

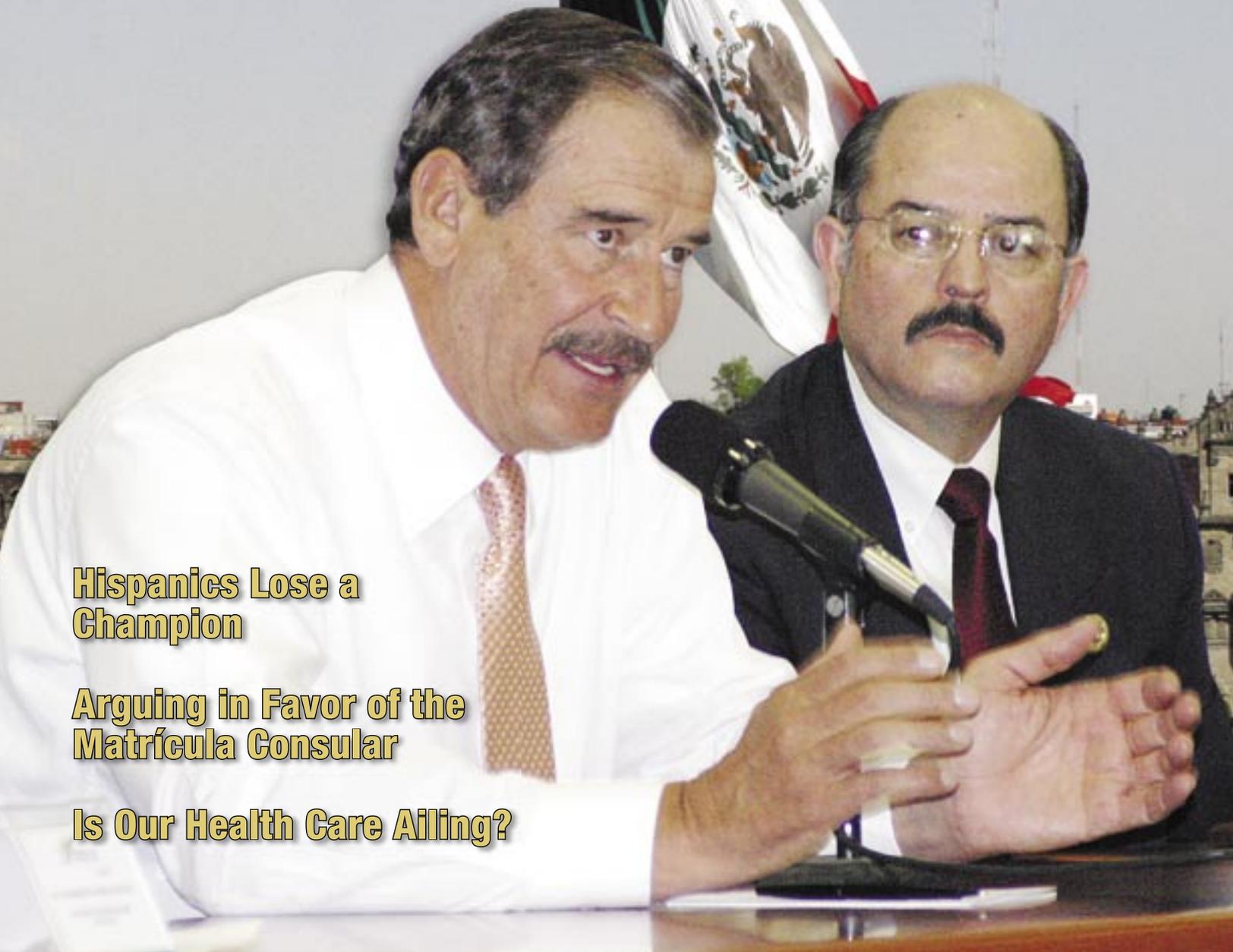
Highlights from the Legislative Awards Gala Inside!

LULACnews

March/April 2003



LULAC Leaders Meet with President Fox in Mexico City



Hispanics Lose a
Champion

Arguing in Favor of the
Matrícula Consular

Is Our Health Care Ailing?

LULAC Profiles José Fernández

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Hispanic Children Lose a Champion, the late Representative Irma Rangel of Texas. See page 15 for story. (Photo courtesy of Hispanic Journal)

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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE from the President



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write you today with much concern for the young men and women who are overseas right now fighting on behalf of our country. Like you, my thoughts and prayers go out to our leaders. I pray that they may have great wisdom and direction during this difficult time. Let us remember to continue to pray for our service men and women and those families who have lost loved ones in the course of this terrible war.

While the battles are being fought overseas, there are still many battles to be fought here at home for the underprivileged. That's why each year we celebrate and honor those individuals who make a difference for Hispanics every day during our National Legislative Awards Gala. I count it a great honor to have been able to be a part of the Gala in Washington, D.C. This year was particularly exciting because all of the awards went to Hispanic leaders. As you read about these honorees in the LULAC News, I hope they inspire you to become strong leaders in your communities.

Recently, the LULAC board members and I had the privilege of meeting with President Vicente Fox in Mexico City. We also held high-level meetings with key Mexican officials to discuss important issues concerning Mexican-Americans, such as immigration and the expansion of Mexico's *matricula* program to document Mexican nationals residing in the United States. The meeting was very successful and we believe will lead to an ongoing dialogue which will help improve the lives of Latinos in both the United States and Mexico.

As you are aware, the U.S. Supreme Court is currently hearing the two cases that could eliminate affirmative action as we know it. LULAC members are standing strong on the issue. Recently, we marched before the Supreme Court to make our voices heard in this significant battle. We will not give up on this vital measure. Let's keep up this important work.

Finally, **don't forget to register for this year's national convention in Orlando, Florida.** The early bird deadline is May 1st and it is quickly approaching. Sign up now so you won't miss out on the discounts.

Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President

Feature Story

The Sixth Annual LULAC
National Legislative Awards
Gala

The Sixth Annual LULAC Legislative Awards Gala was the event of the evening in Washington, D.C., this past March 11. People traveled from across the country to celebrate the distinguished Hispanic policymakers honored by LULAC. The black-tie event featured many prominent guests including foreign ambassadors, members of Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, officials from the Bush Administration, corporate executives and several Hispanic community leaders.

The honorees were "selected for their strong support of public policies important to Hispanic Americans. They were chosen because they also represent the spirit and philosophy of LULAC: assuring justice and equal treatment of Latinos by helping fight the battles and win the victories that impact our communities across the United States and Puerto Rico," explained Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation.

GALA, continued on page 16.



