

Save the Date! 76th National Convention in Little Rock, June 27-July 2, 2005

LULACnews

July / August 2004

LULAC Celebrates 75th Anniversary in San Antonio



Presidential Candidates Take the LULAC Challenge

Patriot Act: In Search of Balance

Latinos Living in Polluted Areas



The League of United Latin American Citizens

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Cover shot: National Convention in San Antonio (Photo by Tom Reel of the San

Antonio Express News.)



Latin dancers celebrate LULAC's 75th Anniversary at the National Convention in San Antonio. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

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A MESSAGE from the President



(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC, I am both humbled and honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your president for another year. It is a real privilege to serve as your national president during our 75th anniversary year.

This year's convention was an incredible celebration that not only energized our membership but also the Hispanic community as a whole. The week-long convention marked LULAC's 75 years of service to the Latino community. With a record attendance of 15,000 people, LULAC was able to share our message of hope to members around the country.

My sincere appreciation goes out to our national staff and volunteers who put in long hours for the past year to make this convention such a success. In addition, I would like to

thank the many corporate sponsors. Without their tremendous support we would not have been able to produce such an amazing event. This year corporate contributions were higher than any other year despite these difficult economic times.

This election year as we consider both candidates for president I hope that each of you will spend time studying what both of the candidates have to offer, particularly when it comes to issues that affect you, your families, and the Hispanic community. Let us remember to turn to the newspapers for our news and not rely on negative television ads for our information. LULAC realizes the importance of this election year and has put a great deal of energy and resources into a voter registration/education project to get out the vote. We hope that this will ensure that our voices are heard during this election. We must never forget the significance and importance of voting and always take advantage of this right to participate in our democracy. We should never take for granted the blood that was shed in order to gain this right.

This year we will work on various issues that will improve the lives of Latinos. For example, we will work toward passing immigration reform legislation that is fair and just. *It is imperative that we help our brothers and sisters who cultivate the food we eat, produce our clothing, build our buildings, and stimulate our economy by the sweat of their brow.*

As you read through the pages of the *LULAC News* I hope you are inspired to continue LULAC's legacy of service to the Hispanic community. There are so many opportunities for service and advocacy that there is simply no excuse not to be involved. Whether it means calling your congressman to support the AGJobs bill or the DREAM Act, or helping to get out the vote by driving a few folks to the polls – you can make a real difference in your community.

We know we can count on you to recommit yourselves to the core objectives of LULAC. As you know, volunteerism can have a lasting impact that can improve the lives of Latinos in this country. I salute all LULAC members, volunteers, and friends who take time out of their busy lives to help LULAC make a difference.

Please remain in contact with us by email or mail throughout the year. We want to help you serve others in your community.

Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President

LULAC Celebrates 75 Years of Service

Highlights from the National
Convention in San Antonio

By Edward Carlson, LULAC Intern

Spirits were high at the 2004 LULAC National convention in San Antonio, Texas. This year's convention celebrated LULAC's 75 years of advocacy work on behalf of Latinos across the United States. The event managed to attract over 15,000 guests to its exposition and convention. The annual convention gathered government, business, and community leaders to lead discussions on issues facing Latinos across the country. The exposition offered free health screenings; on-the-spot interviews for jobs; and information on Fortune 500 companies' products and services.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Our Legacy, Defining Our Future," honored past accomplishments while looking toward the future to tackle new ones. Still only one year removed from the United Census official pronouncement of Latinos becoming the largest minority in the United States, LULAC wanted to address the problems of its rapidly growing population. The LULAC agenda explored these issues in panel discussions and speeches. Experts from around the country shared their knowledge on LULAC's



Entertainment at this year's National Convention exhibit area in San Antonio. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

LULAC Celebrates, continued on page 4.

LULAC Celebrates, continued from page 3.



(L-R) Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice Alex Acosta, NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre, LULAC National President Hector Flores and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros. The leaders all addressed the LULAC Convention attendees. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

history and the importance of advancing civil rights.

LULAC opened the convention on Tuesday evening at Sea World with a small reception and private showing of orcas and dolphins. Then on Wednesday the Federal Training Institute (FTI) began its 20th year of promoting minority service in government. During the FTI opening plenary, Office of Personal Management, Kay Cole James called upon governmental agencies, schools, and universities to actively push students toward careers in the United States government.



She reinforced the day's theme, "Diversity-Transformation through People." Seconding her call was Texas Governor Rick Perry and LULAC President Hector Flores.

The Wednesday afternoon Unity Lunch featured speakers were National Council de la Raza President Raul Yzaguirre and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros. Each of the speakers discussed the changing Hispanic demographics and the importance of the 2004 election. LULAC National President Hector Flores gave perhaps one of the most important speeches of the week when he addressed the attendees on the state of the Hispanic community. President Flores passionately spoke about the legacy of civil rights, LULAC, and what it means for the future of Latinos across the United States. That evening La Villita was home to delicious Tejano food and music by the well-known groups Orquesta Tropicante and Little Joe y La Familia.

Thursday morning, the LULAC Agenda presented a series of panel discussions focusing on the day's theme, "Civil Rights

& Community Empowerment in the Hispanic Century." The workshops were geared toward empowering Latinos with the skills necessary to organize and make a difference in their communities. Discussions ranged from organizing against pollution in Hispanic communities to voter protection and home ownership. The Department of Health



LULAC First Lady Tula Flores with Keynote speaker Sharee Freeman during the Women's Luncheon. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

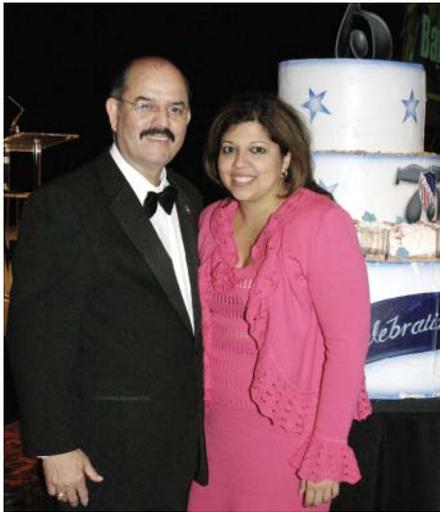
and Human Services also sponsored a series of very important workshops on health topics that affect Latinos including: diabetes and obesity, depression, suicide, and AIDS, among others.

At the Unity Lunch that afternoon, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson spoke about the need for more Hispanics in his agency and their partnership with LULAC to educate Hispanics on important health issues that affect Latinos. Subsequently, President George W. Bush spoke via satellite to the membership about his immigration plan that would allow migrants to work in this country legally for up to three years. After this term the workers would have to return to their country of origin without receiving any positive change in their status.

That evening, the Youth and Young Adults Awards were presented during an elegant banquet to honor LULAC's youngest members. Surgeon General Richard Carmona

served as the keynote speaker. Carmona gave an inspiring speech that urged the young adults in the audience to pursue higher goals in education, careers, and in their personal lives.

Friday was the last day of seminars and this day's theme "Defining Our Future – LULAC Leadership Initiative," reflected upon LULAC's need to plan ahead and maximize our leadership potential. LULAC National Education Service Centers (LNESEC) continued in this vein by hosting a breakfast that morning that helped to raise \$65,000 dollars toward college scholarships. Not to be outdone, that evening at the Presidential Awards Banquet and Ball, SBC announced it would be giving one million dollars to



LULAC National President Hector Flores with Raquel Esguiza of Ford Motor Company, one of LULAC's Presidential Sponsors. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

LULAC toward communications programs for young adults. During the day, the Ford Motor Company and the General Motors Corporation also announced million dollar contributions for important LULAC initiatives. The Ford Motor Company's contribution will go toward the LULAC Ford PASS Science Corps program which will help students improve their science skills. The General Motors Corporation contribution will support the LULAC/GMAC American



LULAC members during the Youth and Young Adult Banquet with Keynote speaker U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona (center). (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Dream Homeownership Initiative. During the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon the LULAC Latinas were addressed by two inspiring women, Sharee Freeman, Director of the Community Relations Service at the Department of Justice and New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron. The Presidential Banquet's main speakers included Lieutenant General Sanchez and Los Angeles City Council Member Antonio Villaraigosa. General Sanchez led a moving ceremony in which he praised our efforts in Iraq and honored those who were not present with a metaphorical empty table. Mr. Villaraigosa wrapped up the evening by urging Latinos to become educated about the issues confronting them in the 2004 Presidential election.

On Saturday, before the LULAC elections started Representa-

tive **Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX)** introduced presidential candidate Senator John Kerry, who addressed the LULAC membership via satellite. At the end of his speech Senator Kerry chanted "*si se puede*," the Cesar Chavez motto. Following his speech LULAC delegates began the annual tradition of voting on a legislative platform and officers. Delegates approved the 2004 LULAC Legislative Platform found on page 9 and re-elected President Hector Flores for a third term.



LULAC National President and General Sanchez pay respects to veteran Jose Lopez, Congressional Medal of Honor winner. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

LULAC Celebrates, continued on page 6.

LULAC Celebrates, continued from page 5.



(L-R) LULAC National President Hector Flores, General Ricardo Sanchez, VP for the Southwest Rosa Rosales, and LULAC Labor Advisor Jaime Martinez at the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Other officers that were re-elected include: Frank Ortiz, *National Treasurer*; Laura Medrano, *National Vice President for the Northeast*; Haydee Rivera, *National Vice President for the Southeast*; Rosa Rosales, *National Vice President for the Southwest*; Blanca Vargas, *National Vice President for the Midwest*; and Dave Rodriguez, *National Vice President for the Far West*.

Newly Elected Officers include: Arlinda Ariaga, *National Youth President*; Margaret Moran, *National Vice President for Women*; Javier Montanez, *National Vice President for Youth*; Joe Cardenas III, *National Vice President for Young Adults*; Angie Garcia, *National Vice President for the Ederly*; and *National Vice President for the Northwest*, Maria Rodriguez-Salazar.

The delegates selected Chicago, Illinois as the LULAC convention location for the year 2007.

