to Hispanics for years in the form of service, advice and money.

Mr. Espinoza faced discrimination as a child when he was refused entrance into elementary school. Mr. Espinoza turned this negative experience into a positive one by fighting for the rights of Hispanics in this country.

During his lifetime, Mr. Espinoza worked with his family and served in both World Wars, including service under General Douglas MacArthur in the South Pacific. Not only was Mr. Espinoza one of the founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens, he also founded La Voz del Anciano, an organization that protects the rights of Hispanic senior citizens.

Mr. Espinoza never had children of his own, but he sees all Hispanic youth as his children. Accordingly, Mr. Espinoza has given several talks to teenagers about the importance of staying in school and off of drugs and alcohol.

LULAC plans to recognize Mr. Espinoza for his countless contributions to the Hispanic community. LULAC will celebrate Mr. Espinoza’s lifetime of achievement on December 14, 2002, when LULAC will officially dedicate the LNEC Dallas center to Mr. Espinoza. At that time, LULAC will give Mr. Espinoza a lifetime membership. All local LULAC members are invited to attend the celebration. Please see the calendar on page 4 for details.

We are compiling a memory book for the celebration and we encourage all LULAC members to send congratulations cards to Mr. Espinoza at the following address:

LULAC Executive Office  
4245 N Central Expressway  
Suite 600C  
Dallas, TX 75205.

In order for your card to be included in the memory book we need to receive all cards by December 2, 2002.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar

On October 2, 2002, 51 outstanding Hispanic high school students from around the U.S. and Puerto Rico arrived in Washington, D.C. to participate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYS). The WYS is an annual program of the LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (LNESC). Each August students submit an application and essay for an opportunity to be selected to attend the three-day leadership seminar in the nation's capital. The WYS is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to witness firsthand how our national government works and to explore current issues we face as a nation.

This year's theme "No Child Left Behind: The Status & Direction of Hispanic Education" generated great enthusiasm among the students. Various speakers on the topic included Brent Wilkes, LULAC Executive Director; Ricardo Martínez, Sr. Legislative Assistant for Congressman Rubén Hinojosa; Moira Lenehan-Razzuri & members of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC); Rudy Fernández, Grassroots Development Director for the Republican National Committee; Leslie Sanchez, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; and Colonel Ricardo Aponte, U.S. Air Force.

Highlights of the Seminar included a Capitol Hill press conference held by Hector Flores, LULAC President and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; a briefing by the Bush Administration at the Old Executive Office Building; shaking hands with the President & Mrs. Bush on the South Lawn during their departure from the White House; and spending half a day at the Pentagon, courtesy of the US Air Force who provided insight regarding civilian and uniformed military careers.

This year's Washington Youth Seminar sponsors were the U.S. Army, Shell Oil, and Pinnacle West Capital Corporation. Overall, the WYS was a great success and the students enjoyed their time in Washington, DC.

Participants in the LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar come from a variety of socio-economic and educational



Julie Solorio and Nancy Rios of Hollister, California pose with Congressman Sam Farr.

backgrounds, which adds to the overall strength of the program. After participation in the program, participants are more confident in their role as student leaders and take on more responsibility upon return to their home communities.

On Wednesday, October 2, 2002, 53 outstanding young Hispanic leaders met during the LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar to discuss initiatives to improve education in the Hispanic community. After an intensive discussion the students adopted the following positions as representative of their views:

**Academic Standards and Testing:** We believe that setting academic standards for what students should know and then measuring their progress through the use of tests can be a useful tool to focus resources and attention on underperforming schools. Spanish-speaking students should be tested in their native language. However, testing alone is not the answer and if tests are used to take resources away from

underperforming schools you end up punishing the students who need the most help.

**Community Involvement** is a critical factor in building strong learning environments. Students need positive community role models to become motivated to succeed. They also need caring communities to help strengthen their schools by getting people involved. We support programs that encourage community involvement such as the Federal TRIO programs and we urge their expansion.