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) presents the "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" to Hector Flores at the LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Air Force Celebrates its New LULAC Council



Senior Master Sgt. Angelo E. Montalvo, First President of the new Golden Gate LULAC Council at Travis AFB, California.

LULAC is proud to announce that it now has a council at Travis Air Force Base in California. Last fall, the new council held a charter signing ceremony at the Travis Air Museum on October 26, 2002 with several federal and state officials and military guests in attendance.

“The 349th Air Mobility Wing and all of Team Travis are proud to have their own LULAC council here. We share a lot of the same core values: we both stress education, hard work and service,” said Colonel Louis J. Leli, 349th AMW Vice Commander.

When the wing’s human resources development council and LULAC members first teamed up to bring LULAC to Travis, it was merely a vision. Today, that vision is being realized. Council 349, also known as the Golden Gate Council, is the first Air Mobility Command recognized organization in the military. The Council has already attracted 85 members, making it one of the largest in the country.

During the ceremony, Senior Master Sgt. Angelo E. Montalvo, the first president of the newest LULAC council, and Hector Flores, LULAC’s national president, discussed how the organization and the military share a common goal of equality for all. “It’s important to recognize the significant role the military has played in LULAC,” Flores said.

LULAC Calendar

■ Indiana LULAC Convention

WHEN: April 26, 2003
WHERE: St. Michael’s Hall, East Chicago, Indiana
Contact: Alicia Rios at AliciaRios@lulac.org

■ National Executive Committee Meeting

WHEN: April 26, 2003
WHERE: Emily Morgan Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
Contact: (202) 833-6130

■ Midwest Civil Rights Conf.

DATE: May 10, 2003
Contact: Blanca Vargas at lulacmidwest@attbi.com or Ernest Rodriguez at rodriguezem@yahoo.com

■ Arizona LULAC Convention

WHEN: May 16 – 17, 2003
WHERE: Best Western Inn Suites, Yuma, Arizona
Contact: Leticia Lujan (520) 294-6997

■ Education Summit

WHEN: May 17, 2003
WHERE: University of Texas, Arlington, Dallas, Texas.
Contact Juan García at (979) 209-7336 or Renee Martinez at 972-925-3379

■ National Youth Women’s Conference

WHEN: May 17, 2003
TIME: 9:00 - 3:30 pm
WHERE: University of Texas at Arlington. Contact Fernando Escabi at 787-633-8596

■ Arkansas LULAC Convention

WHEN: May 17, 2003
WHERE: Rodgers, Arkansas
Contact: Rey Hernandez at rey.hernandez2003@yahoo.com

■ Texas LULAC Convention

WHEN: May 29 – June 1, 2003
WHERE: Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main Street, Ft. Worth, TX
Rates: \$100 for single/double
For info call 817-870-2100.

■ California LULAC Convention

DATE: May 30 – June 1, 2003
WHERE: Hilton Monterey, Monterey, California
Contact: Mickie Luna at 831-637-1342

■ Puerto Rico Convention

WHEN: June 8, 2003
WHERE: Museo de Arte, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Contact: Zaida Vasquez at (787) 785-8080

■ 74th Annual LULAC National Convention

DATE: June 16 – 21, 2003
LOCATION: Wyndham Palace Resort & Spa, Orlando, Florida
Early Bird Registration by May 1, 2003. For more information see www.lulac.org or call 202-833-6130 or 1-866-577-0726.

■ Missouri LULAC Convention

WHEN: September 31, 2003
WHERE: Drury University, Springfield, Missouri
Contact: Tencha Vasquez Wilcox at (417) 724-9900

■ 75th Annual LULAC National Convention

DATE: July 6 – 10, 2004
LOCATION: Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, Texas
For more information see www.lulac.org or call 202-833-6130 or 1-866-577-0726.

LULAC Celebrates LULAC Week in Texas



Texas LULAC State Director Margaret Moran and Texas Tech University Regent David Lopez joined members of the young adults from the University to celebrate the 20th Annual "Bring Out Your Best" Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

According to Lubbock Council 263, the highlight of LULAC Week was the 20th Annual "Bring Out Your Best" Scholarship and Awards Banquet. Council 263 hosted the sold-out event. Over 300 people attended the celebration with keynote speakers David Lopez, Texas Tech University Regent and Margaret Moran, the LULAC Texas State Director. Members of three youth councils that Council 263 sponsors participated as ushers and students from Texas Tech University were there to welcome guests.

During the event, the annual awards of Council 263 were presented. Sam Gonzalez was inducted into the LULAC Council 263 "Honor Roll." This honor goes to council founders and to people who have been members for 20 years. The President's Award for outstanding work during the year went to Henry Martinez and Ruth Martinez. Council Member of the Year was presented to Robert Narvaiz. "LULAC's Community Leader of the Year" was presented to Dario and Stephanie Rendo for their work with the less fortunate in the community. This award is a very prestigious and distinguished award which is meant for non-LULAC members in the community.

Anheuser-Busch and local distributor Standard Sales have sponsored this event since its inception.



Texas Governor Rick Perry presents Texas LULAC State Director Margaret Moran with an official Texas proclamation for LULAC Week 2003.

LULAC Council 402 Awards Scholarships



Judith Cardenas, Elma DeLuna-Gonzalez, Assistant Dean at Prairie View A & M, and Blanca J. Ramirez.

LULAC Council 402 of Houston, Texas presented Academic Scholarships to two students at Prairie View A & M University College of Business. They are Miss Blanca J. Ramirez of Houston, Texas who is majoring in Administrative Information Systems and to Miss Judith Cardenas of Waller, Texas also majoring in the same field. Presenting the Awards was Mrs. Elma DeLuna-Gonzalez, Assistant to Dean, School of Architecture and member of the scholarship committee for LULAC Council 402. Both students will be invited to attend the LULAC Youth Leadership Conference and both are being nominated to be listed in Who's Who in Colleges & Universities and the National Hispanic Honor Society.

LULAC Northeast Holds Leadership Meeting

Recently, LULAC held a New England Leadership meeting organized by Laura Medrano, VP for the Northeast, and John Connors, state coordinator for LULAC Maine, in collaboration with immigrant groups from Providence, Rhode Island. The forum drew a significant number of Rhode Island residents and addressed issues concerning the region. The central topics that were covered include: driver licenses for undocumented individuals; immigration and regularization for undocumented individuals; scholarships for undocumented high school students pursuing a college education; and celebrating the life of Cesar Chavez in New England. As a result of this forum, strategies and partnerships were developed to create a united group in New England. The new group plans to hold local events celebrating the unveiling of the Cesar Chavez stamp in collaboration with the United States Postal Service, Mexican American Association, and with the governors' offices for the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine.