Finally on Sunday, the LULAC national convention concluded with a mass officiated by Archbishop Patrick Flores at the San Fernando Cathedral. LULAC was honored

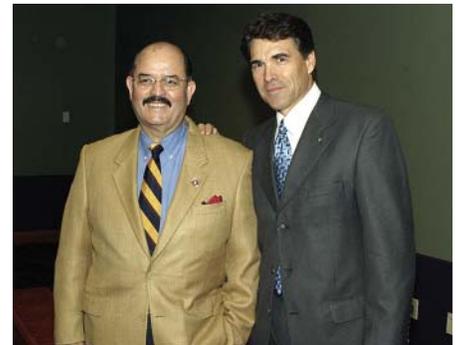
that the first Mexican-American Archbishop chose to make this his last mass before his retirement.

LULAC looks forward to next year when it celebrates its 76th anniversary next June 27th through July 2nd, 2005. The next convention will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, one of the fastest growing Latino communities in the country. For more information on this event please check our website at www.lulac.org for continuously updated information.



Above: National VP for the Southeast Haydee Rivera addresses the National Assembly.

Below: National President Hector Flores with Governor of Texas Rick Perry. (Photos by Luis Nuño Briones.)



Archbishop Flores with LULAC members after the special mass he officiated for LULAC after the National Convention. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

LULAC Opens Two New Councils in the Midwest



While celebrating the 75th anniversary of LULAC, VP for the Midwest Blanca Vargas organized 2 new councils to operate in Berwyn and Cicero. The LULAC Berwyn-Cicero Council will be presided by Diana Gauna, resident of Ber-

wyn and a long time community leader who has volunteered her time in little league softball among other things. The council will provide help to the Latin-American residents of this area while implementing the LULAC programs already in the agenda, like citizenship workshops, voter registration, and others. The councils will also work with a new youth council called LULAC Morton East Youth Council. The group will focus on assisting young people with their college applications and goals.

LULAC Honors Veterans



LULAC member from Ohio Laura Alvarez, National VP for the Midwest Blanca Vargas, National President Hector Flores and Jose Rivera, LULAC member and cosponsor of the Memorial Day event.

National LULAC President Hector Flores joined LULAC members in the Midwest to honor veterans on Memorial Day at Rancho Durango in Woodstock.

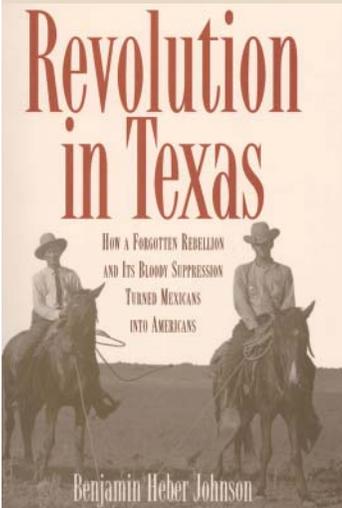
BOOK REVIEW

Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans into Americans

By Benjamin H. Johnson

Published November 2003

Book Review by Ximena Rivera, LULAC Administrative Assistant



Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans into Americans is an intense account of the Plan de San Diego Mexican uprising that took place in 1915 after the Mexican Revolution. Mr. Johnson presents the rebellion with a thorough account of both sides of the rebellion. As a result, readers of various backgrounds can identify with this compelling 272 page book.

Revolution in Texas is not only an outstanding tale, but also covers with sensitivity, an event that happened less than a century ago. As a result, this read includes pertinent information that should not be taken for granted by today's readers.

The author, Benjamin H. Johnson, is assistant professor of history at Southern Methodist University. Mr.

Johnson has worked at the California Institute of Technology, and the University of Texas in San Antonio. He is also one of the authors of *Steal This Universe: The Rise of the Corporate University and the Academic Labor*.

Contributors to LULAC News



LULAC Intern Edward Carlson, whose family is originally from Guatemala, is currently a second year Romance Languages major at Colorado College. He plans to attend law school after finishing his B.A. Ximena Rivera, who is originally from Perú is an undergraduate student at New York University and is currently studying sociology, political science, and Italian language. She plans to attend law school. Ms. Rivera has great passion for immigration issues and plans to pursue a career within this field of study.

LULAC Council Hosts Health Fair



This past May, LULAC Council 101 of Irving, Texas partnered with Irving Health and Medical Center to host their first annual health fair. The Health Fair's primary goal was to provide free educational services, programs, screenings, and activities to community members. Complimentary services offered at this event ranged from: free glucose testing; blood pressure monitoring; body fat composition readings; blood donations; massages; chiropractic services; dental hygiene classes; and weight and stress management classes. The services were donated from a variety of people and companies in the community. Council 101 was able to raise \$950 in donations which were allocated toward the council's scholarship program. Council 101 would like to thank all the sponsors and participants that made this health fair such a success.

Submission Criteria

We would like to include as much as possible in the LULAC News. To ensure quality and accuracy please be sure to properly label all information that you submit. If sending photos, please send high resolution photos and be sure to provide sufficient information on each photo. Please email to lquiroga@lulac.org or mail to LULAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Attn: LULAC News. All information is subject to editing.

Another Ambassador Joins Council 1088



President of LULAC Farmworkers Council 1088 Dr. John Arnold (center) pictured with new council members Counsel General of Arizona Carlos Flores Vizcarra (left) and Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Carlos de Icaza.

Recently, Carlos de Icaza, the Mexican Ambassador in Phoenix and Consul General Carlos Flores Vizcarra became LULAC members of Farmworkers Council 1088. The Mexican Ambassador is the second ambassador to join this LULAC council, following in the footsteps of the former Ambassador to Argentina Raul H. Castro.

These members reflect LULAC's growing desire to move to an international level. In fact, LULAC Council 1088 submitted a resolution at the National LULAC Convention to expand the organization internationally in response to requests made by Latin American countries. The resolution was passed and as a result President Flores formed an exploratory committee to investigate this possibility. The committee is headed by Ada Perez and Co-chaired by Dr. John D. Arnold, President of Farmworkers Council 1088.

By expanding internationally LULAC believes that it can reach out to Latinos who immigrate to countries such as Canada who have a growing Latino population due to their more liberal immigration laws.

LULAC President Visits New England Councils



Following a very successful national convention, LULAC President Hector Flores visited Massachusetts, to address attendees at the National Black State Troopers Coalition Inc. Conference.

He explained the mission of LULAC and the need for more minority law enforcement personnel. During this time President Flores meet with various councils in the Boston, Massachusetts area, under the leadership of State Director Regla Gonzalez, at a Mexican restaurant called "Tacos El Charro."

There he also met with several LULAC young adult members who expressed their sincere interest in advocacy. President Flores gave inspirational advice to the young people to continue their studies and reach for their goals. In addition, President Flores answered questions about the Whittier Street Health Center situation and informed the membership that the situation will be discussed again in future meetings with United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

LULAC supports equal opportunity for employment, promotion and contracting, and opposes discrimination of any form in the workplace and supports affirmative action as a set of positive steps that employers use to promote equal employment opportunities. LULAC remains committed to fighting efforts to overturn decisions that have upset affirmative action programs across the country.

CENSUS AND DATA COLLECTION

LULAC continues to support the use of statistical sampling in Census decisions to ensure the most accurate count of all peoples possible. LULAC supports the use of adjusted census figures for redistricting purposes as well as for the distribution of federal funds for states. LULAC urges the Census Bureau to maintain information gathered completely confidential and not share it with other government agencies, including the INS. LULAC also calls on the Census Bureau to include the residents of Puerto Rico in population reports as part of the total count of Hispanics in US territory. LULAC opposes efforts to prevent the collection of data based on race and ethnicity.

CHILD LABOR AND THE EXPLOITATION OF MINORS

LULAC strongly supports ending child labor through education and by supporting the International Labor Organization's (ILO) international programs to eliminate child labor world-wide. LULAC opposes the exploitation of children working anywhere for low wages and under hazardous conditions. LULAC deplores any and all exploitation of minors. LULAC is a strong supporter the efforts regarding Missing & Sexually Exploited Children by potential predators.

CITIZENSHIP AND VOTING

LULAC promotes active participation of all eligible Hispanics in the democratic process by registering to vote and voting, and encourages all legislative, judicial and educational efforts to promote voter participation and advocacy. LULAC urges the extension of

the Voting Rights Act due to expire in 2007. LULAC encourages all eligible immigrants to become US citizens and demands that the Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services expedite the processing of citizenship applications pending in a backlog for up to two years or more. LULAC aims to assure that voters' rights are safeguarded on election-day by preventing potential voting rights violations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

LULAC advocates reform of the criminal justice system to reduce the disproportionate number of Latinos who are incarcerated in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. LULAC supports reform of the court system to ensure fair sentencing guidelines that do not discriminate among race or socio-economic backgrounds. LULAC opposes the incarceration of youth in adult prisons and supports preventive education and social programs to reduce incarceration and recidivism. LULAC supports the repeal of legislation harmful to Latinos to redress disparate treatment of minorities.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

LULAC opposes the growing deficit in the federal government and supports efforts to lower it through sensible fiscal management and economic stimulus that favors all people equally. The federal government should support states in their efforts to reduce state deficits by contributing fiscally to their attempts to secure the population at large from public safety hazards.

DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL PROFILING

By exposing discrimination, LULAC encourages a public discourse and educates the public on issues relating to Latinos. We denounce any form of national origin discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability. LULAC strongly condemns racial profiling, and supports a strong statutory definition of racial profiling along with the institution of data collections systems by law enforcement. LULAC opposes any effort to

amend the constitution in any manner that reduces protection of any individual's rights on the basis of national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

DRIVER LICENSES

LULAC supports legislation to grant licenses to immigrants under any status. LULAC supports innovative provisions for the issuance of a license such as passing a criminal background check, endorsement by a citizen, or requiring a pledge by immigrants to apply for legal residency.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Empowerment Zones Along the Border: LULAC supports an expansion of American empowerment and enterprise zones in communities along the border.

Employment Practices: LULAC urges companies and government agencies to embrace diversity in all aspects of business, whether employment, promotion, or contracting, as well as to support representation of Hispanics at all levels, from day-to-day management and governance, to the boardroom.

Access: LULAC encourages the expansion of federal programs and policies that provide federal funds to stimulate business, job growth and training, and opportunities for venture capital.

Trade: Although LULAC supports trade and economic integration with Latin America, it is imperative that trade agreements be equitable and balanced. Because of the failure of current trade agreements to reach this threshold, LULAC supports efforts to renegotiate trade agreements that raise the standards of living for labor and protects our environmental standards so as to reduce displacement of workers and consequent mass migration.