**Charter Schools:** Well managed, charter schools can benefit at-risk students because of their smaller class sizes, flexibility, and innovative curriculum. However, public school dollars should not be used to fund charter schools if that would result in taking funds from those schools with the greatest needs.

**Student Motivation:** Students perform better when they come to school prepared and eager to learn. The active support of teachers, parents and mentors can improve student motivation. We support increased funding for programs that motivate students to succeed.

**Parental Involvement:** Parental involvement in the education process is critical to improving student performance. Teachers and school administrators need to improve their efforts to reach out to Hispanic parents



Participants of the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar.



WYS Participants in Washington, D.C.

who are less likely to get involved in their child's education because of language and cultural barriers.

**Teacher Qualifications:** It is important for public schools to insist on highly qualified teachers. We believe that teacher compensation should be increased in return for improved performance and expectations.

**Increase funding of education:** We support a dramatic increase in federal funding for schools and programs that serve Hispanic communities. Funds should be directed to the schools that need the most help. Education funding is the most important investment we can make in our country's future.

**Bilingual and Migrant Education Programs:** We support the expansion of bilin-

gual and migrant education programs that help to address the particular needs of many Hispanic students.

**Student Adjustment Act:** We strongly believe that undocumented students who graduate from high school should be allowed to legalize their status and attend state colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates. Passage of the act is the right thing to do and is a wise investment in our future.

## Blockbuster Makes a Difference

Blockbuster has been a strong supporter of the LULAC National Education Centers (LNESC) Scholarship Fund. Earlier this year, Blockbuster announced that it would support the LNESC program for a third year, by providing a \$30,000 sponsorship. The funds Blockbuster contributes are matched by funds raised by participating LULAC councils. These funds will help more than 100 promising Hispanic students from around the country attend college.

In November, Blockbuster hosted a reception to celebrate the LNESC/Blockbuster partnership and a recent scholarship recipient, Sara Ortega. Dale Monjar, Blockbuster Regional Director of Operations and Panchita Bello, LULAC State Director for Washington, D.C. both discussed the importance of this partnership. Sara Ortega, a senior at George Washington University, decided

to say a few words at the event about how the scholarship has helped her achieve her goals. "Without the support of LNESC and companies like Blockbuster, it would have been impossible for me to attain a college education. I am grateful for their support and encourage them to continue helping other students."

Sara, the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, is currently majoring in sociology. She plans to continue her education by obtaining a masters degree in social work. Her dream is to return to her community and make a difference. For the past five summers, Sara has worked as a camp director at a park in Los Angeles where only sixty percent of all students graduate from high school. She became interested in social work because she wants to help others achieve their goals, as well.

## Young Readers

New York is excited about their new Young Readers program in Manhattan. The program is sponsored by Verizon and is held at the Bloomingdale Elementary School. There are thirty participants which consist of first, second and third grade dual language students. The program began on June 12, 2002 and will end at the end of the school year in 2003. The students meet twice a month for two hours and once a week for six weeks during the summer. The program was made possible through the coordinated efforts of Wilfredo Santiago, LULAC State Director of New York.



Young Readers in New York enjoying music.

# LULAC Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT Raffle Program



With generous support of General Motors, LULAC has established a national raffle program for LULAC councils interested in raising funds for scholarships and other council programs and activities. LULAC councils can request raffle tickets for a brand new Chevrolet TrailBlazer EXT from the LULAC National Office and sell those tickets for \$5.00 each. They will then need to pay the LULAC National Office only \$2.50 for each ticket they sell and keep the other half as funds for their council programs. The national drawing for a brand new Chevrolet TrailBlazer EXT will take place on June 20, 2003 in Orlando, Florida at the 2003 LULAC National Convention – Presidential Awards Banquet.

