

LULACnews

November/ December 2004

**LULAC Board Meets with
Washington Leaders**

**Washington Youth Seminar
Highlights**

**Hijacking of the Intelligence
Reform Agenda**

**History Made by the Election
of Two Hispanic Senators**



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LULAC National President Hector Flores (left) and LULAC board members met with Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige (middle) this past October. Also pictured is LULAC General Counsel Luis Vera and LULAC Parliamentarian Adrian Rodriguez.

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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE from the President



(Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in LULAC,
As we prepare for the holiday season we look forward to all the joys that the holidays bring. Let us be mindful that the true gift of Christmas is the ability to give. The best gifts that we can give are not material ones but those that give of ourselves. I hope that all of you will consider the many ways you can give back not only to your families but to your communities this holiday season.

Now that the elections are over we can proudly say that with the help of LULAC's voter registration project we were able to turn out a great deal of Hispanic voters. We were very happy to see that so many Hispanics made it to the polls, yet we still have a long way to go to reach our full political potential. We hope that Latinos

will continue to be active and remind those in their communities to vote at all elections, not just national ones. The right to vote is perhaps the single most important right we have as citizens. Let us never forget that this right was won through personal sacrifice by many Latinos and others to ensure that we maintain our great democracy and system of government.

Not only must we remain actively involved in elections, we must stay on top of our political leaders and demand accountability. Let us remind our leaders at all levels that they must consider the Latino voice in all their decisions from political appointees to legislation. One of the ways we can make a real impact in our communities is by constantly writing our congressmen and insisting that they pass legislation that positively affects Latinos. LULAC was very pleased to learn that we now have two Latino Senators. As a result, however, we will be calling on these legislators to specifically address our needs.

Many exciting things are happening with LULAC around the country. For example, this year LULAC has been working to create positive change from within the Hispanic community by providing access to, and utilization of, state-of-the-art computer technologies enabling Hispanic Americans to fully empower themselves in a digital age. The Empower Hispanic America with Technology initiative funded by the SBC Foundation will sponsor 23 computer labs in various communities across the country. We are also very excited about the GMAC homeowner initiative program "De Sueño a Dueño." This bilingual first-time home buyer educational program is actively being rolled out in 6 cities including Tucson, Boston, San Antonio, Houston, Albuquerque, and Miami.

As we reflect back on the year 2004 we remember the joys of celebrating LULAC's 75th anniversary. LULAC looks forward to 75 more years of success with an even stronger and more active membership. It is up to all of us to carry on the LULAC legacy for our future generations.

This year we held one of our best national conventions in the League's history with a record attendance of 15,000. We are looking forward to next year's convention which will be held in an emerging Latino community, Little Rock, Arkansas, from June 27-July 2, 2005. This convention promises to be one of our best yet with a variety of important speakers, insightful workshops, and top-notch entertainment. We hope that all of you will be able to attend and celebrate LULAC's 76th anniversary. *Feliz navidad y prospero año nuevo.*

Hector M. Flores
LULAC National President

LULAC Board Meets with Leaders in Nation's Capital

Hispanic Vote Emphasized

Contributor: LULAC Intern Carlos Ramos



LULAC National President Hector Flores with WYS student Grace De Leon during the press conference on Capitol Hill.

Every October the LULAC National Board joins together in our nation's capital to hold a board meeting. The board members take advantage of this opportunity to also meet with various governmental leaders to discuss issues that affect the Hispanic community. The LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYS) is also planned during the same time in order to give over 50 students from around the country the opportunity to interact with the board members.

This year the first event on the agenda was a press conference which took place on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the press conference was to release the results from the *LULAC Challenge* which was issued to both presidential candidates. The *LULAC Challenge* is a series of questions designed to challenge the candidates on issues of importance to Hispanics, including education, immigrants' rights, health care, the economy, and the lack of Hispanics in government.

"The presidential candidates must realize that now more than ever they need to pay attention to our interests and include us in their discussions if they want our vote," LULAC National President Hector M. Flores explained at the press conference.

LULAC Board, continued on page 5.

A Gift of Freedom

by U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL), Copyright, Hispanic Link News Service



LULAC National President Hector Flores with then Secretary of HUD Mel Martinez. Mr. Martinez was recently elected U.S. Senator for Florida. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

I grew up in a close-knit family in Sagua La Grande, Cuba, in the 1950s. My father Melquíades was a veterinarian who specialized in horses and cattle. My mother Gladys was a homemaker. I was the oldest of three children.

“That will never happen here,” I remember my father saying one day after reading in *Selecciones*, the Spanish Reader’s Digest, that the Communists had seized control in China.

And yet, it did. On January 1, 1959, rebel forces led by Fidel Castro marched into Havana and dictator Fulgencio Batista fled.

At first, many Cubans thought that Castro would make good on his promises of democracy and put an end to corruption. Within months, however, those who had fought for democracy were being imprisoned, and even executed. The Castro government seized businesses, threw families out of their homes, and first threatened -- then later closed -- churches and religious schools.

At that time, February 1962, I was 15. My parents had always been guided by their deep religious convictions and wanted me to live in a place where I could attend a church school and freely practice my faith. Cuba was no longer that place. Pervasive indoctrination had taken root in the schools. Cuban parents felt they were losing the right to educate their own children.

My family loved its freedom and its faith,

and my parents understood what needed to be done. They made the life-changing decision that I should leave them to live in the United States.

It was not until later, after I was married and had children of my own, that I understood the sacrifice my parents made in sending their eldest child to the United States.

I was one of more than 14,000 Cuban children sent to the U.S. under Operation Pedro (or Peter) Pan, named for the free-spirited character in the James Barrie play who could fly anywhere he wanted. A loving and courageous Florida-based Catholic priest, the late Monsignor Bryan Walsh, organized this massive humanitarian effort.

I arrived in Orlando speaking very little English. I was moved from one youth camp to a second, until I was finally told that a foster home had been found for me.

Walter and Eileen Young had answered the plea of their parish priest who was looking for homes for young Cubans. Despite the barriers of language and culture, the Youngs and their two sons made me feel like a member of the family from my very first day in their care.

Their older son Jim literally gave me his bed. I moved in with his younger brother Dennis, while Jim slept on the couch in the sunroom. The Youngs enrolled me in Bishop Moore High School and took me to church every Sunday. I called them *Tía* and *Tío*, aunt and uncle, and while they considered me family, they made certain I never forgot my own family in Cuba. We exchanged letters frequently.

In late 1964, Mrs. Young’s mother became ill and came to live with them. Because there were only two bedrooms and the house was no longer big enough for all of us, I moved in with my second set of foster parents, June and Jim Berkmeier. They, too, had responded to the request of their parish priest and showered me with love and kindness.