EDUCATION

LULAC believes that education is the basis for lifelong success, and strongly opposes any measure that denies education as a fundamental right, including that of immigrant children. School curricula and textbooks should reflect the diversity of Hispanic heritage positively, be historically accurate, be

language appropriate, and culturally sensitive. LULAC supports legislation targeted at decreasing the Hispanic dropout rate and urges Congress to implement targeted programs to encourage Hispanic students to remain in school. Federal funding for LULAC National Education Service Centers (LNEC) should be continued so as to address the specific needs of our community, as well as to expand into areas not currently served. Federal funding for Head Start, Gear Up, TRIO, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), HEP-CAMP, Title I and Title III programs should be increased and access should be expanded to ensure high participation of Latino children. Funding for Title I and Title VII programs should also be increased to address adult basic educational programs and bilingual education. LULAC strongly opposes vouchers. All Latinos should have access to safe, quality and desegregated public education. Public schools should be improved and rehabilitated, and be provided with adequate funding to do so. LULAC strongly supports the Student Adjustment Act and the DREAM Act. LULAC urges all states to pass laws that allow undocumented immigrant children who have completed high school, are of good moral character, and reside in the state for at least three years to be admitted to colleges and universities as residents and eligible for in-state tuition. LULAC also urges the federal government to grant these students citizenship after they graduate from college or university.

LULAC opposes college entry exams as the sole or primary determinant in admissions processes and supports instead multiple factors as the key to admission.

LULAC opposes high stakes testing. LULAC supports an increase in funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) of higher education. LULAC supports an increase in the number of Latino educators at all levels of education, administrators and school board members, as well as teacher training and development programs to encourage Latinos to become teachers.

ENGLISH PLUS

LULAC strongly opposes all legislation that designates English as the official language of the United States or of any individual state. LULAC supports bilingual education to ensure English proficiency while encouraging students to retain proficiency in their native language. English language acquisition is imperative, but bilingualism and multilingualism are assets to be valued and preserved. LULAC advocates that English language learners shall receive an equal quality academic education with equal quality materials as native English-speaking students. Such education shall be provided by properly credentialed teachers.

ENVIRONMENT

LULAC opposes the practice of locating environmentally damaging or dangerous sites in Hispanic and other disadvantaged communities, as well as oppose the disposal of nuclear or chemical waste near Hispanic communities. LULAC supports a border buffer to prevent the creation of hazardous waste sites on either side of the US-Mexico border, and encourages the clean up of "brownfields" (contaminated sites) in Hispanic neighborhoods. LULAC supports the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions that are harmful to Latinos of all ages and opposes any effort to loosen its regulations placed on the coal-burning power plants in the United States.

FARMWORKERS, MIGRANT AND SEASONAL WORKERS

LULAC supports the National Farmworker Jobs Program (WIA 167) and requests the program to remain a critical part of the 2005 U.S. Department of Labor's budget. LULAC also urges Congress to pass legislation that protects farm workers from employer abuse, while guaranteeing them safe working conditions, housing, and access to schooling and training, especially as relates to any new guest worker programs that may be considered for passage by Congress. Former Bracero workers who had 10 percent of their earnings withdrawn from their paychecks should have those funds returned to them and their fami-

lies immediately. LULAC therefore opposes the expansion of agricultural guest worker programs that do not provide adequate labor rights protections, health benefits, and housing. LULAC supports a national holiday honoring Cesar Chavez and commemorating the contributions of farm workers to the United States. School curriculum should include an historical perspective of the farm worker struggle and community service in his honor.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

LULAC promotes higher Hispanic employment in the US State Department, Foreign Service, the United Nations and other international agencies. Latino perspectives should be included in the formulation of policies towards Latin America. LULAC urges a strengthening of partnerships with Latin America, in particular greater collaboration between the Government of Mexico and LULAC. LULAC urges the US government to include Latin American nations as partners for the war on terrorism and the creation of multilateral agreements on such important cross-border issues as health, labor and immigration, and sustainable economic development.

HATE CRIMES

LULAC urges Congress to pass laws that provide stronger sentencing and more aggressive prosecution for hate crimes. The federal government's role should be expanded in the prosecution of hate crimes by being allowed to assist state and local efforts to prosecute a broader scope of hate crimes.

HEALTH

Universal health care is a priority for Latinos that includes affordable and accessible primary, preventive, and emergency room health care that is culturally competent. Latino mothers should have access to prenatal care and children must have access to immunization, prescription medications, as well as substance abuse education. LULAC urges pharmaceutical companies and medical research facilities to increase the inclusion of Latinos in their clinical trials. LULAC



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Ford Motor Company Fund has partnered with LULAC to create the LULAC Ford Partnership For Advanced Studies Science Corps program, a hands-on, inquiry-based, after-school program designed to prepare and encourage students to pursue science and math in high school and beyond. Throughout the program, students will develop their critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and communication skills which are essential for their future success.

At Ford, we continue our long legacy of supporting non-profit organizations whose initiatives enhance opportunities for the people who live and work in the communities where we do business.



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urges greater awareness among health care providers of the disparities in the health care system and the elimination of bias and stereotyping of Latino patients. LULAC also advocates for patient education programs to increase patients' knowledge about diseases disproportionately affecting Latinos such as diabetes, Alzheimer's and AIDS, but also of how to best find health care and participate in the treatment process. LULAC strongly opposes any efforts that would require hospital emergency room employees to check on the immigration status of all patients and report any who are undocumented to the federal government for deportation. LULAC also urges an expansion of insurance coverage for children in poverty, as well as increased funding for programs to promote self-esteem and prevent teen pregnancy. Because of the disproportionate number of Hispanics who are uninsured and underinsured, LULAC strongly urges the creation of a universal health care coverage plan that insures all people in an equitable manner. LULAC supports the expansion of state and federal funding for mental health and mental disabilities programs.

HISPANIC REPRESENTATION

LULAC promotes public service and strongly supports Executive Order 13171 to increase the representation of Hispanics in Federal Employment. We urge the administration to work closely with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that Hispanic employment data gathered by the Interagency Task Force so as to remedy the under-representation of Hispanics in government. LULAC urges the US Senate to provide a level-playing field for Hispanic judicial nominees so as to ensure that Hispanic representation in the judicial system increases proportionally to the numbers of Latinos in the general population. LULAC supports the use of statistical sampling data in redistricting processes across to country to counterbalance undercounts in the Hispanic community so as to increase the likelihood of greater Hispanic political representation.

HOUSING

LULAC supports the expansion of affordable housing and increased funding for policies that create government-sponsored matching funds. LULAC opposes discriminatory and predatory lending practices and supports the strengthening of fair housing legislation to hold banking institutions accountable for fair lending practices. LULAC supports the improvement of quality of life for areas known as "colonias" along the US-Mexico border with such basic amenities as access to potable water and electricity.

IMMIGRATION

LULAC opposes any legislation that threatens the rights of immigrants, including limiting legal immigration. LULAC opposes harsh regulations that toughen the requirements for citizenship and stipulations that raise the bar of admissibility for immigrants. Immigrant visas should not be unreasonably withheld. Legal residents and naturalized citizens should have the same benefits due native-born citizens. LULAC opposes the militarization of the border and vigilante attacks on immigrants, as well as the mistreatment of immigrants in the United States regardless of their status. LULAC supports the regularization of undocumented workers in the United States by periodically updating the Date of Registry, the reinstatement of Section 245(i) to allow immigrants to remain with their families while their applications are processed, along with the restoration of Food Stamps for legal immigrants. LULAC supports citizenship for America's non-citizen troops. LULAC urges Congress to pass wage protection for immigrants, as well as to mitigate the Hoffman decision. LULAC opposes the use of local law enforcement to assist the DHS.

LATINO YOUTH

LULAC opposes cuts that might lead to the disappearance of important At Risk Youth Programs and after school programs nationwide, such as the 40 percent cut proposed for the 2005 federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, which funds probation, mental health, drug treatment, and

gang-prevention and after-care programs. LULAC supports programs that focus upon modifying lifestyle behaviors by promoting increased knowledge about health, increased physical activity, and decreased consumption of high fat foods and reduced stress.

MEDIA

LULAC strongly advocates for the increase of Hispanic-oriented programming in all facets of the media and demands that more high-level decision-making positions be made available to Hispanics at major media companies and networks. Programs should provide a positive and accurate portrayal of cultural breadth of Latinos and their contributions to the United States. LULAC encourages the FCC to require broadcasters to provide better Latino programming and representation in prime-time slots throughout the day as part of their public service obligations. LULAC strongly advocates for the enhancement of emergency preparation communications that are currently inadequate for the Spanish-speaking populations of the United States. It is critical to ensure adequate preparation of written and audiovisual materials in Spanish for dissemination prior to, during, and after emergency conditions. LULAC also acknowledges that Latino children are an exponentially growing population in California, Texas, and Florida and in metro areas of other states. LULAC supports Children's programming that acknowledges that the Latino population and cultures are an integral part of US society.

OIL WORKER STABILITY

LULAC is concerned about the stability of oil prices and its impact on oil workers, many of whom are Hispanic. LULAC supports state and federal efforts to stabilize the price of oil and prevent the displacement of Hispanic oil field workers and federal tax incentives to domestic oil producers to reduce dependency on foreign oil. LULAC is in support of a federal energy policy that encourages the development of alternative fossil fuel and other environmentally friendly energy sources. LULAC opposes drilling for oil on federal lands, especially in those areas

deemed necessary to the ecological well-being and quality of life of its inhabitants and neighbors. LULAC opposes HR 4517 “United States Refinery Revitalization Act of 2004.”

PUERTO RICO

LULAC reaffirms its strong support of legislation that provides a congressionally recognized framework for the four million US Citizens living in Puerto Rico to freely express their wishes regarding their options for full self government.

SENIORS

LULAC strongly advocates for programs and legislation to protect the quality of life of Latino seniors, for fair cost housing, transportation for those with special needs, in home care, employment opportunities, and the reduction of elderly abuse and fraud. LULAC seeks a reduction of costly prescription drugs and a streamlining of Medicare prescription drug coverage.

SOCIAL SECURITY

LULAC opposes the privatization of Social Security and any tax cut plan that would compromise its future stability. Individual accounts and tax cuts should not be substituted for Social Security’s currently defined system. LULAC supports stronger benefits for lower income groups, women, and the disabled.