## Program Details:

- Only LULAC Councils in good standing and LNEC Centers can participate.
- Councils must complete and sign the Raffle Agreement form indicating the number of raffle tickets requested up to 500 tickets.
- Raffle tickets will be mailed to councils within 5 days of receipt of agreement.
- Councils will have until May 31, 2003 to sell raffle tickets.
- Councils must send \$2.50 for each ticket sold along with the numbered ticket stub and all unsold tickets to the national office so that they are received by June 6, 2003.
- The drawing will take place on Friday, June 20, 2003 in Orlando, Florida at the 2003 LULAC National Convention and the winner will be notified.

## LULAC Partners with Freddie Mac

### LULAC Promotes Financial Literacy

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is excited to announce a new partnership with Freddie Mac called *CreditSmart Español*. Freddie Mac recently joined forces with LULAC to develop a project to actively assist in delivering to consumers, valuable financial literacy and consumer credit education developed by Freddie Mac and others.

*CreditSmart Español* is a consumer education and community-based outreach initiative, focused on helping Latino consumers build and maintain good credit. The program is designed to help people strengthen their credit, make wise financial decisions and avoid predatory lending practices. LULAC will hold workshops and distribute materials developed through this partnership.

The program will provide Hispanics with increased financial literacy awareness and skills within the growing Latino community, thereby preparing them for homeownership and other personal financial goals. Ultimately, this will help more Latinos build a strong financial future.

While the U.S. Hispanic community grows quickly, financial literacy is not keeping pace. Hispanics' disposable income over the past 10 years has more than doubled, according to Standard & Poor's DRI, and it is expected to double again within the next 10 years. Now is the time to educate Hispanics about the importance of financial planning so that they may better prepare for their futures.

## LULAC Facts

### Election Update

- Bill Richardson becomes first Hispanic governor of New Mexico since 1986.
- Raul Grijalva of Arizona, Linda Sánchez of California and Mario Díaz-Balart of Florida won congressional seats.
- All of the incumbent Hispanic congressional members maintained their seats.
- Tony Sanchez, who got 87% of the Hispanic vote, lost to incumbent Governor Rick Perry in Texas.
- In Colorado, an English-language education amendment was defeated but in Massachusetts a similar measure succeeded.

**LULAC Board in D.C.**  
Continued from page 11.



**Haydeé Rivera, LULAC Puerto Rico State Director with Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director the OGA.**

of Hispanics at this agency. Currently, there are only 4.1 Hispanics in the department's workforce.

At the Department of Labor (DOL), LULAC members met with Secretary Elaine Chao. Chao was surprised to learn that since she has been in office DOL has been falling behind in hiring Hispanics, with numbers lower now than during her predecessor's term. She explained that being an immigrant herself, she understands the importance of diversity and that she intends to make diversity a priority. Chao was complimentary of the SER Jobs for Progress program and stated that they are increasing funding for this program. Finally, LULAC members explained the need to improve occupational safety in the agricultural fields and in meat packing plants. Chao explained that DOL is aggressively pursuing such concerns. LULAC members also discussed the need for restoring funding/training for the farm worker program but learned that the department was unwilling to make a commitment to advance this program at this time.

LULAC members also met with Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovern-

mental Affairs. Barrales explained that President Bush is committed to withdrawing the U.S. Navy from Vieques during the month of May of 2003. Barrales stated that he is committed to playing a leadership role in reducing the under-representation of Hispanics in the federal government.

The LULAC national board intends to keep the lines of communication open with the cabinet leaders to press issues of importance to the Hispanic community.

**Farmworkers,**

Continued from page 9.

Our current economy cannot sustain state funding to serve this population. Many states are in debt and would not be able to pick up the void created by the loss of this national program.

If there is any message that is fundamental today it is that we need to protect our farm workers and we need to secure the nation's food supply. Only by restoring the National Farmworker Jobs Programs will we be able to meet the new challenges of homeland security while securing our nation's ability to supply food for all of its inhabitants and many of its neighbors. The workers' needs should not be subsumed to process. They count. The strength of the National Farmworkers Jobs Program is its ability to do outreach to the farm worker – which in turn guarantees food safety for us all.

Another positive aspect of the program is its ability to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the neediest and hardest working people in our society. I urge the Bush administration to reconsider the decision to eliminate the program. We need the White House's support and a favorable endorsement of the program.