In May 1962, my younger brother Rafael was allowed out of Cuba and he came to Miami with our aunt and uncle, Mario and Luisa Esquiroz. Four years later, we received the news we had been awaiting so long: my parents and sister Margarita had at last been

given permission to leave Cuba.

By this time, I was attending Orlando Junior College. I was proud to be able to do for my parents what the Youngs and Berkmeiers had done for me. I found them a small house to rent and a job for my dad. He was a skilled professional, but did not speak English and had no veterinary license. And so he worked at the Lee Dairy, and was never too proud to do whatever his employers asked.

That December we had the Christmas for which I had been praying for nearly five years. In my parents’ tiny home, *Mami* and *Papi*, Rafael and Margarita, the Youngs and the Berkmeiers and I celebrated the birth of Christ with a traditional Cuban holiday dinner -- roast pig, yuca, black beans, rice and *turones* (Spanish candy).

Six parents celebrated Christmas with me in my new country. I have been blessed with many wonderful moments in my life since then, but I don’t remember ever being happier than I was on that day.

Over the years, I have remained very close to all my parents. They were with me when I graduated from college and law school, started my law practice, married and began my family. Since then, however, both Mr. Berkmeier and my father have passed away.

On January 24, 2001, nearly 39 years after arriving on these shores, I was sworn in as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development with President George W. Bush looking on. Monsignor Walsh, who had such an impact on my early life, was also there. I had more parents in attendance, I am sure, than any other member of the Cabinet.

Every holiday season, as I celebrate with my family the many joys with which we have been blessed, I reflect back on my journey to freedom. I think about the opportunities I have enjoyed since that time which I would have been denied if my parents had not sent me away. And I appreciate all the more what it means to be living in a place where my children -- and now my grandchild -- have opportunities I could only dream about when I was a boy. They are growing up in freedom, which is a far more precious gift than anything that could be wrapped in a box and tied up with a bow.

LULAC Board, continued from page 3.



LULAC board members meet with the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the Department of Defense to discuss the underrepresentation of Hispanics in the agency.

President Flores said that he was disappointed that neither Bush nor Kerry promoted their views on Hispanic issues in the debates or other public appearances. As a result, LULAC appealed to the Commission on Presidential Debates to ensure that questions about Hispanic issues are included in future presidential debates. “We need to ensure that we’re not excluded from the American political agenda,” added Flores.

After the *LULAC Challenge* was presented, two WYS student leaders presented the WYS policy paper on the impact of the Hispanic vote. The paper was the product of hours of intense work by the 53 young leaders involved in the seminar.

Following the press conference the LULAC board members took the opportunity to directly address government agency leaders. The board separated into groups and visited with high ranking officials from the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice and several other agencies to discuss issues that affect the U.S. Hispanic population.

For example, LULAC board members met with Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld and Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu at the Department of Defense (DOD). LULAC made it a point to discuss the need for increasing the His-

panic representation in the armed forces at all levels. The DOD acknowledged that they need to improve in this area. A major concern for LULAC is that Hispanics are largely overrepresented in the active-duty enlisted force and under-represented at the higher levels within the DOD. For example, today Latinos represent 16 percent of the 18-24 year old population in the U.S. and of that number they make up 9.9 of the active-duty enlisted force yet only 4.7 percent hold active-duty officer corps. In addition, Hispanics are severely under-represented in DOD’s civil service, making up only 6.2 percent while they represent about 13 percent of the general U.S. population.

Of all the military branches, the Marines have been the most successful at enlisting Hispanics while the Air Force possesses the biggest challenge. As a result, the DOD has been aggressively attempting to reach out to the Hispanic population via their attendance at LULAC’s National Convention.

At the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office (CIS) LULAC board members met with Chief of the Office of Citizenship Alfonso Aguilar. The LULAC board urged CIS to reduce the tremendous backlog in processing citizenship applications. This backlog can delay an application for up to eleven months in some offices. CIS noted that part of the backlog problem was a result of the need for officials to adjust to the new rules following 9-11. LULAC also took advantage of the meeting via their proposal to have CIS commence a commission so as to force a study repatriating foreign born Hispanic-Americans who were forced to leave the country in the 1930’s. The board then brought up concerns of immigration “roundups.”

At the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, LULAC board members met with Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. LULAC engaged Mr. Barrales by advocating the creation of a mechanism that would give Puerto Rico the ability to become a state if its population so chooses. Mr. Barrales
LULAC Board, continued on page 6.



LULAC National President Hector Flores (right) attended the hearing for Anna Escobedo Cabral for U.S. Treasurer. Mrs. Cabral (right) was confirmed and is pictured with her husband Victor Cabral Senior Counsel for Government Affairs at NBC/Telemundo and two of their daughters.

LULAC Board, continued from page 5.



LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela Lemus with LULAC Legal Advisor Ray Velarde during their meeting at the Department of Justice.

rales promised board members that he would look into LULAC's concerns regarding H.R. 10. H.R. 10 would do nothing in terms of tracking down terrorists; instead it subjects immigrants to fast-track deportations and denies them protection from persecution, among other things. H.R. 10 is supposed to comport with the 9-11 Commission's findings but instead serves as a distraction from real reform. Instead, LULAC supports the Senate's version of the bill, which was led by Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and passed by a nearly unanimous vote (96 to 2). On another note, the LULAC Board voiced their appreciation to Mr. Barrales for the current administration's efforts in appointing Hispanics. However, the board was quick to point out that Hispanics remain severely underrepresented in the federal civilian workforce.

At the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) board members met with Deputy Secretary Roy Bernardi and Deputy Assistant Secretary Ana Maria Farias. Their discussion centered on the creation of affordable housing for the Hispanic community and housing assistance for "first time" Hispanic homebuyers. They also discussed the creation of the LULAC Housing Commission and how the Commission could work with HUD to educate the Hispanic community on homeownership. Bernardi

offered to host a formal training session in Washington, D.C. for all Commission members. The training which is expected to occur in December will be conducted by Bernardi's principal staff. The board also discussed the employment statistics and thanked the Deputy Secretary for the work they did this year recruiting Hispanics but reminded him that LULAC would like to see more improvement in this area.

The LULAC Board of Directors met with Assistant Attorney General Alex Acosta of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Acosta noted the high rate of incarcerated juveniles that commit suicide and the need to assist this at-risk population. Acosta asked for LULAC's assistance in educating juveniles of their rights when incarcerated. The LULAC board members present committed to participate in educational programs to assist these people. In addition, Mr. Acosta agreed to personally follow up on an employment discrimination case in Illinois and to work with LULAC Vice President for the Midwest Blanca Vargas on this matter. Finally, Acosta called on LULAC to assist the DOJ in stopping the crime of human trafficking. The board members agreed to work with DOJ to stop this modern day version of slavery by notifying officials whenever they receive wind of such violations.