LULAC Honors September 11th Hero



During LULAC Council 349's charter signing ceremony (see page 4), the Council recognized Senior Master Sgt. Noel Sepulveda for his heroism during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Sepulveda, who also received the Airman's Medal and Purple Heart earlier this year, is a medical inspector with the Air Force Inspection Agency in New Mexico.

LULAC LEADERS MEET WITH PRESIDENT FOX

Immigration Issues Top the Agenda



Mexican President Fox with LULAC Board members and advisors. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)

The LULAC Board, led by National President Hector Flores, recently held high-level meetings with key officials in Mexico City to discuss strengthening the relationship between Mexico and Mexican-Americans. LULAC's working agenda included reinvigorating the U.S.-Mexico bilateral talks on immigration and other critical immigration-related issues — including the expansion of Mexico's *matrícula* program to document Mexican nationals

residing in the United States — as well as the importance of guaranteeing Mexican nationals living in the United States the right to representation in Mexico. LULAC leaders also requested that the Fox administration pay closer attention to the problems in Ciudad Juárez, where over 400 women have been murdered in the past ten years without any resolution. Other issues on the agenda included improving the image of Mexico and Mexican-Americans in the United

States, higher education for undocumented children living in the United States, and the contracting of Mexican-American professionals by the Mexican government and corporations in the United States.

The meetings began on February 27 when the LULAC Board and key advisors met first



LULAC National President Hector Flores speaking before the Mexican Senate. Seated to his right is Senator Silvia Hernandez, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, along with other Senators serving on the committee. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)



LULAC General Counsel Luis Vera at the Mexico meetings. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)



LULAC Board members and advisors with Mexican labor union representatives. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)

with leaders of the Mexican Senate, including Enrique Jackson Ramírez, President of the Senate, and Silvia Hernández, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,

This meeting was followed by a roundtable with Mexico's President and Dr. Luis Ernesto Dérbez Bautista, Secretary of Foreign Relations, Gerónimo Gutiér-



Salvador Cicero, Director for Political & Community Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Adrian Rodriguez, LULAC Parliamentarian; and LULAC President Hector Flores. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)

fecting workers in Mexico and in the United States. The labor leaders represent over half a million union members in Mexico City participated in a labor forum which includ-



President Vicente Fox welcomes LULAC National President Hector Flores at Los Pinos. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

as well as with Senate leaders representing the PRI, PRD, and PAN political parties.

LULAC leaders also met with key labor leaders to open a dialogue on issues af-



LULAC National President Hector Flores meets with Mexican labor union leaders (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)

rez Fernández, Undersecretary for North America, and Cándido Morales, Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad.

ed representatives from the mayor's office in Mexico City. During the forum, they discussed cross-border labor and immigration issues. In addition, they considered ways in which immigrants can report labor and human rights violations that occur within the United States. They also discussed the possibility of allowing immigrants in the United States to elect a congressional representative that would allow them to have a voice in the Mexican government. Finally, the labor representatives agreed to recognize Cesar Chavez as a hero for both Mexicans living in the United States and Mexico.

"LULAC and Mexico have made history. For the first time, we are engaged with the Mexican government and labor unions working on concrete themes to create a working agenda that is mutually beneficial for Mexico and Latinos living in the United States," said Hector Flores. "These meetings have opened, what we hope will be an ongoing dialogue to improve conditions of Latinos in both the United States and Mexico, to enable them to achieve the quality of life that they deserve and work so hard for, while enlarging the dignity of all Hispanics in the eyes of the United States."



Tencha Wilcox, State Director for Missouri, Hector Flores, National President, Cándido Morales, Director, Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior, Roman Palomares, Chief of Staff and Jaime Martinez, LULAC Advisor on Labor. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones/ Hispanic Journal)

HEALTH CORNER

Su Salud

Our Health Care System in Disarray: Latinos Are Affected

As the economy boomed in the 1990s, the Hispanic poverty rate dropped to an all-time low. By mid-2000, the economy downshifted and has continued on that downward spiral ever since. The faltering economy has also affected the percentage of Hispanics without health insurance, which has climbed significantly since 2000. According to the Census Bureau, an estimated 14.6 percent of Americans do not have health insurance with Latinos being the least likely to have insurance. An estimated 30 to 37 percent of the Hispanic community in the United States does not carry health coverage.

The vast majority of uninsured Latinos are working poor who often hold several part-time jobs or work for small business employers that do not provide health care benefits. Such employees quite commonly cannot afford to purchase insurance through their jobs or on their own. Many of these working poor cannot necessarily be covered by Medicaid. In the case of the Hispanic community, some are immigrants and have no access to benefits as a result of the 1996 welfare changes that cut access for new immigrants for programs like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Even those immigrants who have been allowed to apply are afraid to because they do not wish to be perceived as a burden to society or they fear it might impact their applications to become U.S. citizens.

Yet Medicaid and state CHIP programs are vital to many in the Hispanic community. The growth of these programs has been particularly helpful for children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of children covered by private insurance dropped from 67.1 percent to 63.8 percent in 2001 through the first quarter of 2002.

In an effort to address the uninsured problem, association health plans (AHPs) have been created that on the surface appear to be a plausible solution. But in reality these AHPs are fraught with problems. Although they are initially less expensive than coverage offered by insurance companies such as Blue

Cross and Blue Shield, they are exempt from many regulations, especially when it comes to rates. The AHPs can increase their rates at will, pushing the monthly premium to exorbitant amounts, thus becoming unaffordable.

Additionally, there are currently legislative proposals that exempt AHPs from state insurance reforms and consumer protections opening loopholes for health plans to avoid state initiatives that could or would create plans that are affordable and accessible for all small businesses and protect health care consumers. According to the Wall Street Journal (November 21, 2002), "[a]n investigation of insurance industry practices shows that this exemption has led to widespread abuse. Some consumers are misled into thinking they are dealing with associations that make independent decision about the insurance they endorse...Associations typically don't have to get government approval for premium increases or explain to regulators how they set their rates."

It is critical that as policymakers consider the twin goals of making health insurance coverage accessible and affordable for small business enterprises and protecting consumers, they not try to engage in quick fixes, because states will ultimately pay the price.