Recently, I, along with LULAC's national executive board, went to the White House and met with President Bush. We brought up the importance of the National Farmworkers Program. Although we were favorably received, we have not yet heard a positive response. We are waiting on the president's affirmative answer.

**FTI Leader Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**



On September 20, 2002, Mrs. Emma Moreno, LULAC Director for Federal Relations, was presented with a Life Achievement Award by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute. Emma is noted for her lifetime commitment and advocacy to the Hispanic community through her successful efforts to ensure an accurate census count of the Hispanic community for the 2000 Census and for her continuing efforts to ensure the political empowerment and advancement of Hispanics in every facet of American society. Emma also heads up the LULAC Federal Training Institute, an intensive program for government and private-sector employee relations that increases their effectiveness by developing their management skills.

Emma was born in San Antonio, Texas but her parents were originally from Mexico. She left San Antonio at the age of eighteen to join her husband in Europe while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force. She spent twenty-four years as a military wife and volunteer manager for a U.S. Air Force hospital and social services offices. Later, she worked for the U.S. Census Bureau for thirty years, mainly in the congressional affairs capacity. Upon her retirement from the government she accepted a position as the LULAC Director of Federal Relations in the LULAC National Office. Emma has three children and two grandchildren and is an avid traveler and mountain climber.

### World AIDS Day

#### A Day of Remembrance and Compassion

December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day. Let us look upon our brothers and sisters who have been affected by HIV/AIDS with a gentle heart and loving compassion. There are many misconceptions about this disease. But, it is just that – a disease to be understood and treated accordingly. It is important that as a community we encourage each other to be nonjudgmental of those who are infected.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report estimates that between 800,000 and 900,000 thousand persons in the United States are infected with the HIV virus. Approximately 180,000 to 280,000 HIV-positive individuals do not know they are infected and may be unknowingly transmitting the virus. Roughly half of the people living with HIV in the United States are untested, untreated, or both. Half of new infections are among young people, many of whom have never been affected by AIDS.

Improved treatments have resulted in a dramatic decline in the progression of HIV into AIDS and AIDS related deaths. Yet, we are still in the middle of a significant health crisis as the number of new HIV infections each year has not significantly declined in the past decade. Latinos are particularly affected by this dreaded and often fatal disease, and within the Latino community, migrant and seasonal farm workers are especially vulnerable.

According to the CDC, by mid-1999, 28 percent of new AIDS cases in the country, including Puerto Rico, among Hispanic men and women were the result of intravenous drug use. For males, 37 percent were due to unprotected sexual contact with other males and 9 percent were because of heterosexual contact. In the case of Latinas, 47 percent of AIDS cases were due to heterosexual contact. Children were predominately at risk, 90 percent of children with AIDS received it from their infected mothers.

To prevent AIDS in our community we must increase knowledge of the impact of HIV infection. We must also decrease the fear of being around individuals who have contracted the disease. Transmission can be easily prevented as long as we understand the disease and are willing to face it head on.

#### Perceptions and Misperceptions

Empirical data suggests that many in the Latino community who are infected with the HIV virus are ostracized by their families and friends, in part because the realities of the disease are often misunderstood. For example, AIDS cannot be transmitted via insect bites, sweat, spit, tears, sharing utensils, drinking fountains, or toilet seats. These myths contribute to the stigma that is associated with the disease.

In studies around the country, it becomes clear that many Latinos simply do not have a basic knowledge about the HIV disease. A study undertaken by *La Frontera*, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, revealed that many Latinos thought that those infected with AIDS would die quickly. This belief significantly contributes to how infected individuals seek care. The fear of confronting the inevitable consequences of being infected accounts in part for the low rates of HIV testing in Latino communities nationwide and especially among migrant workers. The result is that many AIDS cases in the Latinos population are identified late in the progression of the disease.

Latinas feel especially vulnerable if they have children, in large part because of their great fear that their children will be taken away from them. Workers, especially day laborers and migrant workers, fear that they will lose their jobs and be unable to meet their family obligations.