The LULAC national board members intend to continue communication with the cabinet leaders of these and other agencies in order to press for positive change in the Hispanic community.

LULAC Youth Awards

We apologize for failing to include the following awardees in the last issue.

National Loyalty Award
Emma Moreno and Christine Bobadilla

LULAC Calendar

- Texas Legislative Gala
WHEN: February 24, 2005
WHERE: Doubletree Hotel , Austin, Texas
CONTACT: Roger Rocha at rocha_roger@msn.com or Oscar Moran at oscarsmoran@aol.com

- LULAC National Legislative Gala
WHEN: March 14, 2005
WHERE: J.W. Marriott Hotel Washington, DC
CONTACT: Carlos Zapata at 202-833-6130 or czapata@lulac.org www.lulac.org

- National Women's Conference
WHEN: April 8-9, 2005
WHERE: Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
CONTACT: Margaret Moran at Moran0529@aol.com or (210) 733-0406

- Texas State Convention
WHEN: June 2-5, 2005
WHERE: Hilton Airport Hotel San Antonio, Texas
CONTACT: Roger Rocha at rocha_roger@msn.com or Oscar Moran at oscarsmoran@aol.com

- LULAC National Convention
WHEN: June 27 - July 2, 2005
WHERE: Little Rock, Arkansas
CONTACT: (202) 833-6130 www.lulac.org



LULAC National President with two of the Fiesta de las Flores contestants in Corpus Christi.

Winners of the Chevy Blazer Raffle



The Salinas family won a brand new Chevy Blazer which was raffled during the National Convention in Orlando, Florida last year. Here LULAC Council 291 President Silvestre Acevedo hands the Salinas family the keys to their new vehicle. Pictured (L-R) is Council 291 member Diana Rocha, President Silvestre Acevedo, Olga Salinas, Frank Salinas, their son Frank Salinas, Jr. and Council 291 Vice President Ramiro Flores.

LULAC Council President Meets with President Fox



Dr. John Arnold meets with President Fox to discuss small businesses in both countries.

Small businesses make up a great portion of the U.S. economy. Arizona border LULAC Councils such as #1091 in San Luis, Arizona, and Council #1095 in Douglas, Arizona, have a special interest in small businesses that conduct import and export activities with Mexico since a majority of the council's members own micro businesses.

On October 13-18, 2004, members from three Arizona LULAC Councils 1091, 1088, and 1095 traveled to Mexico City at the invitation of FONAES (Mexico's equivalent to the Small Business Administration) to set up booths to sell and promote micro business products from the United States.

During the EXPO, President of PPEP Farmworker Council 1088 Dr. John David Arnold had an opportunity to visit with President Vicente Fox about opening the lines of communication between the micro business sectors in both Mexico and the U.S. Dr. Arnold also discussed the need for a micro credit program in the United States for Mexican micro-entrepreneurs living in the U.S. who do not have access to United States credit institutions.

PPEP, Inc. has received \$50,000 from a private foundation to start a micro-fund for Mexican micro-businesses in the United States. Accordingly, President Fox was asked if the Mexican government would consider matching that fund. The President indicated a willingness to support this effort.

If LULAC decides to become an international organization many alliances with Mexico such as those that would affect micro business could be enhanced.

BOOK REVIEW

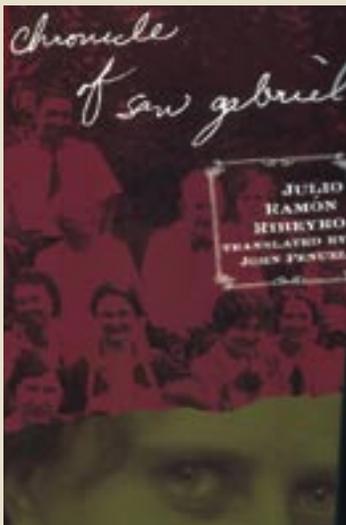
Julio Ramón Ribeyro (1929-1994)

Translated by John Penuel

Reviewed by Lorraine Quiroga Mullaly

The *Chronicle of San Gabriel* presents a unique opportunity to learn about Peruvian culture and history through a work of fiction written by one of Peru's top writers. Ribeyro masterfully uses irony to develop his characters in an isolated setting in the Peruvian highlands.

The story is about a Spanish family, who like other such families in Peru at that time, enjoyed the fruits of the labor of the indigenous population. Ribeyro's main character, Lucho, develops into a man through his confrontations with family secrets and the seduction of a woman. Ribeyro artfully allows the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about social injustice and racism that was widely accepted as the norm during this era.



Ribeyro's ability to take the reader to another place with elegant prose and vibrant descriptions makes it difficult to put the book down. Up until this year English speakers were unable to enjoy this work.

Julio Ramón Ribeyro has been regarded as one of Latin America's most important writers. He was awarded the Juan Rulfo Literary Award for his many works including *Marginal Voices: Selected Stories* and *Los gallinazos sin plumas*. The late Ribeyro served as

a UNESCO ambassador for Peru while living in France and worked as a journalist for several years in Europe.

Florida Still Needs Your Help

Remembering These Families During Christmas Time



The above is a photo of the remains of what used to be the home of a migrant worker family in Florida.

With hurricanes hitting the state of Florida three times in the last few months relief is still desperately needed. Unfortunately, there are areas that are obtaining less than adequate assistance possibly due to the undocumented status of many of their residents.

“We are calling for LULAC members and others to send donations as soon as possible,” said de Palma. “We are in desperate need of supplies and food for the forgotten.”

Areas that have large Hispanic farmworker populations such as Desoto and Manatee Counties are suffering terribly. “There are homeless families that have no where to turn. We see children suffering from mosquito bites and diarrhea from the horribly unsanitary conditions,” said LULAC Florida State Director Anita de Palma. “We will all suffer the consequences of diseases if we do not get these people help immediately,” added de Palma.

Unfortunately, efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have been very limited. Accordingly, LULAC councils and local churches have been working to make up for the areas where FEMA is lacking. “We are doing our best but we have

“Christmas is coming and now more than ever I call on each LULAC member to remember our brothers and sisters during these very difficult times.”

very limited resources. We are calling for LULAC members and others to send donations as soon as possible,” said de Palma. “We are in desperate need of supplies and food for the forgotten.”

“Christmas is coming and now more than ever I call on each LULAC member to remember our brothers and sisters during these very difficult times,” said LULAC National President Hector Flores.

LULAC councils in Florida are planning a Latin Festival benefit on December 3-4, 2004. In addition, the local councils plan to adopt a

few families to provide them with supplies, gifts, and food over the holiday season.