Lastly, states are in need of fiscal relief. The House and Senate Conference Committee has proposed a \$92 billion Medicaid financial cut over the next 10 years. Latino elderly will be particularly hard-hit. They are among the poorest in the Hispanic community, particularly elderly Latinas who rely almost solely on Social Security and Medicaid for their survival. With declining revenues and increasing demand for Medicaid-covered services, it is critical that this health care crisis be taken seriously. Quick fixes establishing diverse regulatory structures that benefit few and open the door for defrauding Hispanic consumers are not the answer. Congress must continue to find ways to even the playing field by enhancing health insurance coverage for small businesses, helping states to stay solvent, and protecting the consumer.

LULAC Marches for Affirmative Action



Hector Flores, LULAC National President was a featured speaker at the rally.

On April 1, LULAC National President Hector Flores led a delegation of LULAC members and students of color to a national civil rights march on Washington in support of affirmative action. The march drew 100,000 people from across the country to urge the Supreme Court to uphold the legality of the University of Michigan's affirmative action program. President Flores was a featured speaker at the rally in front of the Supreme Court where he gave an impassioned speech calling upon the Supreme Court to uphold Michigan's program. "We firmly believe that the continuation of affirmative action is critically important to maintaining a diverse student body at our nation's top colleges and universities," said Flores.



Raising Respectful Boys...Not Macho Men

by **Claudia Liliana Campos, Clinical Psychologist**

The Department of Health and Human Services recently distributed the following article that raises important issues for the Latino community concerning raising children. The following is a summary of this article.

The first question you probably asked yourself when you found out that you were going to be a parent was, “Will it be a boy or a girl?” This emotional and innocent question is loaded with many different ideas about what is expected of raising a son or daughter. That’s why we are not surprised when someone tells us that boys and girls were brought up very differently in his or her family. Brothers and sisters sometimes live under the same roof but in separate worlds, one for men and the other for women.

Even in the 21st century, we may raise our sons and daughters differently, based on what was considered feminine and masculine years ago. This kind of upbringing has been harmful to both men and women. The sad part is that even in our Hispanic/Latino communities, we pass on such incorrect messages as:

- Women are passive and timid.
- Men are rude and unable to cry.
- Men don’t dare express their feelings except to act aggressively.
- Men are more powerful than women and that women should serve them.

Unfortunately, those messages are still being taught. Unless we change the way we raise our children, they may very well pass these same messages on to their children. But we have the opportunity to stop this pattern and raise healthier, happier sons and daughters. It’s never too late in life to change our attitudes and our way of thinking. It may not be easy, but as mothers, fathers, and teachers, we need to raise our children to respect themselves and others.

Where Should We Begin?

As parents we can do many things to ensure that boys feel comfortable with their gender. Teach them not to live their lives in conflict with the opposite sex. Promote equality by encouraging boys to express their emotions—to let us know when they are feeling affectionate, angry, sad, or happy. Teach them to be patient, sensitive, and respectful. Our goal is to help them become husbands and fathers who respect their sons and daughters, their wives, those around them, and their community. To reach this goal, we must begin by understanding that men and women are essentially the same. Both need to give and receive emotional, as well as physical, affection.

Here are some suggestions to begin this wonderful process.

- Evaluate Yourself and Remember, It’s Never too Late to Make Changes.
- Keep an Open Mind and Examine Your Actions
- Set a Good Example
- Avoid Arguments in Front of Your Children
- Express Your Love for Your Children Freely
- Help Your Son to Express His Feelings
- Teach Your Son to Get Along Well with Others

For the full article or more information, please refer to :

<http://www.soyunica.gov/adults/new/boy.aspx>.

Managing Your Money

Tips by Freddie Mac’s
CreditSmart Español

The *CreditSmart Español* Program, a partnership between Freddie Mac and LULAC, is designed to help us manage our money and plan for the future by creating and maintaining good credit. The program will actively assist in delivering to consumers valuable financial literacy and consumer credit education developed by Freddie Mac. As part of this program, LULAC is including a series of financial tips from the program in the next several issues of the *LULAC News*. In this issue we will discuss why it is important to develop a budget.

Why Develop a Budget?

A budget will help you take control of your money and combat the temptations of spending. There are several reasons to develop a budget:

- **Planning:** Developing a budget allows you to determine if your total income meets your total expenditures.
- **Motivation:** A budget can help motivate you by making short-term objectives achievable.
- **Control:** A budget allows you to control your finances by enabling you to see how you actually spent your income versus how you planned to spend your income. Given this information, you can alter your budget or spending habits.

How to Develop a Budget?

The bottom line of a budget comes down to income and expenses. There are two primary kinds of expenses, fixed and variable. Fixed expenses stay the same every month, for example, your rent, your telephone bill, etc. Your variable expenses change from month to month, such as groceries, clothing and doctor’s visits. Note that if you send money to your relatives living in another country regularly, you should include this amount in your budget.

- Create your spending categories; include both financial and non-financial goals.
- List existing monthly expenditures for each category.
- Project anticipated expenditures based upon financial and non-financial goals.
- List anticipated income for each month.

Please see next month’s tips by Freddie Mac.

LULAC Profile

José A. Fernández, LULAC Council President in Orlando, Florida

Every issue of LULAC News profiles a LULAC member who has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling José Fernández, President for Council 7100 in Orlando, Florida. José has helped to make LULAC's presence strong in the Orlando area and is working toward making this year's national convention a success.



José Fernández, LULAC Council President for Orlando Council 7100.

Where and when were you born?

I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1946. My family is originally from Spain and Puerto Rico.

What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

My best personality trait is my tenacious desire to advocate for justice.

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

John F. Kennedy, because of his relentless courage and dedication to serve his nation and to restore to the people their God given human rights.



José Fernández with his wife Aida, who is also President of a LULAC Council in Orlando, Council 7101 and their daughter Genneve and their son José Gustavo.

What is your passion as a LULAC leader? Promoting and encouraging education for our Hispanic youth and adults.

What compelled you to join LULAC?

Along with the philosophy expressed in the LULAC Constitution, I was also inspired by the accomplishments of LULAC in Florida with the U.S. District Court case, LULAC vs. Florida Board of Education and the Department of Education. This case led to extended bilingual education for all second- language learner students in the Florida public school system.

Who do you admire most?

My wife, because of her dedication and loyalty to her family.

What do you believe to be the best leadership traits?

Being able to communicate and motivate people into establishing positive goals and objectives for the benefit of everyone.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

To encourage the educational community of Orlando to work together to enhance opportunities for Hispanic youth and adults.

What is your most memorable LULAC moment? When I coordinated a meeting with Hector Flores, the LULAC National President, and Orlando's Orange County Chairman, Mr. Richard Crotty. Also, when I was given the responsibility to form LULAC councils in Orlando.