WELFARE REFORM

LULAC supports fair welfare reform that acts as a safety net for those who need assistance for valid reasons. Reform should encompass providing bilingual job training, funding for child care, an increased minimum wage and job opportunities to meet the needs of urban and rural welfare recipients, with reasonable time limits and individual review, and monitoring to ensure they do not increase poverty. LULAC opposes benefit cuts previously afforded to legal immigrants, and strongly advocates the restoration of benefits to legal immigrants and children.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

LULAC strongly supports legislation that would guarantee pay equity for women, strong penalties for sexual harassment, and support for women who file complaints against their employers. LULAC supports the expansion of leadership development programs for women of all ages and encourages more Latinas to run for public office. LULAC strongly supports programs to protect women and their children from domestic violence and sexual abuse, and strong penalties for abusers that include but are not limited to community service, appropriate time in jail, and mandatory anger management training. LULAC strongly supports equity in healthcare for women to require that most health and disability insurance contracts which cover prescription medication must also cover prescription contraceptives. LULAC demands that the United States and Mexico work together to resolve the issue of the murdered women of Juarez.

WORKER’S RIGHTS

LULAC strongly supports the rights of working men and women to organize under the law and form labor unions dedicated to continuing the struggle for equality, social and economic justice. LULAC supports extending the benefits of a bountiful society for all workers, without regard to age, sex, race, nationality or creed, and all times improve the working and living conditions of all workers worldwide.



National LULAC President Hector Flores receives the TAMACC award. He is pictured here with Joe Lopez, Chairman of TAMACC and Theresa Barrera, Wal-Mart VP Merchandising. (Photos by Luis Nuño Briones)

Action Alert

If Senate resolution 1645; House resolution 3142 “Agricultural Job Opportunity Benefits and Security 2003” (AGJobs) passes into law this upcoming legislative year, undocumented and temporary migrant workers will have a chance at achieving permanent resident status.

AGJobs is an achievements adjustment program that gives undocumented workers or those with temporary resident status, an opportunity to achieve the next step in residency. Here are some highlights of the bill still under debate.

- AGJobs would give seasonal laborers a chance to visit family abroad and return to the United States.
- H-2A workers would have the right to enforce certain employment rights in federal court.
- Families of migrant laborers in the United States would be safe from deportation.

While this bill is not perfect, it provides important first steps toward improving migrant laborers’ quality of life in the United States. Contact your congressmen to demand passage of this bill. For their contact information call 202-224-3121 or visit: <http://www.house.gov/riterep/>

HISPANIC LEADERS

Leading the Way

Steering Students to College

by Patrick Mcgee, Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Printed July 25, 2004, with permission to reprint



ARLINGTON - In its uphill battle to boost Hispanic college enrollment, Texas doesn't have allies much better than Michele Bobadilla, a migrant worker's daughter turned outreach powerhouse. As the University of Texas at Arlington's associate vice president for outreach services, Bobadilla promotes higher education mostly in Dallas public schools, where 56 percent of the students have limited English proficiency.

People who have seen her in action say she's like a whirlwind, always trying to reach students who mistakenly believe they cannot afford or succeed in college. "Michele is a workaholic. When we ask her to do something on behalf of the district, she's there," said Rene Martinez, the Dallas school district's special assistant to the superintendent for dropout prevention and community outreach. "She's got special sensitivity to immigrant families and Spanish-speaking families and Spanish-speaking kids."

One of those children was Jaime Noriega, a Mexican immigrant who said he might not have made it to college if he hadn't met Bobadilla in 1992. At the time, he was a Dallas high school senior and she was director of the University of Texas at Austin's Dallas outreach center. He said that Bobadilla's staff helped him with financial-aid forms and that she steered him toward scholarships and even borrowed a suit for him to wear to admission interviews. "I most likely wouldn't have gone on to college," said Noriega, 30, a Texas A&M University graduate and an engineer working in San Antonio. "If I hadn't got in, I just would have had a minimum-wage job. That's what my brothers do."

Hector Flores, national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said Bobadilla has a talent for reaching people in the Hispanic community and making them feel like a greater part of the system. Noriega said he saw this side of Bobadilla when she invited his mother to a scholarship event. Noriega was reluctant, fearing that his mother, who does not speak English, would feel uncomfortable, but Bobadilla made her feel included. "She made my mom feel very welcome and told her what the situation was," he said.

Bobadilla was recently awarded the LULAC 2004 National Woman of the Year award for her outreach work. Her fluency in Spanish and ties to the Hispanic community are especially important since increasing Hispanic college enrollment is one of the biggest challenges in Texas higher education. Nearly 292,000 Hispanics were enrolled in Texas colleges last year, only 53 percent of the way toward a 2005 enrollment goal set by the state. Blacks have already met their enrollment goal, and whites have far surpassed theirs.

Friends say Bobadilla is a leader in this effort. They describe her style as an effective mix of being approachable while not watering down the message that getting into college requires hard work. In an interview at her office last week, Bobadilla showed some of the teaching tools she uses, such as booklets and fake money, to illustrate the increased earning power a college education brings. She said she repeatedly tells students that rigorous academic work is needed for success. "If you are academically prepared to compete with your peers, everything else will fall into place," she said. "The best guarantee of your success is your academic preparation period. That's something nobody can take away from you."

Michele Bobadilla, 49

Occupation: UT-Arlington associate vice president for outreach services since 1999

Experience: UT-Arlington director of admissions from 1996 to 1999, executive director to Dallas school district superintendent from 1995 to 1996, director of UT-Austin's Dallas outreach center from 1988 to 1995.

LULAC AWARDS

Ramiro Olivares, Man of the Year;
Michele Bobadilla, Woman of the Year;
Council 8003 Silver City, New Mexico, Council of the Year;
Manuel Isquierdo, Raymond Telles Education Award;
Ana Yanez-Correa, Aztec Award for Civil Rights;
Jim Salinas, J.C. Martinez Award for Membership Expansion;
Elsie Valdes, Anita del Rio Award;
and Dr. John Arnold, Cesar Chavez Award.

Brenda Viteri, Excellence in Law Enforcement;
Jennifer Parker, Career Enhancement in Law Enforcement;
Anthony Chap, Equal Employment Opportunity in Law Enforcement;
and Omar Ortiz, Excellence in Law Enforcement.

Eduardo Caraveo, Career Enhancement in Federal Correctional Services;
Mr. Alfredo Zavala, Outstanding Performance in Federal Correctional Services;
Mr. Rodney Serna, Excellence in Leadership in Federal Correctional Services;
and Eda Negrón-Oliver, Equal Employment Opportunity in Federal Correctional Services.



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Youth has high hopes for Hispanic Advocacy

by Anthony Spangler, Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Printed July 12, 2004, with permission to reprint



Gabriel Rivas, 15, was elected League of United Latin American Citizens youth director for Texas at the group's recent meeting. Rivas will be a junior at Arlington High School in the fall. (Photo by Star Telegram/ R. Jeena Jacob)

ARLINGTON - Gabriel Rivas was born into LULAC.

When he was a toddler, his mother took him to state and national conventions of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Members of the Hispanic advocacy group gave Rivas buttons to wear that read "Future LULAC President." He's not president yet. But the Arlington teen-ager was recently elected the Texas LULAC youth director for the next year. "I guess LULAC is pretty much in my blood," said Rivas, 15, who will be a junior this fall at Arlington High School. "I can see myself being involved for a long time."

Rivas held his first news conference last month to voice support for Texas' 10 percent rule for college admissions. "I think that's one of the most important aspects of LULAC -- the organization's emphasis on higher education," he said. "We need to have more Hispanics focusing on education." LULAC's youth director is responsible for establishing programs for more than 100 youth councils statewide. Past programs have focused on the need for higher education, curbing smoking and alcohol use, and how to increase Hispanic involvement in LULAC.

Rivas said he will start a project this fall to increase voter registration among Texas Hispanics. Among all racial and ethnic groups, Hispanics were least likely to register or vote, according to census data. In the

2000 presidential election, 27.5 percent of Hispanics voted, compared with 54.7 percent of Anglos and 54.1 percent of blacks, the data shows. "Texas will soon be 'majority minority,' with most of those people being of Mexican descent, but that doesn't necessarily translate into power, because not

enough Hispanics vote," Rivas said.

Terry Meza, Rivas' mother, is involved in the Arlington chapter of LULAC and is the deputy state director for youth. She said she is proud of her son for being so active in LULAC. "It's nice to see Gabriel growing up and having so much interest in LULAC," she said.

In school, Rivas is a member of the Key Club, the Multicultural Club and the Colt Calvary, and president of the Spanish Club. He wants to study engineering or architecture in college. Although Rivas has always been involved in LULAC, he officially joined an Arlington youth council two years ago. He was also recently named LULAC's young man of the year for Texas.

Jessica Martinez, district director for LULAC youth councils in Tarrant County, said she voted for Rivas at this year's state convention because he has strong leadership skills. "I was really impressed by Gabriel, especially considering that he is young," said Martinez, 17, a senior this fall at Sam Houston High School. "It will be good for the local youth council having Gabriel at the top youth position because we'll have a state contact living so close."

The youth councils of LULAC are the fastest-growing segment of the civil rights organization, Texas LULAC

The youth councils of LULAC are the fastest-growing segment of the civil rights organization.

Director Roger Rocha said. He said executive positions at the youth level are used to groom new leaders for the adult organization. "It is a great way for them to prepare to move into other positions at the state and national level," Rocha said. "Gabriel is up and coming in LULAC and life in general. He is a shining example of what LULAC youth is all about."

LULAC Youth Awards

Youth Sweetheart: Diana Moreno of Youth Council 5004

Young Man of the Year: Andres Madrid of Youth Council 3043

Young Woman of the Year: Lyric Olivarez of Youth Council 350

Mr. LULAC: Jose Jarmula of Youth Council 350

Youth Council of the Year: Galveston Youth Council 12

Youth Scrapbook of the Year: San Antonio Youth Council 301

Young Adult of the Year: Gerardo Rodriguez, California Deputy State Director for Young Adults

Advisor of the Year: Javier Montanez



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Through the SBC Foundation, we've donated more than \$60 million since the year 2000, to help improve technology access, education and workforce development. The SBC Excelerator program continues to support these areas in underserved communities and organizations across our 13-state region. Because it's where technology is seen the least that it's often needed most.