If you would like to participate in any of these activities please contact Anita de Palma at 727-446-0272 or email her at Adepalma@msn.com. If you would like to donate to this important cause please send your tax deductible donations to LULAC, 201 East Main, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79901. Please make checks payable to the LULAC Institute.

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 lquirosa@lulac.org or mail to LULAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Attn: LULAC News. All information is subject to editing.



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This project, and all related national and local programs and publications, are made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund.

www.retratos.org

HISPANIC LEADERS

Leading the Way

First Hispanic Woman Grad Credits Air Force Academy for Her Success

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

Printed September 22, 2004, with permission to reprint excerpts



Not only was Linda Garcia Cubero the first Hispanic woman graduate of the Air Force Academy, she was the only Hispanic woman to graduate from any of the nation's service academies in 1980, when the first classes with women graduated.

Cubero said she decided to pursue an education at the academy to follow her father's footsteps into the Air Force as a commissioned officer. She also wanted to travel and see the world.

She spent seven years in the Air Force serving as a command briefer to a four-star general and on national-level task forces at the Pentagon. As a liaison to the White House, Cubero supervised the development of a U.S. commemorative postage stamp honoring Hispanics in the defense of the nation. The stamp was designed by the 10 surviving Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients and unveiled by President Ronald Reagan at the White House in 1984.

The former Air Force captain said she spent four years at the Pentagon with the Defense Intelligence Agency and three years at the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. She resigned her commission after marrying a civilian and starting a family, and she started a graduate-degree program. Cubero said

her first year at the academy "was pretty rough."

"I wasn't used to being yelled at and being braced up against the wall and told to tuck your chin in and do push-ups and sit-ups," she noted. "The academic environment didn't bother me. The physical aspect didn't bother me, but the mental and emotional challenge was tough. The intent is to strip you down

as individuals and form you into first a follower and then learn how to be a leader and how to be a part of a team. They do a very good job of that." But the transition is tough, she said, for an 18-year-old who has never been away from home.

"So emotionally and mentally it was quite a challenge. But one that I think created a foundation for my success today," said Cubero, now a client director at Hewlett-Packard. She's also on the board of directors of the Girl Scouts Tejas Council in Dallas, Texas.

In 1998, Cubero was inducted into the National Hispanic Engineering Hall of Fame. In 2002, Hispanic Business magazine named her as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the United States. She has been featured in several magazines and is a frequent keynote speaker. She said the four years at the academy, the discipline, the leadership, the skills she learned and the academic background all laid a foundation for her successes in life. "The self-confidence I have today was built there," Cubero said. "It had a tremendous impact on my career and my success both in the Air Force and in the corporate environment."

Her advice to young Hispanic women who are contemplating attending a military academy is to "make sure it's something you really want; make sure it's for you. If it's not for you, you will not survive. You'll be very unhappy." Cubero said those who are given an opportunity to attend an academy should give back as they grow and learn. "Make sure you share

the definition of success "isn't in the size of your paycheck, but in the opportunities you create for others and in the differences you can make."

those learnings with others," she said.

When she spoke at the National Latina Symposium honoring Hispanic women military academy graduates earlier this month, Cubero told the gathering that her lifelong motto is, "You tell me I can't, and I'll show you I will." While at the academy, she said, she learned the value of an education is not just from books or classrooms, but also from experiences and relationships. "I learned that the only barriers in your way are those you create yourself," Cubero said. "I learned the value of true friendship and what it means to serve others before self." She said she also learned about an honor code that says, "We will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate among us anyone who does."

"And I learned that your integrity, your word, is something that no one can ever take away. I learned that serving your country is not just about putting on a uniform every day; it's about duty, pride, honor, character and about being part of a team." Since graduating from the academy, Cubero said, she learned that the definition of success "isn't in the size of your paycheck, but in the opportunities you create for others and in the differences you can make. "I've also learned that when they said, 'Just being an academy grad will open up doors for you,' they really meant it; it's true," Cubero noted.

HISPANIC LEADERS

Leading the Way

A Forgotten Hero

by Nick Jimenez

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James DeAnda helped to lead the fight for Mexican-Americans to sit on juries in Texas.



Every week scores of local citizens are called to jury duty at the courthouse. Some of us go willingly. Some not so willingly. I doubt very many, especially those of us who are Mexican-American, realize what it has cost to put our names on that list of potential jurors.

Fifty years ago, five Texas Mexican-American lawyers went before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue a point relating to a murder case originating out of Edna in Jackson County. Their victory was a major turning point in the nation's history.

One of those lawyers, James DeAnda, a former federal judge and still in the private practice of law in Houston, will be honored here Wednesday. This tribute is part of a fundraiser for Turning Point Counseling Services, a local non-profit organization that trains mental health professionals and also provides counseling services for underserved groups.

DeAnda is one of the giants in Texas history and in the nation's history of civil rights. His name is in that pantheon that includes Dr. Hector P. Garcia, federal judge Reynaldo Garza, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez and LULAC founder Ben Garza. These were all 20th century pathfinders for Mexican-Americans.

One of the great gaps in our grasp of history is the knowledge of ourselves. How did we come to be who we are? It is a melancholy

fact that Mexican-Americans know little of how they came to their present place in society and who helped put them there. If you doubt this, pass by the former medical office of Dr. Garcia. Its neglected state tells us much of how we treasure our past.

In 1954, at least 70 counties kept Spanish-surnamed citizens off juries. This was true in Jackson County, up the coast from Corpus Christi, as it was in so many other places in Texas. This was not because Mexican-Americans were few in number. In fact, Spanish-surnamed residents made up about 14 percent of the county's population; all but a small number were born in the United States.

The year is important. Only six years before Garcia had risen to national prominence because of the Felix Longoria case, in which the deceased veteran had been denied use of a Three Rivers funeral home. Mexican-Americans, as a native-born group, with a heritage grounded in both Mexican and American cultures, many whose dominant language was English, were a growing presence in American society.

DeAnda joined Gus Garcia, a San Antonio attorney, in defending Pete Hernandez, who was accused of murder. Hernandez was convicted and Garcia and De Anda appealed on the grounds that no citizen of Mexican descent had served on a Jackson County jury in 25 years. Which was true, but which the state, in its defense, argued was allowed by the Texas Constitution, which recognized only discrimination against blacks.

The five young lawyers took their fight to the Supreme Court. LULAC paid for the appeal, putting together a fund drive built on nickel-and-dime contributions. Gus Garcia, a near legend in his own right, made the oral argument. On May 3, 1954, the court ruled for the plaintiffs. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote that "it taxes our credulity to say that mere chance resulted in there being no members of this class among the over six thousand jurors called in the past 25 years."