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

The right of our Hispanics children to receive the best available education in order for them to become future leaders in their communities and to be able to participate in the dynamic development of our nation.

What advice can you give to young Latinos? Make every effort to receive a proper education by studying hard and making all the necessary sacrifices to insure a better quality of life for yourselves and your families.

FORD AD

POLICY and Legislation

The Matrícula Consular:

On March 26, 2003, Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus called a hearing to discuss the role of the matrícula consular at financial institutions. The following is an excerpt from a testimony given by LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus on behalf of LULAC for consideration. For the full testimony please go online to www.lulac.org

The matrícula consular has proven to be effective in the following areas: it helps to contribute to the economic development of the Hispanic community and thus to the growth of the national economy; it enhances the public safety of the community; and lastly, the matrícula consular contributes to U.S. domestic security interests.

Background on the Matrícula Consular

For more than 130 years, the Government of Mexico (GOM) has issued Consular Registration Cards or the Matrícula Consular through their consulates around the world to enable consular officers to protect and provide services for their nationals living abroad. Much the same as U.S. consular registration services.

The registration of Mexican citizens also provides a record for the GOM to know where its citizens are in cases of emergency, thus allowing families to stay in contact. The identification cards allow the Mexican government to comply with the functions recognized by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and serve to prove the identity of all Mexican nationals – irrespective of their immigration status – to authorities and other local entities such as financial institutions and companies that provide utility services among others.

Matrícula Consular Opens the Door to Economic Growth and Financial Security

After the passage of the Patriot Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued a report that ruled that the matrícula consular is a valid form of identification for Mexican nationals. In light of this decision, 66 banks across the country accept the card, thus providing the means for Mexican nationals to open bank accounts and enabling them to make choices about how to best manage their money.

The U.S. Treasury's determination is important to the Hispanic community, especially to those foreign-born Latinos who

continue to send back remittances to their families in their country of origin. The acceptance of the matrículas by financial institutions ensures that there is a competitive environment in the wire transfer industry thus lowering costs for consumers and enhancing customer satisfaction.

These dollars do not simply stay in Mexico. In fact, much of that money returns to the United States in the form of trade. Mexico is currently the second largest trading partner of the United States.

In the United States, by stabilizing their participation in the financial system, Mexican nationals are then able to establish credit histories thus enabling them to buy big-ticket items, automobiles, and obtain mortgages to purchase homes, among other things. In 2002, Latinos in the United States had a combined purchasing power of approximately \$630 billion.

Matrícula Consular Contributes to Safety

Recently released studies indicate that Latinos are disproportionately affected by firearms related-injury and death when compared to the population as a whole. Latinos are more likely to be targets of violent crime than any other racial or ethnic group and victimized by someone wielding a weapon.

Unfortunately, much of this crime occurs because criminals believe that Latinos do not have bank accounts and they carry large amounts of cash. According to the Embassy of Mexico, they have begun to correlate crime against Mexican nationals with the sending of remittances in and around wire transfer businesses. By ensuring that Mexican nationals have U.S. government accepted identification, the GOM assures its citizens protection against becoming targets for violent crime.

The Matrícula Consular Is Secure

Many critics of the U.S. identity document systems complain that there is an



POLICY and Legislation

Contributing to the U.S. Economy

absence of standards and means to verify a person's identity opening the door for terrorist attacks. Through the use of the matrícula consular U.S. authorities are able to verify the identity of Mexican nationals also living in the country; where they are currently and where they came from. The issuance of the documentation provides U.S. government officials with an additional point of contact should they need any additional information because they can refer back to the consulate that issued the identification.

Matrícula Consular Provides a Unique Opportunity

Mexico and the United States have a unique opportunity to advance the regional economy and to ensure public safety. By accepting the matrícula consular, the U.S. government ensures that all Hispanics have access to important financial services critical to the economic development of the community and our country.

Furthermore, whereas the economy boomed in the 1990s, and the Hispanic poverty rate dropped to an all-time low, by mid-2000, the economy experienced a serious downshift. It has continued on that downward spiral ever since. Impending war, terrorist threats, loss of consumer confidence, and corporate scandals have all contributed to the low economic growth rate. Hispanics have been particularly hard-hit. At this point, it is critical to use as many tools that are at our disposal to mitigate the impact of the current economic situation on Hispanic workers and their families. Although we don't have a crystal ball, we need to look to the future and create long-term plans for economic growth. At the same time, we need to examine what we can do in the short-term to help the community better prepare for the continued economic slowdown.

Mexico has a long history of being a good friend and economic partner to the United States. Economic integration between our two countries will not end any time in the near future, if ever. While the political agendas between the two countries do not always match, it is important for current laws to

catch up with the reality we live in today. If we don't address this problem, when identity requirements become overly restrictive, predatory schemes are sure to follow.

It is critical that the United States continue to work with Mexico to find secure measures to document people. The matrícula consular does just that. It is a state-of-the-art instrument that contributes to the public safety of the Hispanic community and the overall safety of the United States. By assuring that there is a viable form of identification for Mexican nationals to grow their money, we also assure that they will less likely be targeted for violent crimes.

Lastly, domestic security demands that we cooperate and possibly coordinate such systems as documentation. What is significant here is that both governments continue to try to cooperate on a wide-range of activities, despite frustration over failures, to create an environment where every one understands and accepts the perspective of the other. Unlike reactions in the mid-1980s when the entire bilateral relationship would explode into bitter acrimony, today, a new maturity on the part of both nations has evolved in recognition of the interdependence, and even integration that we have attained. As a result, we have witnessed an enlargement of collective discipline. The matrícula consular should be part of that new collective discipline.

Latinos Lose a Friend

Recently, LULAC lost a dear friend and supporter. The late Gary Marder of Framingham, Massachusetts, will be sorely missed by LULAC members. Mr. Marder served as the vice president for the Northeast region for Univision and Telefutera where he always had the doors open for the LULAC family. Mr. Marder was a strong supporter and sponsor of the LULAC scholarship initiatives and attended many LULAC fundraising events at the national and local levels. We will always remember Mr. Marder for his generosity and positive thinking. (Contributed by Regla Gonzalez)

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HISPANIC LEADERSHIP

Leading the Way

LULAC Leader Makes History



Walter Tejada, former LULAC State Director for Virginia, made history recently when he became the first Hispanic on the Arlington County Board in Arlington, Virginia.