The SBC family of companies congratulates LULAC on its 75th anniversary.

New LULAC Youth President Shares Vision with Young Members



Arlinda Arriaga was elected Youth President this past July. Here she is pictured with Antonio Villaraigosa, city council member for Los Angeles' 14th District, who addressed the national convention attendees. Arlinda will start college in the fall. She hopes to become an educator and eventually run for congress.

(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Dear LULAC Youth:

It is such a privilege to have been chosen as the new leader of the largest Hispanic youth organization. I am much honored to be serving LULAC Youth in this capacity. As the LULAC National Youth President I pledge to represent LULAC Youth and the Hispanic community by applying the continued tradition of our mission, aims, and goals. I will strive to make myself and our board available to all members. I realize that as the Youth President I will encounter various challenges but I am assured that I will not face these challenges alone thanks to the newly elected Javier Montanez, National VP for Youth.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Immediate Past National Youth President Manuel Olguin, the National Youth Board, and youth across the League that have strived to promote the vision of LULAC Youth. Throughout the year I have had the opportunity to meet many youth that share common ambitions and goals for LULAC. Within these past couple of months my passion for LULAC has increased thanks

to the many of you that instilled your aspiration to grow unified as a LULAC family. Aside from my LULAC family I must take the time to thank my mother, Anita Arriaga and my grand-parents, Alex and Teresa Arriaga for their continuous support.

LULAC Youth have come to the front lines to express their concern about growing university costs, the DREAM act and other legislation that are attempting to shatter the strength of Latino college enrollment. We, as future Hispanic community leaders, will not allow such barriers to stand in our way. We plan to implement effective tactics and strategies to render the united voice of LULAC Youth to current legislators. We also plan on advancing our efforts to decrease the Hispanic drop-out rate. In addition, we will strive to promote health awareness with a special emphasis on AIDS, diabetes, and heart disease. We are increasingly aware of the issues Hispanics are facing and will act constructively in each of our communities to educate others on the facts.

These are merely a few of the issues I hope to address during my presidency. In order to adequately focus on these efforts we will hold many LULAC leadership training workshops and seminars throughout the year. Although, I am one person I know I will receive the support and active involvement of every LULAC Youth member. I look forward to networking with many of you and I commend you on a year well done and wish you the best of luck on the year to come.

***"Being of service is not enough. You must become a servant of the people. When you do, you can demand their commitment in return."* – Cesar Chavez**

Respectfully Yours,

Arlinda Marie Arriaga
LULAC National Youth President

Youth Council 301 Cleans Up Community



Council President Natalie Lucero paints over graffiti to beautify her city.

Recently, LULAC Youth Council 301 members worked hard to make a difference in their San Antonio community by painting over unattractive graffiti. The initiative will improve the quality of life for many who live in this area. The youth members enjoyed the work and look forward to participating in more events in their community that make a real difference.

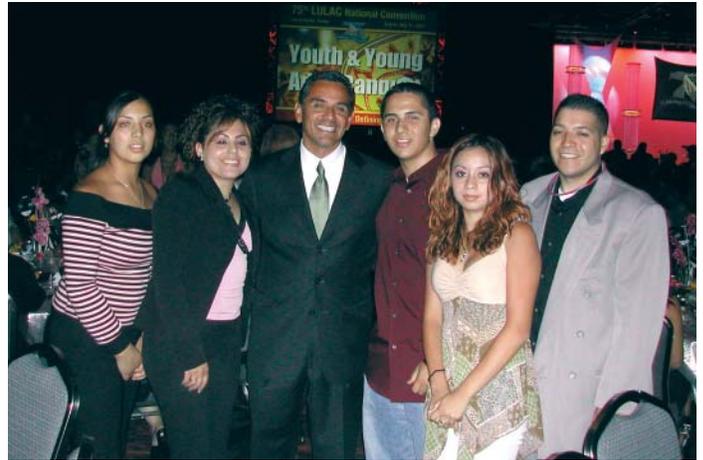


Council 301 members Jessica Contero and Stacy Perez work hard to make a difference in their community.

YOUTH CORNER



LULAC National President Hector Flores pictured with LULAC Youth during the National Convention in San Antonio. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)



Antonio Villaraigosa, city council member for Los Angeles' 14th District (center) with LULAC Youth from California.



Ryan Robolino and Ashley Urdialez of Youth Council 301 pictured with San Antonio councilman Julian Castro (center) who addressed the youth during the Youth and Young Adults Awards Banquet.



(L-R) National VP for Youth Javier Montanez who received an award for Advisor of the Year. Also pictured is Youth Council 301 President Natalie Lucero whose council received the award for Scrapbook of the Year and California Deputy State Director for Young Adults Gerardo Rodriguez who was named Young Adult of the Year.



Left: Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Frank Sanchez with Hanyes City, Florida youth council member Yashira Ortega, Southeast National VP for Youth Meliza Astacio and Michael Thrasher of the University of South Florida Young Adults Council.



Young Adult Council 30002 Ximena Najar with National President Hector Flores and Deputy Director of Youth for Colorado Xochilt Najar during the Latin American Education Foundation Scholarship Banquet.

More than 7 out of 10 Latinos Live in Polluted Communities

During the National Convention this past July LULAC released a new study highlighting the impact of air pollution on the Latino community. The study which was prepared in consultation with **Clear the Air**, shows that Hispanic Americans are more likely than white Americans to live in areas with polluted air. As a result, Latinos are disproportionately affected by the serious health effects of air pollution. Moreover, for many the situation is worsened by a lack of health insurance and language barriers.

“Our civil rights must include the right to breathe healthy air, the right to raise healthy children, the right to challenge the companies that pollute and petition the government charged with protecting us,” said Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President. “On this, our 75th anniversary, we are demanding our leaders recognize the effect air pollution is having on our families and demand real enforcement of clean air laws and real steps toward more stringent standards. Recent years have seen attempts to weaken clean air laws, and our people are paying the price.”

In the Foreword to the report, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson wrote, “This report confirms what many have feared: Hispanic communities disproportionately suffer health problems that result from living with pollution from power plants. Low-income and minority populations are subject to elevated environmental risks throughout the country, so this finding may not be surprising. But it is factual information that can provide a foundation for change”

Findings in LULAC study include:

- **In 2002, more than 71 percent of Latinos lived in counties that violated federal health standards for one or more air pollutants.**

- **Approximately 52 percent of Latinos under the age of 65 do not have insurance and overall Latinos account for an alarming one-quarter of the nation’s 74 million uninsured individuals.**

- **More than 19 million, or 50 percent of Latinos, live in areas that violate the federal health standard for ozone, one of the major triggers for asthma attacks.**

- **The incidence of asthma in children of Latino mothers is two and a half times that of non-Latino white children.**

“The Latino community suffers from the health threats associated with air pollution at epidemic proportions,” said Angela Ledford, Director of Clear the Air. “All Americans deserve stronger safeguards to reduce pollution from the oldest and dirtiest power plants. But the tens of millions of Hispanic Americans who breathe dirty air are among those with the most to gain – and the most to lose if we continue doing nothing.”

“Our civil rights must include the right to breathe healthy air, the right to raise healthy children, the right to challenge the companies that pollute and petition the government charged with protecting us,” said Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President.

This report brings to our attention that a standing Executive Order issued in 1994 requiring the EPA to take action to ensure minority and low income populations are not subjected to a disproportionately high level of environmental risk is being blatantly ignored. An internal evaluation found that EPA has refused to even define the words “minority” or “low income.” Instead, they have delegated the responsibility for implementing the environmental justice program to the states, resulting in a scatter-shot and ineffective system.

Attention LULAC

Celebrating 76 Years of Service

Excitement builds among LULAC members as we prepare for our next convention in beautiful Little Rock, Arkansas. We anticipate a spectacular convention June 27 - July 2, 2005.

Be sure to sign up by May 15, 2005 to receive your \$25 discount on registration.

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

See you there!

Get Out the Vote!

- 57.3% of eligible Hispanics were registered to vote in the 2000 presidential election*

- 45.1% of eligible Hispanics voted in the 2000 presidential election*

- Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the country and have become the most sought after voting block

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

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

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in the State of Texas.*

*La Prensa is San Antonio's only
family owned newspaper which
is culturally relevant to the
Bilingual readers of San Antonio.*



Verizon and LNESC Partnership Remains Strong



(L-R) Verizon Public Affairs Program Manager Naomi Saenz, LNESC Board of Directors Roman Palomares and Mary Fimbres, Verizon Vice President for Public Policy and Strategic Alliances Magda Yrrizary, and LNESC Chairman of the Board Hector Flores. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)

Verizon and LNESC recently announced the continuation of their youth literacy partnership. Verizon is supporting the national Young Readers Program with a \$200,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications. The grant will provide direct financial support to 14 locations around the country. 2004 marks the sixth year that Verizon has provided funding for the Young Readers program. In addition, Verizon's employee group, the Hispanic Support Organization, will continue their support by volunteering their time to work on this program.

Verizon's funds will afford educational opportunities for hundreds of Hispanic, minority and low-income children. Each year, Verizon's contribution impacts over 450 primary students and their families. As a result of their participation in the Young Readers program students enhance their reading ability by one to two grade levels. Young Readers is a multi-faceted program that enhances a students' ability to read, strengthens communication within the familial group and builds strong interrelationships between families, schools, and communities. Unlike remedial programs, the LNESC Young Readers program encourages children in the first to third grade to make reading a life-long habit by incorporating

entertaining educational activities that help children enhance their reading skills; develop an understanding of the reading process; and experience the joy of learning. Additionally because LULAC and Verizon volunteers participate in this program students gain strong positive role models.

The LULAC National Scholarship Fund Reaches Over 1,000 Students and provided 1,154 scholarships for the 2003-2004 year totaling \$660,658 dollars in awards. A total of 73 LULAC Councils in nineteen states and the District of Columbia participated along with twenty-three national corporations.