LULAC Leader Honored



LULAC VP for the Midwest Blanca Vargas was recently appointed to serve as United Nations Day Chair by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Blanca was appointed for this year's commemoration on Women's Rights and Empowerment. Above she is pictured with the Governor during his recent Education Summit. Blanca took this opportunity to discuss the LULAC National Convention with him which will take place in Chicago, Illinois in 2007.

Fighting discrimination in CCISD DeAnda went on to fight school discrimination cases in Driscoll and Corpus Christi, the latter being the signal "Cisneros" case that desegregated schools in the Corpus Christi Independent School District and established that Hispanics were an "identifiable ethnic minority."

The 20th century world in which DeAnda, Dr. Garcia and Gus Garcia lived is so much different than our world. This was the time of the poll tax, segregated drinking fountains, "No Latinos need apply" job listings and Hispanic students placed in segregated classes. These things were accepted as normal. And racism is most insidious when it is accepted as part of life, even by its victims.

DeAnda was among that small group of heroes who said, no, this is not normal, this is not American.

Nick Jimenez can be reached at 886-3787 or by e-mail at jimenezn@caller.com.

Recently Judge DeAnda was honored by Turning Point Counseling Services, Inc. LULAC National President Hector Flores and Executive Director Brent Wilkes attended this important event.

Arlinda Arriaga, National Youth President

Each issue we profile a LULAC member who has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and in his or her community. In this issue we are profiling Arlinda Arriaga.



Where and when were you born?

January 11, 1986 in Dallas, Texas

Where are your roots from?

Mexico and Spain

What do you enjoy in your spare time?

Bowling

What is your favorite book?

La ultima niebla

What is your favorite movie?

Fahrenheit 9/11

Who do you admire most?

Anita Arriaga, my mother because of her strength and independence

What do you believe is the best leadership trait?

Integrity

What is your favorite dish?

Blackened Chicken Alfredo Fettuccine

What compelled you to join LULAC?

The growing issues affecting Hispanics

What do you believe LULAC should focus on?

Molding the young professional

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

Shannon Rodriguez-Anderson, she has been my LULAC youth advisor from the very beginning. I give her a great deal of credit because she has helped to mold me into the person I am today. She is truly a role model.

What is your most memorable LULAC experience?

My first North Texas Youth Convention in Plano, Texas where I addressed the luncheon standing on two milk crates and a phone book.

What do you perceive to be the most pressing LULAC issue?

Education and citizenship

What message would you like to give young Hispanic students?

Get an education, take risks, and live out the experience, these are the priceless opportunities in life.

What do you do when you are not involved with LULAC?

Usually, I am studying or reading but I also take time to spend with my family.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

To focus on voicing the issues affecting Hispanic youth as well as increase the visibility of the LULAC Youth organization in the United States.

Who's your favorite writer?

Maria Luisa Bombal

What are your career plans?

I would like to have my own law firm as well as run for office in the U. S. Congress.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

Being selected to receive the Craig Gilbert Award for outstanding community service efforts.

What is your greatest accomplishment as a LULAC leader?

Being given the privilege to preside and sit among some of the top LULAC Youth members

What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

Honesty



Arlinda Arriaga with U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona during the LULAC National Convention in San Antonio this past June. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.)

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Latino Voter Turnout

U.S. Senate Gains Two Hispanics



Ken Salazar (right) is one of the two Hispanics who was elected to the U.S. Senate in this last election. Here he is pictured with his brother John Salazar (right) who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Both are Democrats who represent the state of Colorado.

The dramatic increase in Hispanic voter participation in this election foreshadows huge gains in Latino political power still to come," stated LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes. "With the Hispanic population expected to grow to 25% of the U.S. population by 2050 and hundreds of thousands of Latinos becoming eligible to vote every year, it has become increasingly clear to politicians of both political parties that they must address the interests of Latinos and field more Latino candidates in order to remain competitive."

No one could have said it better in regard to the 9 million Hispanics who voted on this recent Election Day. This was a huge jump from the 6 million who voted on election day in 2000. Furthermore, the Hispanic share of the U.S. electorate also grew by 33% in just four years and now accounts for 8% of the U.S. electorate compared to 6% in 2000 even as a record number of Americans went to the polls. The fruits that such benefits have yielded are the presence of two Latinos, Ken Salazar (D-CO) and Mel Martinez (R-FL) in the United States Senate, the first elected Latinos in that body since 1977. Salazar defeated Peter Coors (R) despite a disadvantage in campaign funds. Martinez, former Bush appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development won a close race against Betty Castor (D). In addition, Democrats Henry Cuellar of Texas and John Salazar of Colo-



LULAC National board members met with Arkansas Governor Huckabee (third from front left) recently to discuss plans for the next LULAC National Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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See you there!

rado along with 21 Latino incumbents won election to the U.S. House of Representatives increasing Hispanic representation in that body to 23 members. Ken Salazar and John Salazar are the first Latino brothers to serve in the Senate and House simultaneously and join brothers Lincoln and Mario Diaz-Balart and sisters Loretta and Linda Sanchez as Latino siblings serving in Congress.

Bush's campaign strategy apparently worked in that he attracted 42% of the Hispanic vote, which was up from 35% in 2000 and the highest ever for a Republican. As a result, LULAC will insist that the new ad-

ministration increase Latino nominations to high ranking positions, increase Latino representation in the Federal civilian workforce and push forward key Latino issues such as education, housing, health care, and immigration reform.



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My Family's Christmas Tradition

by Lupe Yepiz, LULAC National Intern

Perhaps one of the main reasons we Latinos enjoy celebrating Christmas so much is the delicious food we share during the holiday. What may not seem obvious, however, is that the time we spend with our loved ones in preparing the special dishes is what makes those meals so memorable.

Christmas is one of those holidays where families unite not only to eat but to prepare special dishes during which laughter is exchanged, stories are told, memories are created, and ultimately our culture is preserved through our foods. Christmas has become a festivity where favorite foods, elaborate meals, or those holiday special treats can be enjoyed by everyone from grandma and grandpa to the little *nietecitos* or grandchildren.

“Christmas is one of those holidays where families unite not only to eat but to prepare special dishes during which laughter is exchanged, stories are told, memories are created, and ultimately our culture is preserved through our foods.”

Being of Mexican decent, my siblings and I look forward to Christmas and New Year's Eve especially in anticipation of my father's famous tamales. I recall when I was a child one Christmas my parents decided to satisfy the family's taste buds with homemade tamales. What they did not realize is that they had initiated what was to become a family tradition in our household. Every year when Christmas approaches, it is customary for my father to object and say he does not want to make tamales because it is too much work. My mother suggests, “let's make less;” while my oldest brother, Javier, raises an eyebrow, knowing that he alone can come close to eating one dozen per day. Luckily for us, we know our father will always give in, probably because he knows that everyone is excited to lend a hand.