Remembering Irma Rangel, a Leader and Hispanic Advocate

LULAC members are deeply saddened by the loss of a great leader and friend. Recently, the Honorable Irma Rangel, the first Mexican-American woman to serve in the state House of Representatives, lost her battle against cancer. Ms. Rangel was a great advocate for the Hispanic community and a champion for education in Texas. She sponsored the state's 10 percent law, which promises admission into public colleges and universities to high school students who are ranked in the top 10 percent of their class. This act was passed in response to the court decision that effectively dismantled affirmative action admission programs at Texas colleges and universities. In addition, Rangel fought hard to create a soon-to-be-built pharmacy school in Kingsville. Ms. Rangel had the fifth-longest tenure in the House. She will be greatly missed and remembered by many.

LULAC Honors Cruz Bustamante at National Gala



California's Lieutenant Governor, Cruz Bustamante was recently honored at the LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

Former LULAC President Honored in Washington



Belen Robles, former LULAC national president, was recently honored by the National Hispana Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian. The institute recognized her for being a Hispanic activist who opened the doors for other Hispanics by improving access to the government. Mrs. Robles served as the national president of LULAC for four years from 1994 to 1998 and is particularly recognized for her strong support of Hispanic women. Mrs. Robles is also known for establishing the Washington, D.C., national office which focuses on policy and legislation and is vital for LULAC's advocacy efforts.

LULAC Friend Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Recently, Alex López Negrete, President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Creative Director of the Houston based López Negrete Communications, was honored by the Houston Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes Alex's accomplishments in the areas of the hiring and promotion of women and minorities; promoting and helping the broadcast business and his direct contributions to the Houston community and the broadcast community.

López Negrete has been a tremendous friend to LULAC. For the past year the company has offered their invaluable talent in the form of pro bono services to LULAC for its National Legislative Awards Gala and the LULAC National Convention last year and this year.

Submission Criteria

We want to include as much as possible in the *LULAC News*. To ensure quality and accuracy please properly label all information that you submit. If sending photos, please send the actual photo or high resolution photos by email and provide sufficient information for each photo, including the names of the persons in the photos and the event where the photo was taken. Submissions are due May 9, 2003, for the next issue.

Sixth Annual National Legislative Awards Gala

GALA, continued from page 3.



Secretary Martinez receiving the LULAC Legislative Award from Blanca Vargas, LULAC VP for the Midwest, Orlando Padilla, Director of Public Policy at General Motors, and Leo Guzman, President of Guzman & Company. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

This year's event was very important for LULAC and the Hispanic community because all of the awardees included accomplished Hispanics. The LULAC Presidential Award went to White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, and the LULAC National Legislative Awards went to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez and Lieutenant Governor of California Cruz Bustamante.

To start off the evening, Melissa Rodriguez, National Hispanic Employment Program Manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. Before the awards were presented, the evening's master of ceremonies, David Cruz of NBC in Los Angeles, called for a moment of silence in recognition of Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez, a U.S. soldier originally from Mexico, who was killed in a

helicopter crash during U.S. training exercises in Kuwait. He was the first casualty of the Iraqi crisis.

President's Award

LULAC National President Hector Flores presented the prestigious 2003 LULAC President's Award to the Honorable Alberto Gonzales. Gonzales was recognized for his professional achievements and for his community service. "He is a humble man, of great strength and conviction, who has demonstrated

through his actions and his words his powerful belief in — and commitment to — the Latino community," said Hector Flores.

Upon becoming President, George W. Bush appointed Gonzales as his White House Counsel. Gonzales previously served as General Counsel for then-Governor Bush of Texas in his first term of office, he served as the Secretary of State for Texas, and he sat on the Texas Supreme Court. "Despite all of his professional achievements, he has never forgotten his community," added Flores. Gonzales also served as Director of Catholic Charities and Big Brothers and Sisters in Houston, Texas.

Gonzales emphasized the importance of family and remembering where we come from. He publicly gave thanks to his late father, who was limited by a second grade education, and to his mother who only



Ivelisse Estrada, VP for Corporate Relations for Univision Communications, Inc. with Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), who accepted the Legislative Award on behalf of Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

completed the sixth grade.

"I fear my works may not today be worthy but I pledge to strive to live my life in a way that brings credit to this organization — LULAC," said Al Gonzales. "I will continue to work with each of you to bring the promises and the richness of our beloved America to each and every one of our people."

National Legislative Awards

The evening's first legislative award was presented to Secretary Mel Martinez. Martinez is the highest-ranking Hispanic in President Bush's cabinet. Prior to coming to the Department, Secretary Martínez was elected Chairman of Orange County, Florida, and served on the Governor's Growth Management Study Commission. He was also President of the Orlando Utilities Commission and Chairman of the Orlando Housing Authority. Secretary Martinez fled Cuba as a young boy speaking virtually no English.

Martinez was honored for his outstanding service and commitment to the Hispanic community and his efforts to expand home ownership opportunities for more Americans, particularly for minority and low-income families, and for his advocacy on behalf of people who live in the "colonias" on the U.S.-Mexico border. "People who have been forgotten are no longer forgotten,"



Santana & Haydee Morin, Alberto & Rebecca Gonzalez, Tula & Hector Flores pose at the Gala.

Sixth Annual National Legislative Awards Gala



Rick Dovalina, Immediate Past President for LULAC with White House Counsel AI Gonzales recipient of this year's LULAC President's Award. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

said Martinez. "It is our moment to make a contribution to our communities."

The second legislative award was presented to California's Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Bustamante was the first Latino Speaker for the California Assembly and has served as Lieutenant Governor since 1998. He was honored for his continuous efforts to advance the Hispanic community and his efforts to ensure that Latino children receive the best education possible by reduc-

ing class sizes and making higher education more attainable.

Unfortunately, the Lieutenant Governor was unable to make the event because his father underwent heart surgery the day before. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), who was honored by LULAC at last year's gala, accepted the award on his behalf. "His life story is the American dream, it represents hope," said Senator Lieberman. "May he rise and rise in American politics."

Other Highlights

The program also featured several other highlights and prominent individuals. LULAC gave special tribute to the Honorable Loretta Sanchez and the Honorable Linda Sanchez of California, and the Honorable Lincoln Diaz Balart and the Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, for "contributing to a unique moment in history," as the Gala Chair, Raquel Egusquiza of Ford Motor Company, put it. For the first time in history, we have two sets of Hispanic siblings in Congress.

President Flores discussed the need for passing legislation that will help undocumented students obtain a higher educa-



Raquel Egusquiza, Gala Chair & Director of Contributions, Community Development; Ford Motor Company Leslie Sanchez, White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanics; and Sandra Ulsh, President of the Ford Motor Company Fund. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

tion. He explained that such students are "a lost generation of children whose parents brought them here at a young age without documentation, who have known nothing but the United States, and consider it their home." He asked the Gala attendees to contact their Senators and members of Congress in support of legislation such as the Dream Act and the Student Adjustment Act that will help children reach their goals which will in turn help our country.