Major corporate partners for the scholarship included 7- Eleven, Inc., America's Charities, Anheuser Busch, Blockbuster Corporation, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Coca Cola Foundation, Coors Brewing Company, Daimler Chrysler Corporation Fund, Eckerd Corporation Foundation, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Ford Motor Company Fund, General Mills Foundation, Greyhound Lines, Household International, Lockheed Martin Foundation, Pitney Bowes, Procter & Gamble Commercial Company, Shell Oil Company, United States Army, WalMart Stores, Inc., Western Union First Data Corporation, and World Reach Inc. LNESC's two other major scholarship programs the General Motors/LULAC Schol-

arship and the General Electric/LULAC Scholarship have received a record breaking number of applications. Demand for the GM and GE scholarships is growing at a tremendous rate as the number of minority students pursuing business and engineering degrees increases.

LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar 2004

Decision 2004:
The Impact of the Hispanic Vote

October 6- October 10, 2004
Washington Hilton

Application Deadline:
September 10, 2004

Fax completed application to:
LNESC, ATTN: Charles Tamez
202.835.9685 fax



LNESC
LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc.



Greetings to all of my brothers and sisters in LULAC. The events of our Diamond Jubilee Celebration in San Antonio are now concluded and all of us on the National Board are grateful for your attendance and participation. As your newly elected National Vice-President for Women I want to thank all of you who supported my campaign and especially for your numerous and generous offers of assistance in addressing the challenges which lie ahead.

During the next few months I will be contacting the various Deputy State Directors for Women and other officers in our organization as I pledged

to do, so that we can all become effectively engaged in making this office your beacon of advocacy for all Latinas in LULAC and throughout this nation.

Your ideas and input are not only welcome but necessary, if we are to meet the goals required to make this office the point of reference for women's issues in the communities we serve. I look forward to working with all of you as we implement our agenda for equality and recognition of women's contributions to society.

Yours in LULAC,

Margaret Moran

Margaret Moran

2004 LULAC Women's Hall of Fame

The following women were inducted into the 2004 LULAC Women's Hall of Fame:

- Annabelle Guerra
- Elia Mendoza
- Christine Bobadilla
- Delia Nevarez
- Paula Gonzalez
- Dr. Lydia Medrano
- Margie Aguirre



New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron addressed the membership during the Women's Luncheon at the National Convention. She is pictured with Immediate Past VP for Women Vera Marquez (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)



Newly elected National VP for the Elderly Angie Garcia with Leonard James III, Multi-Cultural Manager for ExxonMobil during the Women's High Tea at the National Convention. ExxonMobil sponsored this special event. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones)



The above women were inducted into the LULAC Women's Hall of Fame during the National Convention in San Antonio. Right: National Youth President Arlinda Arriaga pins Past LULAC President Belen Robles during the Women's High Tea and Pinning Ceremony. (Photos by Luis Nuño Briones.)



Presidential Candidate Senator John F. Kerry

LULAC issued the LULAC Challenge to both presidential candidates to afford them the opportunity to explain their position on what we have determined to be the top ten crucial issues affecting the Latino community. We hope this will help you and other Hispanics make the best decision on election day. The below is the response from candidate Senator John F. Kerry.



EDUCATION

Education is at the core of America's basic promise - that all Americans should be able to make the most of their potential.

Over 40% of Hispanics in the United States over the age of 25 do not have high school diplomas. In 2001, over 30% of Hispanic students in high school dropped out. I will expand and improve early childhood education and Head Start programs, and I will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. I will offer a "New Bargain for America's Children and Teachers" to recruit and retain 500,000 teachers over the next four years.

I have a plan to help 1 million more students graduate in the next five years by enforcing the accountability provisions in No Child Left Behind for dropouts, investing in anti-dropout efforts like offering mentoring in middle school, shrinking big and unsuccessful high schools, and strengthening the high school curriculum.

As president, I will help more students attend college by taking on the three most critical barriers standing in the way of college success: inadequate academic preparation, the unnecessarily complicated financial aid process and the rising cost of college tuition.

I will expand the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) to serve 2 million children per

year. I will make it easier for students and families to learn how student aid programs will help them pay for college. I will also offer a College Opportunity Tax Credit that is refundable and available to students at the start of the school year—enabling more students to take full advantage of the benefits.

CIVIL RIGHTS and JUSTICE

Civil rights laws are just that: laws. As a former prosecutor I know something about enforcing laws. And when I am president, I will make it one of my top priorities to fully and vigorously enforce our nation's civil rights laws. I am an original co-sponsor of the Fairness Act, which will roll back the damage that conservative federal judges have done to our nation's civil rights laws and ensure that all victims of discrimination have access to the courts and to justice. I will also work to eliminate racial profiling.

I am now, and have always been, strongly in favor of affirmative action. America's diversity is a strength, not a weakness. I want to focus the nation on an all out effort to reduce racial disparities in education, employment, income, wealth, health, home ownership and business ownership. I am committed to doing what we know needs to be done now – and to leading the effort to find new solutions.

POLITICAL ACCESS

Latinos are the fastest growing group in our country. They embody the values that built America: strong families, deep faith, and closely-knit communities. The Latino community embodies an American ideal -- out of many, we are one.

Today, we are one step closer to an America that's stronger at home and respected in the world, but we have a long way to go. We're here to fight for good-paying jobs that let American workers actually get ahead. We're here to make health care a right for all of our people. We're here to make this nation energy independent. Over 90% of Latino elected officials nationwide are Democrats, but we need more Latinos serving in our country's highest elected offices. The Latino community has a strong voice in the Democratic party.

ECONOMIC POWER

One of our nation's most pressing civil rights battles involves ensuring equal access to good jobs. I have a plan to expand economic opportunities for Latinos. My economic plan will create millions of jobs in my first term. I will eliminate incentives for companies to ship jobs overseas, restore fiscal discipline to Washington, DC and work to create a workforce prepared to fill the next economy's jobs.

I will increase the minimum wage to \$7 an hour by 2007. Minimum wage today can no longer meet the needs of American families, and Latinos have been particularly hard-hit by its erosion. Over seven million Americans will benefit from this increase. Under my plan, millions will be raised out of poverty.

I will continue to lead the fight to preserve affirmative action in federal small business assistance and support fueling the growth of Hispanic-owned businesses by expanding the SBA 8(a) program. I will ensure that small businesses have the federal support they need to grow, by supporting and expanding loan programs to help more small business get off the ground. I will help micro-enterprises by expanding loans and equity for these smallest businesses, and will

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bridge the gap between entrepreneurs' need for capital and traditional financing sources by increasing the federal government's venture capital investments.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

I strongly support responsible reform of our immigration laws that honors our tradition as a nation of immigrants and that will make America stronger. I will offer a landmark reform bill in my first 100 days that will allow immigrants to earn legalization, encourage family reunification, offer a visa program with worker protections, and strengthen our border protections. By reforming our immigration laws, I will honor America's promise and strengthen America's economy and security.

I will fight for passage of the DREAM Act, the AgJobs legislation, and will work to restore benefits for legal immigrants.

ENVIRONMENT

As Americans, we have the right to breathe unpolluted air, drink safe water, eat uncontaminated food, live in clean communities and enjoy our natural treasures. Over the last three years, we have seen these rights eroded. We have seen hard-won environmental gains rolled back, our air polluted and our water contaminated. I will enact a Conservation Covenant with America to ensure balanced protection for our public lands and adequate resources to enhance our national parks. I will protect our health by reducing dangerous air emissions, and I will restore America's waters to protect our precious limited water resources. Some of the most serious environmental problems facing this nation are problems of environmental injustice. I will fight to ensure the right for all to live in a clean and healthy environment, regardless of color, race, ethnicity, or income.

HOUSING

For thousands of families the cost of housing is simply too great. I have been a strong proponent of preserving and expanding affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for the American people. I have

authored and co-authored numerous bills to encourage affordable housing, including the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, The Community Development Tax Credit Act, The First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act, YouthBuild, and The Affordable Housing Preservation Act.

Unlike the Bush administration, which has cut critical federal programs that help Americans find affordable housing, I will work to ensure the continued vitality of these important initiatives. For example, the President's 2005 budget seeks to cut the Section 8 voucher program by more than \$1.6 billion and has proposed a significant change the section 8 voucher program in a manner that will substantially reduce the number of families eligible for federal housing assistance and increase cost of housing for those families who remain. The President's budget request also significantly cuts funding for critical housing programs such as HOPE VI, which helps low-income families move into improved housing and in many instances become homeowners.

HEALTH

Latinos are more likely to be uninsured than people in any other racial or ethnic group. Over half of the Hispanic population went without health insurance the past couple of years. Soaring insurance costs threaten to drive the number even higher. I have a plan to provide access to health insurance to 27 million Americans, including all children. My plan also deals with the alarming increases in health care costs and the growing number of uninsured and will allow Americans to buy into the same health care plan that the President and Members of Congress have.

One in four Latino children lack any form of health insurance. I fought for the creation of the Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997, which marked the largest investment in children's health care in a generation. I will also fight to provide health care to legal immigrant children. I will improve language access programs in medical facilities and will ensure access to quality care

through greater disease management and prevention efforts.

We must also address the unjust disparities in our health care system—disparities often based on ethnicity and/or race. Latinos continue to live less healthy lives and die younger in America than other groups. Tremendous gains in science and medicine have benefited millions of our citizens, but too often they are out of reach for minorities. A Kerry-Edwards administration will work to eliminate these health disparities.

LEARNING ENGLISH

I support full funding for bilingual education and will improve language access in medical facilities and all government programs. Under my immigration plan, I will expand opportunities to learn English and obtain civic education classes to help immigrants assume all of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

I worked with Latino leaders in Massachusetts and the Massachusetts delegation to oppose efforts to prohibit bilingual programs in the state.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Today, women are witnessing an unprecedented erosion of their basic rights. I will help balance work and family by greatly expanding after-school programs to serve 3.5 million children and fund a historic increase in the Child Care Tax Credit to meet the needs of overstretched parents.

On average, women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. I believe that we must make equal pay for equal work a reality, not a slogan. I will close the pay gap.

I will also Protect Women's Health And Right To Choose. As president, I will increase funding for breast and cervical cancer research and treatment, require insurance plans to cover contraception and fight for a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights to guarantee women direct access to their OB/GYNs.

President George W. Bush



EDUCATION

No Child Left Behind requires states to set high standards for schools and ensures accountability so that all students meet those standards, including Limited English Proficient, and Hispanic students. The law requires schools to measure performance of all students to make sure every child completes school able to read, write, add, and subtract. The law also empowers parents to make choices: if a school is not improving, parents have the option to transfer their children to better performing public schools or select tutors paid for with Federal funding. We have also supported these reforms with historic increases in Federal education funding, including a 49% increase for elementary and secondary education in 2005, and a 52% increase for Title I funding for low-income schools since 2001. And No Child Left Behind requires participating Title I schools to provide equitable services to eligible children attending private schools and to their teachers and families.