It seems that traditionally women take charge of preparing holiday meals but in my family my father is always looked to as the

“...as we unwrap that pedacito de maiz we remember that our love, hardship and collaboration have been kneaded into that corn with our very own hands.”

main tamale cook. The rest of us, however, enjoy spreading the masa on the hojas de maiz or corn husks. Even my grandmother joins in while sharing her life stories and adventures. She also enjoys singing the Mexican national anthem in order to show us that she still has a good memory.

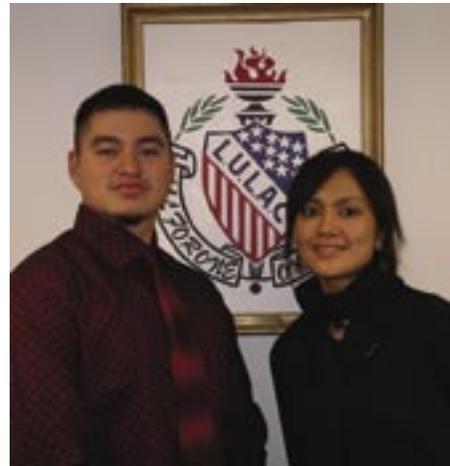
The sheer thought of not making tamales at home disappoints my younger siblings. My thirteen year old brother, Abraham, claims that Christmas would simply not be the same if we did not gather to make tamales.

My family and I cannot wait until those moist and flavorful tamales are ready to be served. We all anxiously grab a tamal and one by one as we unwrap that pedacito de maiz we remember that our love, hardship, and collaboration have been kneaded into that corn with our very own hands.

The people here at LULAC National send their best of wishes to you and your families during this holiday season. Let's remember to be grateful and thank our loved ones who prepare our “alimentos” and share their lives with us during the holidays and throughout the year.

Feliz Navidad a todos y que en sus corazones se siembren bellas memorias.

Contributors to LULAC News



LULAC would like to thank Lupe Yepiz and Carlos Andres Ramos for their contributions to this issue of the LULAC News. Both interns are currently studying at the University of California at Davis and are expected to graduate next June. Lupe has a double major in international relations and Italian and hopes to pursue a career in civil rights law. Carlos is a political science major with a minor in community and regional development. Carlos plans to attend law school in the fall and hopes to one day become a California state senator. LULAC wishes Carlos and Lupe the best of luck in all their future endeavors.



Left: LULAC President Hector Flores and LULAC First Lady Tula Flores with President Bush and Laura Bush at the White House Christmas party.



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

Texas Southern University Gains LULAC Council



Texas Southern University gained a new Young Adult LULAC Council this past September. Council 4821 was started by Ms. Lorena Farjardo who will now serve as its president. Ms. Farjardo, a very involved student at the university, felt it was time to bring LULAC to her college to help promote the civil rights of Latinos. This young leader would like to thank the many people who supported her efforts to start the council. She looks forward to working with her advisors, university professors, and other students to ensure that the council is very active in the university.

A New Youth Council is Formed in Santa Barbara



The above is a photograph of LULAC National President (center front) and LULAC National Vice President for Youth Javier Montanez (right front) with members from the recently chartered Youth LULAC Council 2074 in Santa Barbara.

LULAC Youth Support Iraqi Troops



Above Youth Council 301 members are pictured holding up a sign and photographs to show support for Tony Peña who is serving in the Air Force in Iraq. Below Mr. Peña is pictured holding the above photo of the youth that they sent him. Mr. Peña is one of nine personnel that has been supported by our LULAC Youth. The LULAC Youth continue to send notes of encouragement and care packages to those serving in Iraq. Mr. Peña and his friends in Iraq appreciate the support the LULAC youth have given to the troops.



LULAC Council 4821 Queen



Virna Martinez was recently chosen to represent Mature Youth LULAC Council 4821 at the Texas Southern University Homecoming event held during the annual football clash between the Texas Southern University (TSU) Tigers and the Mississippi Valley State University Delta Devils. Miss Martinez is a junior business major and previously attended Kingwood College. A recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, Miss Martinez is a hard working young lady who strives to do her best. She is a TSU cheerleader; leads the Hispanic female sorority "Latinas on the Rise;" and is the founder of the Jesse H. Jones Toastmasters Elite.

LULAC Youth and Young Adults Come Together for Youth Retreat

LULAC Youth prepare themselves to lead Latinos into the new millennium by embracing Cesar Chavez's philosophy to help the "least of our brothers."



Fernando Valdez entertained youth at the California Youth and Young Adult Retreat.

Every year California LULAC youth gather together for a very special Youth and Young Adult Retreat. Once again the event was held at the Cesar Chavez National Center in Keene, California. The National Chavez Center is a historic site associated with the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez. The 187 acre property includes a visitor center, a memorial garden, and the Chavez family home, as well as extensive oak woodland, tree-lined streams, and hiking trails.



Above: Youth take the LULAC oath during the retreat.

Left: Chelsie Valladores holds a container with the amount of nicotine one can gain from smoking for only one year. This was part of the educational workshops that were offered during the retreat.

The youth event offered workshops geared toward young advocates and special speakers, including Danny Castanon, a former National LULAC Youth President who served from 1992-1993. The LULAC youth had an opportunity to meet with the wife and brother of the late Cesar Chavez and pay their respects to a true role model for young activists.

Greetings,

We had an excellent meeting in Washington, D.C. this past October. Our thanks go out to the LULAC national staff for implementing a super agenda and to the LNES staff for yet another successful youth seminar. What a wonderful group of youngsters!

Visits to several agencies were on our schedule and thanks are in order to all the members who visited the leadership on the Capitol Hill. We visited several offices including Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's office, U. S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Senator John Cornyn's office. In the course of our meeting, Deputy Assistant Secretary for DOL, Mason Bishop agreed that a direct line of communication with the Women's Bureau was in order. It is essential and of importance both to the agency and to LULAC to work together on women's issues including employment and economic development opportunities. We set the tone for our annual LULAC Women's Conference in the spring of 2005 and announced the formation of our LULAC National Women's Commission to him and his colleagues.

Both Senators Hutchison and Cornyn have the greatest respect for our organization and are long time supporters of our mission and goals. We plan to continue to work together on issues of mutual concern for our communities not only in Texas but throughout the country.

As we continue planning the activities for our annual women's conference next spring, we welcome suggestions and ideas from all of you. We have established contacts with supporters who are very excited about participating. Our venue will be Las Vegas, Nevada.

Stay Tuned for more information on our Conference!