This year Gala attendees were moved by Corina Rivera, a young student who is also a LULAC Young Adult Council President at the University of Maryland. Ms. Rivera explained how her mother migrated from El Salvador and helped her obtain a higher education. "I know that without the help of many of the leaders in this room who supported legislation which enabled my mother to become a legal resident of the United States, things could have turned out very differently for my family and me. For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You helped give me the opportunity to discover what the world has to offer me and more importantly, what I have to offer it," said Ms. Rivera.

Last, but not least, LULAC would like to thank the many corporate sponsors that made this year's gala a real success.



Raquel Egusquiza of the Ford Motor Company; Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director; Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL); Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA); Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA); Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL); and Gabriela Lemus, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation. The Sanchez and Diaz-Balart siblings were celebrated for contributing to a unique moment in history. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Miller Ad

LNESC NEWS

LNESC Receives Grant From Verizon

Actress Maria Conchita Alonso Kicks Off New Partnership



Victor Cabral, VP of the Americas for Verizon and LNESC Board Member, Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director, Actress Maria Conchita Alonso, Tula Flores, Hector Flores, LULAC National President with the Young Readers.

Young children in New York City and around the country will have a leg up with their reading, thanks to LNESC, Verizon and the Verizon Hispanic Support Organization (HSO), the company's Hispanic employee organization. A kickoff event to celebrate a new partnership with Verizon's HSO and LNESC will provide a valuable pool of volunteers for the Verizon sponsored Young Reader's Programs. At this event, Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director, and Hector Flores, LNESC Board Chairman and LULAC National President, were presented a \$200,000 check for continued support for the LNESC's Young Readers Program. This was the fourth grant awarded to LNESC by the Verizon Foundation through its Verizon Reads literacy campaign. The kickoff event announcing the partnership was held at Bloomingdale Elementary School in Manhattan, where special celebrity guest Maria Conchita Alonso read to the children in the Young Readers Program. All of the children were excited to receive an autographed copy of the book Ms. Alonso read from.

During the kickoff a mother explained the importance of the program for her daughter,

whose reading level has improved tremendously. "If only we could have programs like this around the country," she said.

LULAC New York State Director Wilfredo Santiago and members of LULAC Council 23000 helped to coordinate the event at the school where they also run the Young Readers program. The partnership encourages members of the HSO to volunteer with Young Readers Programs in their communities by reading to children and conducting local book drives with proceeds going to Young Readers Programs. Today, the Verizon-sponsored Young Readers programs continue to expand to new parts of the country and LNESC welcomes the involvement of Verizon HSO members.

"Verizon's continued support of our Young Readers Program and LNESC demonstrates the company's clear commitment to literacy and the Hispanic community," said Flores. "The Verizon funds will provide educational opportunities for Hispanic children and other disadvantaged students and the pledge of volunteer support from Verizon's Hispanic employees is especially invaluable."



Actress Maria Conchita Alonso reads to the Young Readers.

LNESC San Antonio Continues Building Community Partnerships



On March 21, 2003, LNESC-San Antonio held its 2nd Annual Family Day in the Park. The event provided families from the center's neighboring community with safe, fun-filled activities during the last day of Spring Break. Participants of the event were treated to food, games, face painting and the opportunity to win a bicycle. The event attracted over 100 children and their parents and was sponsored in part by local Wal-Mart and Sam's Warehouse outlets, Valero Energy Corporation, members of several LULAC councils, LNESC and the LNESC-San Antonio Advisory Board. By the end of the event, 17 children from the Alazan Apache Courts community were the proud owners of new bicycles.

Letter from LULAC National Youth President



course, Disney World. Please don't forget to be prepared to meet with government agency representatives to discuss scholarship and internship opportunities. We hope that everything will continue to go well with your preparations for attending this year's National Youth Convention in Orlando, Florida. See you there!

Manuel Olguin
LULAC National Youth President

■ Submit Youth Scholarship Applications and Awards Candidate Applications by 6/6/03 to: LULAC, 2000 L St., NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036, Attention: Gloria Lalka For more information contact Fernando Escabi at 787-633-8596.

LULAC Youth Enjoy Horseback Riding



Youth Council 250 President Marisol Salgado enjoyed horseback riding with other youth members over spring break.

Youth councils 250, 1018, and the new "Eastside Youth Council" in the Fort Worth, Texas area had the opportunity to go horseback riding this past spring break. The event was made possible through the coordination of LULAC Council 4568. "We wanted to give the kids access to an activity they would not normally have the chance to do," said Alberto Govea, LULAC President for Council 4568. A member of council 4568 convinced a local riding club, where he is a member, to host the kids for the day. "They enjoyed themselves tremendously," added Alberto.

The Latino Majority has arrived in California

- In 2001, the majority (50.6%) of all babies born in California were Latino.
- In 2006, Latinos will be the majority of children entering kindergarten in California.
- In 2014, Latinos will be the majority entering high schools in California.
- In 2017, Latinos will be the majority of new workers entering California labor force
- In 2019, Latinos will be the majority of young adults eligible to vote.

Source: UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, 2003.



LULAC recently formed Young Adult chapters at the University of Michigan. In the above picture is Hector Flores, LULAC National President, with the new Young Adult members at the university. He was there to speak before the university regarding the Supreme Court case on affirmative action.

Attention Young Adults:

Please be prepared for the LULAC National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

- (1) Be ready to interview with employers; bring a suit and resumes.
- (2) Be ready to meet with representatives from government agencies who will explain various government employment opportunities and will help you navigate through the complex government job application process.

LULAC KIDZ - a New Youth Program



Some of the organizational meeting attendees: Alex Figueroa, Luis De La Ossa, Briana Garza, Liliana Herrera, Diana Lagunas, and Julio Mingura, Adult Mentor.

The PPEP Farmworker LULAC Council 1088 in Arizona recently organized the first LULAC KIDZ Council. This council was formed for children in the 5th through middle school grades. Dr. John David Arnold, President of Council 1088, explained that there is a great need to reach out to children in this age group because these students are still in their formative years and are frequently exposed to drugs, gangs, sex, and other deviant behavior during this time. Council 1088 also felt it was important to assist students at this young age before they finish middle school because most dropouts occur right after this stage. The council's youth leadership and mentoring programs hope to have a positive impact on these students and prevent potential social and educational problems from occurring.