#### What Should We Know?

AIDS is a disease that an individual gets when the HIV virus attacks the body's immune systems that prevent infection and disease. It can be transmitted in a variety of ways: unprotected sex with someone who is HIV positive, by sharing a needle or syringe to inject drugs or sharing drug equipment used to prepare drugs for injection with someone who has HIV, or from

a contaminated blood transfusion or blood clotting factor that was received before 1985. Hemophiliacs are particularly vulnerable. Babies born to HIV-positive women can become infected during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding.

Through an extensive body of research the CDC demonstrates that there is a clear link between HIV prevention programs and declines in risk behavior and thus of transmission. Ample scientific evidence indicates that prevention programs reduce HIV infections and save lives. There is a wide range of proven strategies to reduce behaviors that increase the risk of transmitting or acquiring the HIV virus. High-risk populations – gay and bisexual men and intravenous drug users – witnessed a dramatic decline after prevention efforts targeting those population groups were expanded.

#### What Is LULAC Doing?

Gabriela Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation for LULAC and Ernesto Saldaña of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) are the national Co-Chairs for the Hispanic Track of the CDC's AIDS: Act Now! Alliance. The goal of the partnership is to increase awareness of the AIDS epidemic and reduce the number of infections nationwide, focusing on those populations groups that are still witnessing disproportionate numbers of infections: Latinos, African-Americans, and youth.

There are currently 16 member organizations in the partnership and the number continues to grow. The major activities of the Hispanic track include developing a culturally competent bilingual HIV/AIDS resource toolkit on "How to Mobilize in Latino Communities" to assist local and national organizations and public and private sector leaders to disseminate Partnership messages and obtain information and resources to fight HIV/AIDS in our communities.

The partnership is also in the process of developing an AIDS: ACT NOW! Policy Action plan tailored to the needs of the Hispanic community that addresses pertinent policy issues and recommendations for testing and access to prevention and health

care services including appropriate outreach strategies.

### What More Can We Do as Individuals?

Through our LULAC councils we can help spread the message throughout our communities. We can talk to our parents, teachers, and churches to inform each other about this disease. As part of your council's activities you can:

**Hold Small Group Sessions:** Sit down with groups of friends and neighbors to discuss how to approach talking with your children about risk reduction. Encourage frank discussion amongst yourselves and think of different messages you can relate to your family members. Remember, AIDS does not just affect the young; our elderly are also at risk. OJO: There is growing evidence that senior Casanovas are spreading the disease in retirement homes.

**Encourage Testing:** If you think you know someone who is at risk or who could be practicing risky behavior, encourage them to get tested. The sooner they know they are infected, the sooner they can be on the path to a healthier lifestyle and prevent further infections.

**Encourage comprehensive health education.** Comprehensive sexual health education for young people – emphasizing abstinence, delayed first sexual encounters, and condom use for those who are sexually active – have proven highly effective. By educating our youth on the risks of HIV and methods of prevention we can reduce HIV risk behaviors without contributing to an increase in overall sexual activity. The more they know about the disease, the safer they will be and the more likely they are to make better and informed choices.

**Encourage Compassion:** The AIDS virus carries with it a terrible stigma. People who have become infected are not pariahs. HIV/AIDS prevention is only possible when those who are infected get tested and are treated. It is possible to live a long life with this virus, but, it is only possible if one takes care of it. Ask the head of your place of worship to offer some words on the importance of compassion and the shedding of ignorance.

### Get Tested! Get Care! Be Safe!

For more information on what you can do contact Gabriela Lemus at LULAC at 202/833-6130 or Thais Macaluso at HMA Associates at 202/342-0676. For materials concerning HIV prevention in English and Spanish, go to the CDC National Prevention Information Network website at <http://www.cdcpin.org>.