Margaret Moran
National Vice President for Women



(L-R) National VP for the Southeast Haydee Rivera, Immediate Past VP for the Southeast Elsie Valdez, and Puerto Rican Director Carmen Cruz during the MANA Banquet in Washington, D.C.



(L-R) National VP for Women and Chair of the Women's Commission Margaret Moran, Ana Hart Vice Chair of the Women's Commission, and Washington D.C. Director Ada Peña during the October Board Meetings in Washington, D.C.

2004-2005 Women's Commission

Margaret Moran, Chair and VP for Women
Ana Lorena Hart, Vice Chair
Rosa Rosales, Vice Chair and VP for the Southwest
Mary Fimbres, Secretary
Janey Camacho Carpenter, Treasurer
Hector Flores, National President/Ex Officio member

Shannon Rodriguez-Anderson
Anita De Palma, Florida State Director
Miriam Duarte
Erika Faz
Evelina Flores, VP for Young Women
Tula Flores, LULAC First Lady
Angie Garcia, VP for the Elderly
Sandra Gonzalez
Vera Marquez
Laura Medrano, VP for the Northeast
Elia Mendoza
Alicia Rios
Ana Rivera
Haydee Rivera, VP for the Southeast
Maria Salazar, VP for the Northwest
Elsie Valdez
Blanca Vargas, VP for the Midwest

and Legislation

A Failure to Safeguard: Hijacking of the Intelligence Reform Agenda

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

On November 27, 2002, Congress and the President created the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, commonly referred to as the 9/11 Commission to provide a “full and complete accounting” of the attacks of September 11, 2001, and to recommend how to prevent such attacks in the future by significantly reforming intelligence gathering and sharing. The bipartisan Commission is composed of five Republicans and five Democrats appointed by Congress, who are not members of Congress. The Commission was spearheaded by the Family Steering Committee – an independent, non-partisan group of individuals who lost loved ones during the terrible attacks of 9/11. Over 3,000 individuals fell victim to the terrorist attacks on that fateful day. It is important to recount this fact because it is the victims’ families that pointed out the very obvious to our national security leadership: the intelligence agencies “suffered an utter collapse in their duties and responsibilities.” On July 11, 2004, the Commission released its report which included 41 recommendations to detect and deter terrorist activities and better protect our nation’s safety.

As a result of the momentum caused by the report’s findings, legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission’s report was quickly introduced into the U.S. Congress and passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Republicans and Democrats, along with the families most affected by 9/11 have been pushing to have a final version signed into law as quickly as possible. Yet, the House and Senate versions of the bill are very different. As often happens on Capitol Hill, an effort to provide accountability and make people safe became strangely twisted and caught up in political side-bar issues that have no business being included in the reform of our national intelligence systems. Anti-immigrant members of Congress hijacked a very positive effort prescribing needed and significant intelligence reforms with the purpose of promoting their own mean-spirited agenda.

Members in the House included several harmful anti-immigrant provisions in their

bill (HR 10) disguising them as anti-terrorist measures that go far beyond the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The Senate version (S 2845) does not include these anti-immigrant provisions. In a letter to Representative Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), one

Our democracy is jeopardized because our national security remains weakened, and the Latino community continues to suffer from the virulent attacks of anti-immigrant bullies who prefer to scapegoat the weak over safeguarding the general health and well-being of the nation.

of the lead conferees, the 9/11 Commissioners expressed their concern and stated very clearly that these anti-immigrant measures were not helpful to the passage of the intelligence reforms. “We believe strongly that this bill is not the right occasion for tackling controversial immigration and law enforcement issues that go well beyond the Commission’s recommendations.” The White House also expressed similar concerns over Sections 3006, 3007, and 3032 of the House bill. The Commission proposed strong border security, not controversial anti-immigrant provisions irrelevant to counter-terrorism.

The anti-immigrant provisions include prohibiting undocumented immigrants from obtaining a driver’s license. Immigrants who entered the United States without inspection would be subject to expedited removal, meaning that these individuals could be deported without a hearing before an immigration judge. This places immigrants at risk of wrongful deportation and eliminates many basic protections of due process and judicial review for immigrants and refugees. Federal agencies would be required to refuse to accept consular identification cards (or “matricula consulars”) as proof of personal identification, and undocumented immigrants will be prohibited from obtaining other identification accepted by federal agencies. The Matricula Consular has been an official document of the Mexican government

for approximately 100 years. Border Patrol agents and Immigration and Custom Enforcement inspectors would be added, without mandating training and other safeguards to address current problems with immigration enforcement. In sum, the provisions would adversely impact immigrants and the Hispanic community in particular and do nothing towards improving the safety of the people within our borders.

And, as fate would have it, these controversial provisions derailed final consensus of the conferees on intelligence reform. On October 20th, the first and only public Conference committee meeting was held in an effort to blend the two disparate bills together. Although there was much talk about working together, the process deteriorated before the meeting was concluded. Title III which includes the controversial anti-immigrant sections of the bill needs to be removed in order for the reforms to go forward. The immigration provisions are controversial, punitive and unpopular. The White House dislikes the provisions. The 9/11 Commission dislikes them, as do those of us who support civil liberties and immigrant rights.

Valuable time is being squandered. The conferees need to make a decision quickly or risk losing a rare opportunity to produce a unified bill during the 2004 lame duck session. The 15 agencies involved in intelligence gathering continue to be collectively dysfunctional placing all of us in jeopardy. The anti-immigrant provisions do not contribute to the needed reforms of our intelligence agencies and endanger our community. The passage of a bad bill does nothing to improve our public safety. On the other hand, not stripping away bad provisions from a good bill and focusing on the bigger national security picture is equally pernicious. Either way, it’s a “lose-lose” situation. Our democracy is jeopardized because our national security remains weakened, and the Latino community continues to suffer from the virulent attacks of anti-immigrant bullies who prefer to scapegoat the weak over safeguarding the general health and well-being of the nation.

LNESC Celebrates 20th Annual



Constituting an integral percentage of the country's population, the Hispanic people have the potential to be one of the deciding voting blocs in the upcoming Election of 2004," posited Juan Sebastian Arias, a senior at Northside College Prep in Chicago, IL. "Yet despite this possibly powerful influence, a lack of voter turnouts has weakened the impact of the Hispanic vote in many past elections. This has undoubtedly kept the voice of the Hispanic public down to a murmur, as opposed to its potential shout."