At the first meeting the following LULAC KIDZ members signed up: Chaska Arnold, Alex Figueroa, Luis De La Ossa, Briana Garza, Liliana Herrera, Manny Mingura, Diana Lagunas, Hector De La Ossa, and Jon Hawkins. Julio Mingura is the Council Adult Mentor. Dr. Arnold hopes that the LULAC KIDZ pilot demonstration project takes off and that one day there will be KIDZ Councils all over the country. For further information call Dr. John David Arnold at (520) 622-3553.

LULAC Young Adults has New Council in Florida



(L-R) Anita de Palma, President, Tampa Bay Council 7006; Matilda Garcia, Tampa District Director 1; Julianna Lopez de Victoria, Young Adult 7069 member; Adjoni Piñero, President, Young Adult Council #7069; Carime Hernandez, Young Adult member; and Juan Garcia, LULAC National Vice President for Young Adults.

On January 17, 2003, the first LULAC Young Adult council in Florida was sworn in. Young Adult Council 7069 at the University of South Florida in Tampa is eager to start working. Council President Adjoni Piñero said that the first priorities are increasing membership and addressing urgent issues affecting the Latino community such as health, education and voter participation. We welcome the new Young Adult Council!

LULAC Youth Get Adopted

In January, LULAC District 15 Councils in San Antonio, Texas, got together to show their support for the LULAC youth through the "Adopt a Youth" event held by LULAC Youth Council 301. The event gave LULAC members the chance to "adopt a youth" by paying the youth's state and national dues, which is a total of \$22 for both. This fundraising activity raised \$201 which will help 18 young LULAC members pay their dues. Many prominent members from the community were involved, including Texas LULAC State Director Margaret Moran.

LULAC Youth Volleyball Tournament



Natalie Lucero and Frenchie Caballero, Council 301 Youth President, participated in a LULAC Volleyball Tournament. Youth Council 301 came from San Antonio to participate in this event.

Recently, LULAC youth councils participated in a volleyball tournament in Fort Worth, Texas. The successful event was hosted by Fort Worth Council 4568 and coordinated by Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Govea. Eight teams made up of LULAC Councils and community members participated in the event which raised funds for the youth groups in the area. They hope to raise enough money through this event and others to be able to send several youth members to this year's LULAC National Convention in Orlando. Council 4568 members currently coordinate several sport related activities for both young people and adults as well. "We believe these activities provide a healthy outlet for young people and teach important team building skills, while giving them the chance to interact with positive adult role models," said Mr. Alberto Govea, President of Fort Worth Council 4568. Mr. Govea said that they plan to hold the sports events regularly.

Orl Convt Ad

2003 LULAC National Women's Conference

De Niña a Mujer: Mentoring and Leadership for the 21st Century.



Vera Marquez, VP for Women; Rosa Rosales, VP for the Southwest; Mickie Luna, California State Director; Angie Garcia, Texas State Director for the Elderly; and Tencha Vasquez Wilcox, Missouri State Director in Mexico for meetings in February. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Every year, LULAC holds its National Woman's Conference to bring awareness and leadership training for Latinas of all ages from across the country. This year Vera Marquez, LULAC VP for Women, said, "The challenge is to raise the consciousness and build the capacity of Latinas of all ages across the country and enhance their ability to become leaders and agents for change for the betterment of their communities, families, and themselves."

This year, the conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona, on April 11-12, 2003, at the Pima Community College – West Campus. We hope to bring together a cross-section of Latinas from all walks of life: from farm workers to college students, professionals to at-home mothers. The seminars and workshops feature local and national Latina role-models and provide critical information and professional development to empower Latinas to become leaders in their communities through mentoring, advocacy tools, and capacity building. LULAC's goal is to create a safe environment for open and frank discussion about issues that affect Latinas' lives through education and debate while providing real-life skills for professional growth

and self-awareness.

Some 300 Latinas of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds are expected to attend the conference. Featured speakers include: Rosario Marín, Secretary of the Department of Treasury; Congressman Raúl Grijalva; Janet Napolitano, Governor of Arizona; Alma Morales Rioja, CEO of MANA; Belén Robles, former LULAC National President, and Lucy Vrajevich, President of the Pima Community College West Campus, among others.

Why Focus on Latinas? Hispanic women currently face serious challenges that affect not only their lives as individuals but also the well being of their families and success of their communities. Hispanic girls have a higher school dropout rate and teenage pregnancy rate than any other ethnic group. These problems are compounded by the fact that the U.S. education system ignores cultural issues particular to the Latina population, such as domestic responsibilities and family pressures. As a result, more than ten percent of the American school population is being consigned to failure.

Although many Latinas have broken down barriers, gone to university and propelled themselves to leadership, a larger number experience some of the most severe dispari-

ties in pay equity of any population group. Hispanic women are more likely to take flexible, lower-waged jobs, so as to ensure their ability to take care of their families. These jobs generally do not provide health benefits or pension plans. Latinas only earn 52 cents for every dollar earned by a man, compared with 72 cents for white non-Hispanic women, and receive lower wages than white non-Hispanics or African-Americans. In the period 1990-1996, the median real wage of Latinas declined by three percent from \$330 to \$320 per week. In 1996, Latinas earned only 72 percent as much as white non-Hispanic women and 89 percent as much as African-American women. Latinas spend a higher proportion of their limited income on household costs, medical costs, and other vital necessities. Finally, because Latinas earn less, they save less.

Latinas are also more likely to be the primary caregiver for their family. Caregiving can be detrimental to Latinas' economic prospects, as they will most likely be in a position of income loss. Furthermore, Latinas are more likely to put off their own health care in favor of their family. In addition, the high cost of health care acts as a barrier to preventive measures such as regular check-ups and tests, such as mammograms and pelvic exams. As a result, we are witnessing disproportionately high rates of cervical cancer and breast cancer with fatal consequences among Latinas.

Latinas are also three times more likely to live in poverty than non-Hispanic white women which means that over a 35-year career, Latinas have over \$510,000 less to save or invest for retirement. Twenty-five percent of Latinas over the age of 65 live in poverty and only 26 percent of Latinas have pension coverage, compared to 39 percent of both African-American and non-Hispanic white women. Only 33 percent of Latinas have retirement income from savings or assets. As a result, social security makes up the bulk of Latinas' retirement strategy.

As you can see we have a lot of work to do! We look forward to seeing you at the conference!



Senator Lucy Arce of Puerto Rico, who led the Pledge of Allegiance at this year's gala, with Haydee Rivera, LULAC State Director of Puerto Rico, and White House Counsel Al Gonzales. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)



Corina Rivera, founder and President of the LULAC Young Adults Council at the University of Maryland, addressed this year's LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

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.

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