CIVIL RIGHTS and JUSTICE

My Administration has worked to level the playing field for minority and low-income Americans by breaking down the barriers to affordable housing, health insurance, education, and economic prosperity. We are creating an environment in which Americans of all backgrounds share equal opportunities to achieve. And to ensure that equal justice is available to every American my Administration is the *first* to ban racial profiling in Federal law enforcement.

I support equal opportunity and equal rights for all. I also support affirmative access, a policy that aggressively reaches out to minorities, is inclusive of people of all races, provides equal opportunity, and promotes diversity, without resorting to quotas.

POLITICAL ACCESS

The best way for any American to make his or her voice heard is to vote on Election Day. And to ensure that the voting process is fair and legal, the Department of Justice is vigorously enforcing the Voting Rights Act so that every voice is heard.

It is important that government includes people from all walks of life. My Adminis-

tration includes many prominent Hispanics like my Counsel, Judge Alberto Gonzales, and Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto.

ECONOMIC POWER

We have created almost 1.5 million new jobs since last August, and the current unemployment rate (5.5%) is lower than the average rate during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. And the Hispanic unemployment rate (6.8%) is lower than the average rate during the previous Administration.

We are also creating an environment ripe for economic growth. There are millions of new small businesses owned by members of the Hispanic community. Hispanic-owned companies employ about 1.4 million Americans and carry a payroll of nearly \$30 billion. To continue expanding financing opportunities for small businesses, we have increased the number of government-guaranteed loans granted under the Small Business Administration's 7(a) program by over 50% from 2000 to 2003. Loans to Hispanic Americans increased by 42% from 2002-2004.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

America is a stronger and better Nation because of the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants. The jobs being generated in our growing economy that are not being filled by American citizens represent an opportunity for workers from abroad who want to work and fulfill their duties as a husband, wife, parent, son, or daughter. In order to make our immigration system safe, orderly, humane, and legal, I have proposed a new temporary worker program that offers legal status as temporary workers to the millions of undocumented men and women employed in the United States as of January 7, 2004, allowing them to come out of the shadows and seek protection from abuse and exploitation. Participation in this program should not preclude a worker from obtaining green card status through the normal

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process, but participants should not gain advantage in that process over those who have followed the rules. I favor increasing the availability of green cards to help make the opportunity to become a citizen more realistic.

ENVIRONMENT

Our air and water are cleaner today than they were ten years ago, but we can do even better. My Clear Skies Initiative is the most aggressive presidential effort since the 1970s to improve America's air quality. It will reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and, for the first time ever, mercury, by approximately 70%. My Administration has also implemented the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule, which will promote public health by cutting emission levels from construction, agricultural, and industrial diesel-powered equipment by more than 90%, and will also cut sulfur levels in diesel fuel by more than 99% over current levels. These efforts will also improve the health of all Americans and reduce the number of hospitalizations related to pollution.

Fulfilling a promise, I signed and implemented historic Brownfields legislation to clean up our Nation's urban areas by restoring more than 1,000 old industrial sites in our urban communities. We are converting them to safe, viable, and usable properties in our cities.

HOUSING

For the first time the majority of minority households are homeowners. I am committed to closing the minority homeownership gap by helping at least 5.5 million minority families buy a home by 2010. Through the American Dream Downpayment initiative, we will help an estimated 40,000 families with a down payment every year. My Zero Downpayment Initiative would help 150,000 families yearly, and the Affordable Housing Tax Credit would provide \$2.5 billion over five years to increase the supply of affordable homes.

HEALTH

My Administration is making health care more affordable and more accessible for every American. We have expanded Medicare to provide prescription drug coverage to seniors and established new health savings accounts (HSAs) so that Americans can pay for routine medical expenses and save for future medical expenses in a tax-free account. To help extend care to more low-income, rural, and minority communities, I have committed to a five-year plan to open and expand 1,200 new community health centers to serve an additional 6.1 million individuals (we are already serving 3 million more patients than in 2001). We have approved Medicaid and SCHIP changes that will extend eligibility to 2.6 million more Americans. I have also asked Congress to approve refundable tax credits worth up to \$3,000 per family to subsidize health insurance coverage for workers and their families. We have proposed to allow small businesses to band together to purchase more affordable coverage for their employees, and to reduce frivolous lawsuits that drive up costs and drive good doctors out of medicine. These combined efforts are putting health care control back into the hands of patients and doctors.

LEARNING ENGLISH

No Child Left Behind provides more support for English language acquisition than ever before at the same time that it values and supports native tongues. Under my Administration, funding to support English Language Acquisition programs has increased nearly 50% to \$681 million to ensure that Limited English Proficiency students are able to meet high standards in reading and math.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

We are working to ensure that all Americans are secure during their retirement. I am working to keep Social Security sound and reliable without changing benefits for retirees or near retirees and without raising payroll taxes. As we work together to strengthen Social Security we must offer younger workers a chance to invest in personal savings accounts, which for the first time, would provide many low-income and minority Americans with the opportunity to build a nest egg that could be passed along to their spouses and families.

We are also funding programs committed to eliminating disparities in health care. Through targeted programs, we are working to fight diseases like diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS, all conditions and diseases that adversely affect minority populations.

I support flexible work options for families. I support the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) which provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to employees in certain situations, including birth and adoption. And I have asked Congress to enact flex-time and comp-time to allow parents to choose more flexible schedules and spend more time with their children.

and Legislation

The USA Patriot Act: In Search of Balance

By Dr. Gabriela Lemus, LULAC National Legislative and Policy Director



Dr. Gabriela Lemus during a press conference at the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center demonstrated that vital tools were missing from the arsenal of U.S. law enforcement’s ability to gather intelligence and analyze it from a multi-agency perspective. Anxious to assuage public fear and to redress the weaknesses and “do something,” Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act on October 26, 2001. The paradox remains: does the PATRIOT Act responsibly update, strengthen, and expand laws governing the investigation and prosecution of terrorism within the parameters of the Constitution as the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) claims? Or, does the PATRIOT Act merely grant the Executive Branch sweeping new powers that undermine the Bill of Rights and are unnecessary to keep the country safe? The truth probably lies somewhere in between.

A July 2004, DOJ report about the application of the US PATRIOT Act highlighted the importance of the Act’s ability to revise “counterproductive legal restraints that impaired law enforcement’s ability to gather, analyze, and share critical terrorism-related intelligence information.” The report also highlighted the Act’s enhancement of criminal laws against terrorism, “in some cases increasing the penalties for planning and participating in terrorist attacks and aiding terrorists.” However, the report failed to mention that the Act also allows FBI agents to investigate U.S. citizens for criminal mat-

ters without probable cause of crime as long as they say it is for “intelligence purposes.”

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft has spearheaded efforts by the DOJ to enhance its abilities to investigate and prosecute terrorists and suspected terrorists. His efforts are mixed and include expanding guidelines that greatly diminish the oversight of FBI field offices by headquarters, while at the same time expanding the ability of the different agencies to talk to one another and thus

They could not clarify the extent to which racial profiling was taking place in Latino communities, particularly the profiling of immigrants.

eliminate the “wall” to sharing intelligence among each other. Nevertheless, though in principle it would appear to be not only a good idea, but a necessary one – in practice, according to the ACLU – Ashcroft basically provided new guidelines to use 21st century technologies to carry out 1960s style spying on domestic groups, not just terrorists.

The White House, in an effort to allay the concerns of civil rights organizations, including LULAC, and to shore up support for the PATRIOT ACT held a briefing on June 28, 2004 to discuss the different issues related to the PATRIOT Act and why it was important to not allow any of its provisions to sunset. The meeting was lead by the Honorable Alberto Gonzales, Counsel to the President; Alexander Acosta, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, US DOJ; and Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, US Department of Homeland Security. The main message from the meeting appeared to be twofold: first, the USA PATRIOT Act gave law enforcement adequate tools to do their job to counter terrorism; and second, that the power of rumor versus a clear examination of facts harms communities. During the meeting, both Assistant Attorney General Acosta and Under Secretary Hutchinson

Ashcroft basically provided new guidelines to use 21st century technologies to carry out 1960s style spying on domestic groups, not just terrorists.

broke down different sections of the law and basically asked the organizations present to take their perspective into consideration when making their decisions.

Although it was an excellent opportunity to create a dialogue between those agencies charged with implementing the USA PATRIOT Act, many issues were not answered fully at the meeting. They could not clarify the extent to which racial profiling was taking place in Latino communities, particularly the profiling of immigrants, nor would they say that it was related to the PATRIOT Act. They also did not seem to think that there was a problem with the breadth of discretion individual agents had to undertake an investigation and tag it as terrorist, in fact when asked, they answered that it was a standard practice. It was also not clear whether or not any real progress had been made among the different agencies to coordinate their intelligence activities and use the information.

In conclusion, it is imperative that as a national civil rights organization that defends and protects those who have no voice, LULAC continues to monitor the progress of the USA PATRIOT Act and its impact on our community. On the one hand, it is clear that law enforcement agencies need adequate tools to do their job in the defense of the national security of the nation. On the other hand, government agencies and officials need to understand that if they feel strongly that they need additional new powers to thwart terrorism and other attacks, they must prove that the benefit of said power is greater than that of its contrary effect on our First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights as both citizens and non-citizens.

Civic Participation and the Hispanic Vote: LULAC's Role

By Dr. Gabriela Lemus, LULAC National Legislative and Policy Director

The 2004 elections are widely considered to be among the most contested since the race between Bill Clinton and President George Bush in 1992. On the surface, some of the issues are similar: job loss, the state of the economy, and a war in Iraq. Yet, much has changed, including the growth and importance of the Hispanic vote.

Between 1996 and 2000, the numbers of the Latino vote increased by 19 percent, compared to Anglos, which only grew by 4.3 percent. It is expected that by the year 2050, if not sooner, Latinos are expected to make up about 25 percent of the population. In the 2000 election there were approximately 7.8 million registered Hispanic voters of which about 5.6 million voted. Yet, there still remain an additional 8 million Latino Eligible Voters nationwide who are not registered.