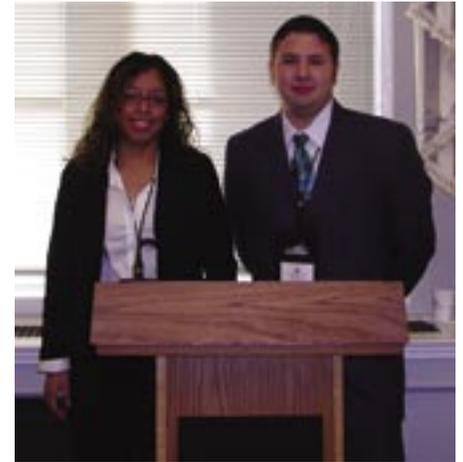
Mr. Arias' words along with those of 52 other Hispanic high school juniors and seniors were delivered to both parties and members of both the Bush Administration and the Kerry Campaign this past October as part of the 20th Annual LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar. Students came to Washington DC from eleven states and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico from October 6th through the 10th to participate in the annual event. This year's Seminar focused

on the Impact of the Hispanic Vote on the 2004 Election.

Under the guidance Charles Tamez, LNESC Director of Development, LNESC staff from across the country and Brent Wilkes, LULAC Executive Director, the students developed a strong platform that advocated several key pieces of reform including providing bilingual voter registration information in a variety of places including schools and community based organizations. Students also suggested a reformation of campaign finance laws so that the influence of "big money" is diminished; supported a Voter's Bill of Rights to ensure all voters would have equal access to the polls; and advocated the right of all U.S. Citizens age 18 and above be able to vote for president and self-determination.

Students met with a number of political stars from the left and right including Nelson Reyneri, Director of Hispanic Outreach

for the Democratic National Committee and Daniel Garza, the Associate Director of Public Liaison for the White House. Additionally, students toured the Capitol Hill and the Capitol Building and some met with their Congressional representatives.



Grace De Leon and Julianne Reyes III were selected by their peers to present the WYS position paper during a press conference on Capitol Hill.

One of this year's highlights was active involvement in a national press conference with LULAC National President Hector Flores. At the conference, seminar representatives delivered their platform to a national audience.

During their stay, students participated in a number of activities including the second presidential debate with members of LULAC and the media. Students also had the opportunity to tour much of Washington, D.C. and many visited the new World War II Memorial as well as the Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials, the Washington Monument, The National Mall, museums at the Smithsonian, and Arlington National Cemetery. This year 44 LULAC councils participated. After participation in the program, students return to their home communities more confident in their role as student leaders.

LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar

“The power of the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar to influence the Hispanic community’s next generation of leaders is immense,” said Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director. “Without the participation of our corporate sponsors Procter & Gamble, the United States Army, Pfizer, the Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, American Express and Marriott International this endeavor would not be able to make the impact that it does.”

Decision 2004: The Impact of the Hispanic Vote Participant Position Paper

On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 53 outstanding young Hispanic leaders met during the LULAC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar to discuss the impact of the Hispanic vote in the United States and strategies to increase Hispanic voter participation. After an intensive discussion the students adopted the following positions as representative of their views:

Increase Dissemination of Voter Information: We believe that one of the chief causes of low Latino voter participation is a lack of information about where to register and how to vote. Government entities, community organizations, and political parties should ensure that information about how and where to vote is widely available in English and Spanish. These efforts should not overlook schools because informing Latino students is a good way to reach their parents about the importance of voting.

Candidates and Political Parties Should Speak to Latino Issues Clearly & Frequently: Candidates and political parties should detail specific strategies they will employ to address key Hispanic issues such as education, employment, health care, immigration and civil rights. Parties should field more Latino candidates. Campaigns should ensure they are highly visible in Hispanic neighborhoods not just on the air.

The Federal Government Should Speed

the Process for Immigrants to Become Citizens: The Federal Government should reduce the tremendous backlog of immigrant and citizenship applications that prevent this community from becoming citizens and voters on a timely basis. Citizenship tests should be given in Spanish and immigration fees should be reduced.

Registration and GOT Drives Should Increase and Target Schools and Recent Citizens: We believe that Latino voters should reach out to Latino non-voters and encourage them to participate. We support outreach to schools and promissory note programs where students encourage their parents to vote regularly. LULAC should develop a register-to-vote branch that focuses on increasing Hispanic voter participation.

Reach Out to Youth: As the future of America, we feel obligated to ensure our generation is fully involved in our democracy. We encourage organizations, candidates, and parties to invest in events targeted toward youth. Youth can also be an effective vehicle to reach out to their parents and encourage them to vote.

Improve Government Ethics: We support increased financing and spending limits to diminish the influence of “big money” in politics. We support “checks and balances” by directing the 3 branches of government to police each other rather than allowing each branch to settle ethics charges on their own. We support increased diversity in government to ensure the “old boy” network does not continue to foster violations.

Voter Bill of Rights: We support a voter bill of rights that ensures all voters know their rights and are not discouraged from voting. There is a need for more Hispanic poll watchers to look out for Latinos and to help with translations, etc. Finally, we support a



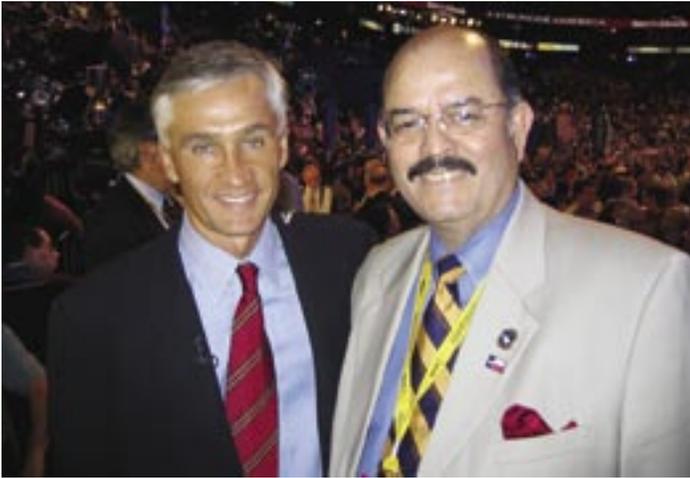
secure voting system so all voters know that their vote will be counted.

Ease Registration and Voting Process: We support same day registration and voting so that everyone who wants to vote and who is qualified can do so. We also support better placement of voting locations and increased use of mailing and secure internet voting.

We Supports the Rights of All US Citizens to Vote: Currently U.S. Citizens living on territories such as Puerto Rico with 3.9 million residents are not allowed to vote for President or for Congressional Representation. We believe that it is high time that Puerto Ricans be given the right to vote and the right to determine whether they want to become a state or an independent country through a congressionally recognized plebiscite.



LULAC President Hector Flores presents one of the seminar students Mirabella Benitez a certificate for her participation in the seminar.



Univision National Correspondent Jorge Ramos with LULAC National President Hector Flores during the Democratic National Convention.



LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes during the Republican National Convention.

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____



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