### LULAC, Other Leading Organizations

Challenge Hispanics to:  
“Put Asthma to the Test”

The League of United Latin America Citizens (LULAC) and a large group of other leading health and civic organizations have joined together to launch a new national education campaign to improve asthma care in the United States. *Asthma Action America*, recently launched a national program focused on educating Hispanic-American people with asthma; this program complements a national campaign, which was launched in late September, that seeks to help the more than 24 million people in the U.S. who have been diagnosed with asthma better understand and manage the condition.

“Asthma is a debilitating condition that affects entire families and communities,” said LULAC President Hector Flores. “Knowing how to keep asthma under control can make a huge difference in the quality of life for a community that is disproportionately affected by this disease. LULAC enthusiastically joined *Asthma Action America* because of the critical information it offers for our members and others in Hispanic communities, many of whom are affected by asthma.”

According to the most recent data, asthma was responsible for nearly 500,000 hospitalizations and approximately two million emergency room visits annually in the U.S. The rate for emergency department visits due to asthma in 1998 was almost twice as high for Hispanic Americans (35 percent) as for non-Hispanic Caucasians (18 per-

cent) and nearly twice as many Hispanic Americans (12 percent) as non-Hispanic Caucasians (7 percent) were hospitalized for asthma in the previous year.

Though there is no cure, the preventive approach to asthma management recommended by the NIH guidelines can reduce symptoms and risk of hospitalization or death from asthma. Asthma Action America's informational materials, the campaign website – [www.AsthmaActionAmerica.org](http://www.AsthmaActionAmerica.org)

### Maine Council Conducts AIDS Outreach

Recently, LULAC Council 31000 of Maine contacted the Maine State Bureau of Health to find out what type of AIDS outreach is being conducted in the Hispanic community of Maine. The results were negative. John Connors, President of the council, met with the authorities in charge of HIV education in Maine to explain LULAC's concerns and what the council could bring to the table. John Connors and two other LULAC members, Virginia Marie Rincón and Nelida Reyes-Burke, participated in a three-day training program. The program was intended to provide AIDS counseling and testing. Ms. Reyes-Burke is originally from Peru where she was an AIDS outreach coordinator, and Ms. Rincon was a nurse and social worker, and is now a minister in Portland. The goal of this project is to provide culturally sensitive education and testing to the Latino community of Maine. Latino populations in Maine include Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Dominicans and there are fast-growing communities from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador and others.

“Latinos in Maine are frequently thought of as migrant workers. While migrant workers certainly make up an important part of the Latino presence in Maine, many Latinos in Maine are middle-class and professional. We need to be sure to reach all Latinos with the message of AIDS,” said John Connors.

## Latinas are Doing Better in Corporate America, but Still Face Challenges

According to a study undertaken by Catalyst, a non-profit advisory organization, women of color have had some success in getting ahead in the past few years, but still face serious setbacks. The survey tracked a core group of Hispanic, African-American, and Asian-American women in management from 1998 to the present to chart their career movement. In that time, 57 percent received at least one promotion and earned approximately 37 percent more now than they did in 1998.

Mentorship was listed as one of the essential elements critical in the advancement of Latinas and other women of color. The study found that the more mentors a woman has, the quicker she moves up the corporate ladder. Other important success strategies included access to high visibility assignments (62%); communicating well (57%); and performing over and above expectations (57%).

The study also indicated, however; that these women perceived a decline in opportunities to advancement for senior leadership positions with their current employer. Despite the emphasis on diversity policies and programs in corporate America, there continues to be barriers. Not all women of color are able to obtain mentors and the lack of role models from one's same racial/ethnic group makes it more difficult for a woman of color to learn how to navigate corporate work environments.

In response to the decline in opportunities, Latinas are simply packing up their lap-tops and moving on to companies that respect them and value their worth. According to the study, those who left their companies achieved the most upward movement as measured by the number of promotions they obtained and the increases in salary. Respondents who left their companies starting in 1998 reported an average increase in their salaries of \$17,000 more than those who stayed. They also reported fewer barriers to advancement than those women who remained with their companies.