Arizona and Colorado are among two of the battleground states that contain a significant portion of potential Hispanic voters who are not registered to vote. Texas presents a unique challenge in that although many Latinos are registered, they are not voting on par with their registration. In Arizona for example, Latinos are 15 percent of the total Voting Age Population (VAP) Citizens for a total of 510,488 VAP Citizens. Yet, only 268,361 are actually registered to vote. That leaves 242,127 an estimated Latino registration target. These numbers are repeated throughout the nation.

The question that Hispanic communities across the country keep asking is: what will it take to get Latinos to register and vote? The Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation offer some clues in their recently released report: The 2004 National Survey of Latinos: Politics and Civic Participation. The report revealed a complex combination of native-born and new immigrant citizens, coming from all over Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain, from different socio-economic backgrounds and varying levels of education. It also demonstrated that Latino voters are more focused on bread and butter issues such as education, the economy and jobs, and health care, as well as a serious concern over the war in Iraq and the war against terrorism.

The report also highlighted some interesting attitudes regarding the United States and being part of American society. It indicated that the vast majority of Latinos view the United States as a blend of many cultures rather than a single core Anglo-Protestant culture, an opinion that is also shared by 92 percent of all Americans surveyed. Additionally, Latinos expressed that although it is important for them to blend into the larger society, it is even more critical that they maintain their distinct cultures and that they maintain the Spanish language in future generations. They feel that this is an important trait for all cultures and ethnicities. One point that was particularly poignant was that when Latinos were asked what it would take for an immigrant to become a part of American society, they responded that they would have to believe in the U.S. constitution, vote in U.S. elections, speak English and be a U.S. citizen.

Clearly, the groundwork is laid. Approximately sixty percent of Hispanics are native-born and many of these are part of the voting age population. Those who have become citizens have the unique opportunity to engage in their civic right and responsibility to vote. Candidates, political organizations, and the news media increasingly pay attention to the value of the Latino vote. On the one hand, this reflects the close nature of the current political races and the rapid growth of the Hispanic community. On the other, in states like Colorado, Hispanics have an opportunity for the first time in a long time to elect a Hispanic to the U.S. Senate. State Attorney General Ken Salazar won the Democratic Primary and will face Pete Coors, a brewery magnate to replace outgoing Native-American Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Currently, there are no Latino Senators serving in Congress.

For the first time, LULAC National is setting specific goals in the states of Arizona, Colorado, and Texas that its organizers are supposed to meet in combination with our grassroots volunteers to do door-to-door and on-site voter education and registration. The goal is to register 15,000 voters in all three states. It may seem small. But,

more importantly, the goal is to ensure that LULAC turns out of at least 50 percent of the new voters that are registered and that each and every vote is counted. In so doing, LULAC will prove that Latinos are interested in the voting process; interested in being part of American society; and interested in being good citizens by setting the example for the nation.

Election Protection: LULAC Partners with People for the American Way Foundation (PAW) and TracFone

Since 2002, LULAC has partnered with People for the American Way Foundation to ensure that every vote counts. This electoral cycle, once again, LULAC and PFAW are engaged in making sure that Latino voters know their rights before going to the polls. TracFone Wireless has joined with LULAC and PFAW in an innovative partnership, providing poll monitors with prepaid wireless phones in order to report Election Day problems and solve them on the spot.

The Election Protection Program (EPP) is a non-partisan national partnership committed to encouraging civic participation and preventing widespread disenfranchisement in the electoral process. This partnership is the nation's most far-reaching voter information, advocacy and protection program in this election, targeting 15 states, with 18 non-profit partners. Latinos represent a crucial voting bloc in at least seven of the 15-targeted states: CO, AZ, NM, NV, IL, FL, and TX. EPP trains volunteers in both English and Spanish as poll monitors and voter advocates to answer voters' questions and address problems on site at the polls, as they occur. Voters can call the Election Protection Lawyers' Hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE, if they are having problems at the polls. Remember, Know your Rights! Register to Vote! Vote Tuesday, November 2nd! It's Your Right!

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¡Averigüe cómo puede ahorrar en las cuentas de sus recetas médicas!



Una visita a la farmacia a veces significa altas cuentas de recetas médicas, pero ahora con las tarjetas de descuento en recetas médicas, aprobadas por Medicare disponibles en junio – puede ser que disfrute de alivio inmediato. Además, millones de personas de bajos recursos que tienen Medicare podrían calificar para un crédito de \$600 en su tarjeta de descuento para recetas médicas y obtener así más ahorros.

Medicare contratará compañías privadas para ofrecerles nuevas tarjetas de descuento en recetas médicas hasta que el beneficio de recetas médicas de Medicare comience en 2006. Busque el sello de aprobación de Medicare en estas tarjetas de descuento y compare cada tarjeta cuidadosamente para escoger la que le ofrezca lo que sea mejor para usted.

Se puede inscribir a partir de hoy. Para más información y para saber si usted califica para el crédito de \$600, llame gratis al **1-800-MEDICARE** y nuestros expertos le contestarán sus preguntas en español las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana. Las personas con problemas de audición o habla deben llamar al **1-877-486-2048**. También puede visitar **www.medicare.gov** por Internet.



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3 Simple Steps to Get A Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card

Different people have different drug needs and prefer to get their medicines in different ways. To compare cards and decide which Medicare-approved drug discount card is best for you, contact Medicare for help – either by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), visiting www.medicare.gov or contacting your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). If you visit www.medicare.gov, you can use our Price Compare tool to help choose your card or you can download our Guide to Choosing a Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card for more information.

You can always talk to a live person at 1-800-MEDICARE to get the facts you need. To better serve you when you contact us, have the following information ready:

1. Your ZIP code,
2. Your medicines and doses (you can find this information on your pill bottles), and
3. Your total monthly income (if you are interested in the additional financial help available for people with Medicare who have lower incomes).

To help narrow your discount card choices, you can also tell us your preferred pharmacy, whether you are interested in low-cost or no-cost cards, and the names of any specific cards you want more information about.

If you call 1-800-MEDICARE, we will send you a personalized brochure that allows you to look at discount cards based on your drug needs and your preferences about how to get your medicines. You can use this personalized information to:

- Look at the prices being offered for all of your drugs,
- Look at the annual enrollment fee charged by card sponsors that provide the best prices on your drugs, and
- Look at the pharmacies that accept the discount card to make sure your preferred pharmacy is included.

We will also send you a simple enrollment form and tell you how to contact the card sponsors directly for additional information or to enroll.

Requests for information about the Medicare-approved drug discount cards are at an all-time high. We have increased the number of customer service representatives from 1,200 to 3,000 at the Medicare call centers to make sure we can respond to every one of your calls. We are taking other steps to help reduce your call time and to use our www.medicare.gov web site more easily. The best days to call are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Addressing Hispanic Disparities Among Latinos

By Mary Ann Gomez

The U.S. Hispanic population is now 42.6 million, which is larger than the total population of Canada (31.9 million) and more than twice that of Australia (19.5 million).

Hispanics are faced with many challenges to access care and prescription drugs. One of the largest barriers is lack of health insurance. Findings in a study conducted March 2004, *Survey Brief* by the Pew Hispanic Center and The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation found that more than 35% Hispanics in the U.S. do not have health insurance. There are those who assume that Hispanics are uninsured because they are not employed which is incorrect. Two-thirds of Hispanics who report being uninsured are employed (63%). Many Hispanics are employed by small businesses or are self-employed and do not have access to affordable health insurance. Twenty percent are homemakers or stay-at-home parents, 12% are currently unemployed, 3% are retired and 3% are students.

In the *National Survey of Latinos in 2002* study by the same co-authors found that al-

though many Hispanics do not have health insurance, they also experience other challenges such as delaying seeking care because of costs or getting needed health care services. They also reported having problems communicating with health care providers due to language barriers or getting care due to their race and ethnic background.

Hispanics also have less access to medications. In a recent study conducted in February 2004, *Genes, Culture, and Medicines: Bridging Gaps in Treatment for Hispanic Americans* by the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the National Pharmaceutical Council in February 2004, the findings noted significant disparities in access, quantity and quality of pharmaceutical care. If they do have access, they are less likely to get newer state-of-the-art medications. There are also differences in how medicines are metabolized which may be due to variations in genes regulating drug metabolism, environmental factors, or their interaction. The study also found that language barriers and differences in cultural values can have an impact on the quality of care delivered and can negatively influence medication compliance, self-management of chronic diseases, and overall health outcomes for many Hispanic patients.

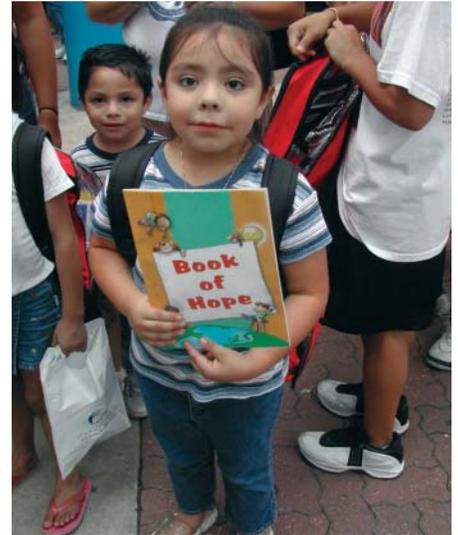
All the studies make several similar recommendations but the *2002 National Survey of Latinos* argues for a more dynamic approach in regard to Hispanics because this is a population undergoing constant change due to the processes of assimilation and immigration taking place side-by-side in communities. Recommendations include:

- Meet quality standards of cultural proficiency and communication
- Improve access to pharmaceutical therapies
- Treat coexisting conditions

For more information on PhRMA contact Mary Ann Gomez, maryann@gomezcommunications.com



Recently, LULAC District XV members and youth members from Youth Council 301 reached out to underprivileged children in San Antonio, Texas by volunteering in the *Agora Ministries Back to School Bash*. The event provided approximately 1,000 predominately Hispanic students of all ages with new backpacks filled with school supplies in preparation for the new school year. After they ran out of supplies, LULAC District XV Director Lourdes Rodriguez committed to providing supplies to those students in the near future. Congratulations to those LULAC members who took time to make a real difference in their community.



Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*. Please mail the below card to LULAC National Membership Office, 201 East Main, Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79901.

I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.

I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.

I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.

My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.

Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

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Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

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