## LULAC Leader Addresses the AFOP Convention.



Hector Flores, LULAC National President gave the keynote address at the Association of Farmworker Opportunities Program (AFOP) Annual Convention. He received a standing ovation for leading LULAC's support for the restoration of the National Farmworker job Program for the 2003 fiscal year.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.

## Christmas is about Giving

For the past few years, Rick Dovalina, LULAC Immediate Past President, and his law firm, Dovalina & Eusteste, L.L.P., have found a way to give back to their community during Christmas time. They have partnered with an organization called *Navidad en el Barrio*, a non-profit organization dedicated to the application of private donations to events designed to improve the life of the less fortunate in our communities.

Annually, the law firm hosts a Christmas party with anywhere from 2,000 to 2,500 guests. The party is free of charge but everyone is asked to bring a new toy. The toys are then distributed to families in the Houston area on Christmas Eve by Latino policemen who dress up as Santa Claus and by participants and their families from the law firm.

The names of the children are derived from a list that the *Navidad en el Barrio* organization provides, usually based on names given by child protective services. The children are selected because they have suffered some hardship, such as the loss of a parent or come from a less fortunate background.

"You can't imagine the joy on a child's face when he opens the door to see Santa there," said Rick Dovalina. Santa calls out the child by name and hands him a gift. "It is a very moving experience, not just for the children but for the observers, as well. It is times like that when you realize that to give is truly to receive," added Dovalina.

Many young people participate in the act of giving by joining the policemen during their visits. "Not only does this help children appreciate what they have and realize that there are many children less fortunate than themselves, it also helps them to remember that Christmas is about giving and not just receiving," said Dovalina.

## The LULAC Corporate Alliance

The LULAC Corporate Alliance is an advisory board of Fortune 500 companies. The Alliance works to foster stronger partnerships between corporate America and the Hispanic community. The Alliance also provides advice and assistance to the LULAC organization. Corporations participating in the Alliance work with LULAC in developing national and community-based programs to address the needs of the Hispanic community and to ensure that the nation's future work force obtains the necessary education and skills to keep America productive.

The following companies have representatives who participate in the Alliance:

Verizon  
Shell Oil Company  
Yum! Bands, Inc.  
IBM- Workforce Diversity  
Metris Companies, Inc.  
The Coca Cola Company  
Sears Roebuck, and Co.  
JC Penny Company, Inc.  
AT&T  
MasterCard International  
Ford Motor Company  
Univision Communications, Inc.  
Levi Strauss Foundation  
Coors Brewing Company  
Philip Morris Management Corporation  
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.  
McDonald's Corporation  
PepsiCo, Inc.  
Chase Bank of Texas  
ExxonMobil  
The Walt Disney Company  
Bank One Corporation  
BellSouth  
General Motors Corporation  
Burger King Corporation  
SBC Communications, Inc.  
Anheuser-Busch Companies  
American Airlines  
The Proctor & Gamble Company  
Miller Brewing Company  
Kraft Foods  
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

## Celebrating a Civil Rights Activist



Ed Peña, Jr., a former LULAC National President, was honored at the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia's annual Equal Justice Awards Dinner. Ed has practiced law in Washington, DC for more than 20 years. He has served as General Counsel to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute since its inception. He also currently acts as principal in the law firm of Eduardo Peña and Associates, PC. Ed has been a civil rights activist and volunteer on behalf of Latino related causes for several

years. He was elected National President of LULAC during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and published LULAC's first comprehensive historical publication. He served on President Johnson's Committee on Mexican American Affairs, and helped organize and charter numerous Latino organizations, including the HNBA (where he served as National Vice President in 1977). Ed is also a founding member of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia.



Recently elected, Bill Richardson will be the first Hispanic governor of New Mexico since 1986.



The above women were inducted into the LULAC Women's Hall of Fame at the LULAC National Convention this past June. Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.



Roel Campos, the first Hispanic SEC Commissioner with Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director, Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Hector Flores, LULAC National President at the reception celebrating Mr. Campos' appointment.

## Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*.

- I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.
- I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.
- I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.
- My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.
- Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



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